

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

Message 2 - Week 2

Tuesday

Luke 12:49-50 – Footnotes 49¹, 50²

John 12:24 – Footnote 24¹

I. C. Through His death the Lord released Himself into man as the fire of life to burn on the earth—Luke 12:49-50; John 12:24.

Listen to what the Lord says in Luke 12:49-50, “I have come to cast fire on the earth, and how I wish that it were already kindled! But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how I am pressed until it is accomplished!” The Lord was full of fire; He wanted to release that the fire within Him upon the whole earth. He gave the disciples a foretaste of this fire by taking three of them—not the three best ones—to the mountain. He took John and James who were also called the sons of thunder. In one instance, they asked if the Lord wanted them to command fire to come down upon the Samaritans who did not receive the Lord. These were the sons of thunder. What do we know about Peter? Peter was always saying things he should not; one example is when He told the Lord that He was by no means to go to the cross. When the Lord was arrested, Peter, having a sword in His hand, wanted to cut the head off of the slave of the high priest, but in the end only cut off the ear of the slave. Do you think Peter merely wanted to cut off the ear of the slave? Of course not! He was going for the head. Later on, Peter denied the Lord three times.

What does this show us? It shows us that there is hope for us! We are the same or worse than they are, but we can be taken to the mountain. Maybe this weekend will be a mountain for us where He can manifest Himself to us. Everything was shining; He revealed the fire that was within Him. For this to be released, He need to go through the baptism of fire, crucifixion. Therefore, He was pressed for this fire to be cast on the earth. This is the same as the grain of wheat falling into the ground and dying and bearing much fruit in John 12:24.

The fire that was within Him was the fire of the divine life, but He needed to pass through a process of death and resurrection. On the day of resurrection, He breathed into His disciples the breath of life. The processed and consummated triune God that breathed that breath into the disciples became the flame within the spirit of the disciples.