

**The Basis of All Our Priestly Service—  
The Fire from the Altar of Burnt Offering**

**Message 2 - Week 2**

**Saturday**

Rom. 12:11 – Footnote 11<sup>1</sup>

Acts 15:26 – Footnote 26<sup>2</sup>

Acts 20:24; 21:13

I. H. The fire that burned on the altar of the burnt offering came down from the heavens—Lev. 9:24:

1. After coming down from the heavens, this fire burned continually upon the altar—6:13. The priests had to keep the fire burning continually.
2. The divine fire, the burning Triune God, enables us to serve and even to sacrifice our lives—Rom. 12:11; cf. Acts 15:26; 20:24; 21:13.

We are talking about consecration for the building up of the church, for the preaching of the gospel, for the shepherding of the new ones. You cannot do this with your own fire. We will see what happens when you use a fire that is not God's fire, but when the fire comes from the altar of burnt offering, this enables us to serve. It also causes us to sacrifice our own lives. In Acts 15:26 there is an reference concerning Barnabas and Paul as they were going to send a letter to the churches. It calls them, "Men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

In Acts 16, we all know of Paul's experience of being imprisoned while in Philippi. At the end of the chapter, when they were cast out of the city, Paul could have said, "I am still bleeding; let us take a vacation." If I was Paul or Silas, I would have headed back to Jerusalem and taken some time off. Paul and Silas did not do this. They continued on their journey which took them to Thessalonica where they began to preach the gospel. This resulted an uproar in the city. The crowd was seeking for Paul and Silas to arrest them and had discovered that they were taking hospitality at the house of Jason. Acts 17, verses 6-7 say, "But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brothers before the city officials, shouting, These men who have upset the world have come here also, Whom Jason has welcomed; and these all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." Beloved saints, in those times it was not a small thing to say that there was another king. The Romans would greet each other by saying, "Hail Caesar." They even said that Caesar was the Lord. When a Roman would greet a believer, they would greet the believer by saying, "Caesar is lord" and the believer's reply would be to the Roman, "Jesus Christ is Lord." This was considered the worst criminal offense committed in the Roman law. One's life would be at risk. How could anyone do or say this? Only by the fire of God within. The fire of God could make such a proclamation! Are you encouraged by this fire? Romans 12:11 speaks about burning in spirit!