

# Altared | The Altar of Prayer

Daniel 6

## **Leviticus 6:12**

*The fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not go out.*

Are we desperate for fire?

Our modern way of doing church can turn the fire of God into an accessory rather than a necessity.

It can become:

an option

ornamental

even a luxury

A gas fireplace in the formal living room that we turn on for special occasions as background ambiance, a flame that is raised or lowered to suit our level of comfort.

Rather than a primal fire.

In the wild, fire is literally the difference between life and death

We must return to that level of hunger for the fire of God.

We have to have it.

We'll die without it.

The center of all we do and who we are.

God, send your fire!

We must carry the fire!

# THE ALTAR OF PRAYER (Daniel 6)

## Daniel 6:4,10

*He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy.*

*But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done.*

### 1. When we pray “as usual” it brings God’s unusual (v. 10a)

When and where is your “as usual”?

1. Time to pray
2. Place to pray
3. Method to pray

### Practical tips for 21 Days of Prayer

1. Lay out your clothes and get the coffee ready the night before
2. Get a journal (This creates expectation)
3. Have a goal (God, what do you want to do in and through me?)
4. Have a to-do list (to write down your distractions)

### Benefits of corporate prayer:

1. There is multiplied impact (one can put a thousand to flight, two can put ten thousand)
2. Accountability and encouragement
3. Prayer is caught more than taught

### 2. Open windows of prayer bring an open heaven over cities (v. 10b)

### 3. An open mouth of prayer closes the mouths of lions (v. 22)

## Daniel 6:22

*My God sent his angel to shut the lions’ mouths so that they would not hurt me*

# Altar•ed | The Altar of the Presence

1 Kings 8; 2 Samuel 6:1-15

## **Leviticus 6:12**

*The fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not go out.*

## **1 Kings 8:1-11**

*Solomon then summoned to Jerusalem the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes—the leaders of the ancestral families of the Israelites. They were to bring the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant to the Temple from its location in the City of David, also known as Zion.*

*There, before the Ark, King Solomon and the entire community of Israel sacrificed so many sheep, goats, and cattle that no one could keep count! Then the priests carried the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant into the inner sanctuary of the Temple—the Most Holy Place—and placed it beneath the wings of the cherubim. When the priests came out of the Holy Place, a thick cloud filled the Temple of the Lord. The priests could not continue their service because of the cloud, for the glorious presence of the Lord filled the Temple of the Lord.*

“Don’t design your services to attract people. Design your services to attract God. God will attract people.”

## **2 Samuel 6:11**

*The Ark of the Lord remained there in Obed-edom’s house for three months, and the Lord blessed Obed-edom and his entire household.*

“The presence of the Lord remained there in {insert your name here} \_\_\_\_\_ house, and the Lord blessed \_\_\_\_\_ and his entire household.”

When you get the presence of God, you don’t get the extra thing; you get everything.

When it comes to “Hosting the Presence” we must understand:

**1. The difference between God’s omnipresence vs. manifest presence**

**2. The difference between being open to experiencing God’s presence or being intentional about hosting His Presence.**

The ancient sacred duty of hospitality:

- 1) Guests were believed to be sent by God
- 2) There is bowing which symbolizes, “My heart, my voice, and my attention are all at your service.”
- 3) There is a verbal greeting
- 4) There is a greeting of a holy kiss
- 5) The guest removes their shoes and the host would wash their feet.
- 6) The guest is given a drink of water
- 7) The guest served a meal
- 8) The guest is made lord of the house

How to Host the Presence of God in Your Life:

1. Make room
2. Give an invitation

# Altared | Altar of Generations

Joshua 4:19-24

What are you building that will outlast you?

## Leviticus 6:12

*The fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not go out.*

Seven altars every believer needs in their life:

1. The altar of prayer
2. The altar of presence
3. The altar of generations

## Joshua 4:19-24

*The people crossed [over] the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month.*

*Then they camped at Gilgal, just east of Jericho. It was there at Gilgal that Joshua piled up the twelve stones taken from the Jordan River.*

*Then Joshua said to the Israelites, “In the future your children will ask, ‘What do these stones mean?’ Then you can tell them, ‘This is where the Israelites crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ For the Lord your God dried up the river right before your eyes, and he kept it dry until you were all across, just as he did at the Red Sea when he dried it up until we had all crossed over. He did this so all the nations of the earth might know that the Lord’s hand is powerful, and so you might fear the Lord your God forever.”*

A Generational Altar is made up of three components:

**1) Red Sea- Past (v. 23b)**

**2) Jordan- Present (v. 22)**

**3) Gilgal- Future (vv. 19-24)**

When we turn methods into monuments, we turn altars into idols and stop the move of God

“It is my conviction that the most glorious hour of the Church has yet to be born. All the heroes of faith have yet to be listed. All the chapters of the Church have not yet been written. The greatest exploits of faith have yet to be done.” —Leonard Ravenhill, *Revival Praying*

Some Suggested Categories:

- Spiritual heritage

**Deuteronomy 6:7, AMP Version**

*You shall teach your children, impressing God’s precepts on their minds and penetrating their hearts with His truths, and shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up.*

- Name

**Proverbs 22:1**

*A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold.*

- Work ethic

**1 Thessalonians 3:10-13**

*Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: “Those unwilling to work will not get to eat.” Yet we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and meddling in other*

*people's business. We command such people and urge them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and work to earn their own living. As for the rest of you, dear brothers and sisters, never get tired of doing good.*

- Generational wealth

### **Proverbs 13:22**

*A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children.*

- Will

### **1 Chronicles 26**

*The sons of Obed-edom, also gatekeepers, were Shemaiah, Jehozabad, Joah, Sacar, Nethanel, Ammiel, Issachar, and Peullethai. God had richly blessed Obed-edom.*

*Obed-edom's son Shemaiah had sons with great ability who earned positions of great authority in the clan. Their names were Othni, Rephael, Obed, and Elzabad. Their relatives, Elihu and Semakiah, were also very capable men.*

*All of these descendants of Obed-edom, including their sons and grandsons—sixty-two of them in all—were very capable men, well qualified for their work.*

# Altared | The Altar of God's Power

1 Kings 18

“Light yourself on fire with passion and people will come from miles to watch you burn.”

—attributed to John Wesley

## 1 Kings 18

*Then Elijah stood in front of them and said, “How much longer will you waver, hobbling between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him! But if Baal is God, then follow him!”*

*The god who answers by fire is the true God*

You don't defeat the prophets of Baal with arguments.

You defeat the prophets of Baal with fire.

*At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again*

A life that attracts the fire of God:

### 1. Bold Steps (v. 36a)

*At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward...*

These are not the days for COMPROMISE; These are the days for COURAGE

### 2. Bold Prayers (v. 36b)

*At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward **and prayed***



“Bold prayers honor God. God honors bold prayers.” —Mark Batterson

### **3. Bold Motives (v. 37)**

*Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”*

### **4. Bold Obedience (v. 36b)**

*...and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command.*

Results:

#### **v. 38**

*Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.*

#### **v.39**

*When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!”*

# Altared | The Altar of Uncut Stones

Exodus 20:22-25

## Leviticus 6:12

*The fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not go out.*

## Exodus 20:22-25

### The Proper Use of Altars

*And the LORD said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: You saw for yourselves that I spoke to you from heaven. Remember, you must not make any idols of silver or gold to rival me... Build my altar wherever I cause my name to be remembered, and I will come to you and bless you. If you use stones to build my altar, use only natural, uncut stones. Do not shape the stones with a tool, for that would make the altar unfit for holy use.*

God made us in his image. We try to return the favor and make him into ours.

When you begin to shape the omnipotent, holy God of the Universe into your image, you build an idol.

We become like what we worship.

“Aslan is a lion—the Lion, the great Lion.” “Ooh” said Susan. “I’d thought he was a man. Is he quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion” ... “Safe?” said Mr Beaver ... “Who said anything about safe? ‘Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He’s the King, I tell you.”

— C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

Stone-Shaping Tools that We Have to Lay Down:

**1. WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE IN CULTURE**

**2. OUR OPINIONS**

**3. OUR COMFORT**

**4. OUR EXPERIENCE**

**5. OUR PAST**

**Romans 9:33**

*Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense. And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed."*

# Altared | The Altar of Encounter

Genesis 28, 35

## Leviticus 6:12

*The fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not go out.*

## Genesis 35

*Then God said to Jacob, "Get ready and move to Bethel and settle there. Build an altar there..."*

When you LIVE in the House of God:

### **1. You joyfully give up the baggage of your last season to step into the blessing of your new season (vv. 2-3)**

*So Jacob told everyone in his household, "Get rid of all your pagan idols, purify yourselves, and put on clean clothing. We are now going to Bethel, where I will build an altar to the God"*

The manifestation of the unforgiveness in your heart can become an idol in your hand.

### **2. You can walk through pain and loss in God's presence (v. 8)**

*Soon after this, Rebekah's old nurse, Deborah, died. She was buried beneath the oak tree in the valley below Bethel. Ever since, the tree has been called Allon-bacuth (which means "oak of weeping").*

### **3. You live in your blessing and destiny out of your identity (vv. 9-10)**

*...God blessed him, saying, "Your name is Jacob, but you will not be called Jacob any longer. From now on your name will be Israel." So God renamed him Israel.*

You see a glimpse of God's dreams in the experience  
But you find out who you really are in the struggle

### **4. You go from knowing the experience of God to knowing the God of the experience (v. 6)**

*Eventually, Jacob and his household arrived at Luz (also called Bethel) in Canaan. Jacob built an altar there and named the place El-bethel (which means "God of Bethel")*

# Altared | The Altar of the Threshing Floor

1 Chronicles 21-22

## 1 Chronicles 21:18-24

David Builds an Altar

*Then the angel of the Lord told Gad to instruct David to go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. So David went up to do what the Lord had commanded him through Gad. Araunah, who was busy threshing wheat at the time, turned and saw the angel there. His four sons, who were with him, ran away and hid. When Araunah saw David approaching, he left his threshing floor and bowed before David with his face to the ground.*

*David said to Araunah, "Let me buy this threshing floor from you at its full price. Then I will build an altar to the Lord there, so that he will stop the plague."*

*"Take it, my lord the king, and use it as you wish," Araunah said to David. "I will give the oxen for the burnt offerings, and the threshing boards for wood to build a fire on the altar, and the wheat for the grain offering. I will give it all to you." But King David replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on buying it for the full price. I will not take what is yours and give it to the Lord. I will not present burnt offerings that have cost me nothing!"*

Threshing from the Wheat's Perspective:

**1. "I'm being trampled"**

**2. "I'm being broken"**

**3. "Things are being taken from me"**

Threshing from the Farmer's Perspective:

**1. "I see something so valuable in you that I have to pull it out"**

**2. "There are things in your life that are weighing you down. You don't need them anymore."**

**James 4:6**

*God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*

**Proverbs 16:5**

*The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.*

**Proverbs 18:12**

*Before a downfall the heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.*

**Daniel 5:20**

*But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory.*

**James 4:10**

*Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*

**Psalms 51:17**

*My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.*

Broken:

*Shabar*

“Brokenness”

“To break down”

“To break in pieces”

“Crush”

**“Bringing to birth”**

### **1 Chronicles 21:16**

*..So David and the leaders of Israel put on burlap to show their deep distress and fell face down on the ground.*

### **3. "I'm birthing something through you "**

### **1 Chronicles 22:1**

*Then David said, “This will be the location for the Temple of the Lord God and the place of the altar for Israel’s burnt offerings!”*

# Altar•ed | A Sifted Anointing

## **Numbers 18:27**

*The Lord will consider this offering to be your harvest offering, as though it were the first grain from your own threshing floor or wine from your own winepress.*

## **Luke 22:31-32**

*“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail.”*

## The Sifted Anointing

### **The enemy is sifting you because of what he sees in you (Luke 22:31)**

*“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat.”*

### How did satan try to sift the disciples?

1. Tired (vv. 39-45)

2. Picking up an offense of someone you care about (vv. 47-53)

### **The sifting is drawing the prayers and presence of Jesus to your life (Luke 22:32a)**

*"But I have pleaded in prayer for you"*

### **Your failure isn't final (Luke 22:32b)**



*"Simon, that your faith should not fail."*

**God is bringing greater healing and anointing to your life (Numbers 18:27)**

### **Numbers 18**

*The Lord will consider this offering to be your harvest offering, as though it were the first grain from your own threshing floor or wine from your own winepress.*

### **Leviticus 2:13**

*Season all your grain offerings with salt to remind you of God's eternal covenant. Never forget to add salt to your grain offerings.*

Salt- healing

Oil- anointing

### **Leviticus 2:1-2**

*"When you present grain as an offering to the Lord, the offering must consist of choice flour. You are to pour olive oil on it, sprinkle it with frankincense, and bring it to Aaron's sons, the priests. The priest will scoop out a handful of the flour moistened with oil, together with all the frankincense, and burn this representative portion on the altar. It is a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the Lord."*