

Keep The Fire Burning

Psalms 84-86; Romans 12

[Be] fervent in spirit

Romans 12:9-21

Modern furnaces have taken the work out of keeping warm in cold climates. We simply set the timer on the thermostat, and the house is warm when we get up in the morning. But in former days, the fire was carefully tended and fuel supplies were closely monitored. Running out could be deadly. The same is true spiritually. If we think our “spiritual fire” can be ignited as easily as a modern furnace, we risk losing our fervor for the Lord. In ancient Israel, the priests were instructed not to let the fire on the altar go out (Lev. 6:9,12-13). This required a lot of work, not the least of which was collecting firewood in a land not known for its dense forests. Some scholars see the fire on the altar as a symbol of the flame of our devotion to the Lord. Spiritual passion is not something to be treated lightly or taken for granted. It will grow cold if we fail to keep it supplied with fuel. The apostle Paul addressed the subject of spiritual fervor in his letter to the Romans (12:1-2,11). To keep the fire of our devotion burning strong, we must continue the hard work of stocking our fuel supply with hope, patience, steadfast prayer, generosity, hospitality, and humility (vv.11-16).

***Reflect & Pray O God, my heart is the altar
And my love for you is the flame;
I'll keep the fire burning for You, Lord,
And I will rejoice in Your name. —Hess***

Our love for Jesus is the key to spiritual passion.