



NO LIMITS

WITH PASTOR DELMAN

**KEEP THE
FIRE
BURNING**

S E R M O N G U I D E

NO LIMITS WITH PASTOR DELMAN

Keep The Fire Burning

Leviticus 6:8-13; Acts 2:1-4

INTRODUCTION

In Centralia, Pennsylvania, a trash fire lit in 1962 slipped into an abandoned coal mine. Despite millions of dollars and decades of effort to extinguish it, the fire still burns today, fueled by the rich veins of coal deep underground. It's a fire that simply refuses to go out. This story is a powerful picture of the kind of fire God wants to ignite in His people. It is not a fire of fleeting emotionalism, but a deep, enduring, and transformative flame that is sustained through adversity and challenges every attempt to put it out.

The fire God sends is for a purpose. When the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost, it wasn't just for a feeling; it was to empower the church for a mission. The fire broke down cultural and linguistic barriers, enabling the disciples to share a message of life, healing, and love that the outside world could finally understand. This is the fire God wants to keep burning in us today. It is a fire for social transformation, for cultural translation, and for a generation that needs to know there is a balm in Gilead. As we explore God's instructions in *Leviticus 6* and the fulfillment in *Acts 2*, we find a divine model for keeping this holy fire burning brightly in our lives and in our world.

KEY POINTS

1. We Must Fuel Our Fire for God

The instructions in *Leviticus* are clear: "The fire on the altar shall be kept burning; it shall not go out. Every morning the priest shall add wood to it." A fire does not sustain itself; it consumes its fuel. To keep it burning requires a daily, intentional act. As believers, our fire is fueled by the spiritual disciplines God has given us. When we worship, we add wood to the fire. When we study the Word, pray without ceasing, and share our story with others, we are fueling the flame. These practices are not just religious duties; they are the essential fuel that keeps the power of God active and burning in our lives.

2. Our Fire Is Ignited by Sacrifice

The text repeatedly states that the fire burns "on the altar." The location matters. In the Old Testament, the altar was the place of sacrifice, the sacred space where commitment to God was expressed by giving something up. While wood provides the fuel, the intense heat of our spiritual fire comes from sacrifice. Paul urges us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, making our very lives the altar. This challenges a culture of comfort and convenience. A fire for God cannot be managed from the sofa. It requires us to lay down our time, talent, and treasure, trusting that the path to God's presence and power is paved with our willing sacrifice.

NO LIMITS WITH PASTOR DELMAN

Keep The Fire Burning

Leviticus 6:8-13; Acts 2:1-4

3. The Fire Requires the Holy Spirit

A fire needs three elements: fuel, heat, and oxygen. In our spiritual lives, the Holy Spirit is the oxygen. The book of Acts tells us that before the fire fell at Pentecost, a sound like a violent wind filled the room. This wind, this breath of God, is a metaphor for the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit, our fire suffocates. We cannot pray, praise, or live as God desires in our own strength. Paul warns us in *1 Thessalonians 5:19*, "Do not quench the Spirit." We need a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit daily, because the wind of yesterday will not sustain the fire of today.

4. We Must Remove the Ashes

Before adding fresh wood to the fire, the priests were instructed to do one crucial thing: take up the ashes and remove them. Ashes are the residue of a fire that has already burned out. If they are allowed to build up, they will choke the flame and block the oxygen. In our lives, ashes represent the residue of our past: unforgiveness, resentment, disappointment, and destructive patterns. We cannot keep our spiritual fire burning brightly if we allow the ashes of yesterday to smother the new work God wants to do. God invites us to get off our ashes, to stop rehearsing who we were and start walking in who we are now in Christ.

God specializes in trading our ashes for beauty, as promised in *Isaiah 61:3*. The trials that the enemy intends to destroy you with are the very things God uses to purify you, like a refiner's fire burning away impurities to reveal the gold within. God sends His fire not to consume your destiny, but to make room for it. He sends fire for illumination, becoming a pillar of fire by night to give you light and direction when your path is dark.

Most importantly, God sends fire for transformation. The disciples went into the upper room timid and fearful, but they came out bold and fearless. The fire of the Holy Spirit changes you. It changes your language, your outlook, your focus, and your future. By clearing away the ashes of your past, you make room for the Holy Spirit to breathe on your life again, transforming you into an agent of hope and change in the world.

NO LIMITS WITH PASTOR DELMAN

Keep The Fire Burning

Leviticus 6:8-13; Acts 2:1-4

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What specific spiritual discipline (fuel) could you more intentionally add to your daily or weekly routine to keep your spiritual fire burning?
2. The sermon defines the "fire" as a force for social justice and transformation. What is one area of comfort or convenience you might need to place on the "altar" of sacrifice to more fully engage in the work of justice in your community?
3. What "ashes" from your past, such as unforgiveness, disappointment, or a destructive pattern, might be choking your spiritual fire, and what is one step you can take this week to begin removing them and making room for the Holy Spirit?
