

MARCH 5

“And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not be put out. And the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order on it; and he shall burn on it the fat of the peace offerings.” Leviticus 6:12

“O God of burning cleansing flame

Send the fire

Your blood-bought gift today we claim

Send the fire today

Look down and see this waiting host

And send the promised Holy Ghost

We need another Pentecost

Send the fire today” - William Booth, 1894

Founder of the Salvation Army

Fire on the Altar

“The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out.” - Leviticus 6:12

In ancient Israel, the priests were instructed not to let the fire on the altar go out [Lev. 6:9,12-13](#). It sounds simple, but it actually takes a great amount of diligence to keep the fire burning night and day. Firstly, it is important to note that this fire first fell from heaven [Lev 9:24](#). God put the fire there Himself and commanded it be kept burning. For the fire to keep burning, the priests had to keep refueling it.

The fire on the altar is an Old Testament picture of our devotion for the Lord. When you feel cold and distant, the fire has gone out. The good news is that it is the secret place of His presence that lights our fire and sets our heart burning again. The fire of pure devotion for Jesus is not something to be treated lightly or taken for granted. It will grow cold if we fail to keep it supplied and refueled.

[Meditate on Jeremiah 23:29; Isaiah 4:4; James 4:5](#)

Proclamations and Prayer

“Father, in the name of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit I ask you to forgive me. Often my heart grows cold because I have neglected the secret place. Send the fire of Your presence on the altar of my heart today. I desperately need You. I cast myself upon You, O God of my salvation. I need another Pentecost. Draw me into Your holy place and renew me. In Jesus name, Amen!