



Strange Fire

Leviticus 10:1

And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not.

Strange—Not own, foreign, unknown, unfamiliar, new.

Instructions plays a very important part in our lives both naturally and spiritually. Individuals have lost fingers, eyesight, hearing, and usage of different body parts because they didn't read or follow the instructions of the equipment they were using. Many have lost money in bad investments because they didn't follow instructions. Clothing, furniture and very expensive items have been damaged because we didn't read or follow the instructions that came with the item.

Just as we can cause damage naturally, we can cause spiritual damage. Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu were ordained into the priests' office and they became careless or they didn't listen to the instructions that was given them as priests. Before they could become priests, they had to be consecrated anointed and sanctified. Priests were instructed not to drink wine or strong drink when ministering in the tabernacle. The fire on the burnt offering was to never go out. They were not to offer strange incense nor burnt sacrifice, or meat or drink offering.

Nadab and Abihu tried to walk in an office they had not been called into. Although they were priests, they weren't high priests, The high priests were the ones to burn the incense, the priests were to keep the fire burning, they were not instructed to burn incense as the high priests. Aaron was the high priest and his sons would come into the office of high priest after Aaron's death, and it would be one of his sons not both of them holding the high priest office at the same time. Aaron's garments were holy, and one of the sons were to wear the garment for seven days after he came into the office of the high priest. As priests they were to separate from things that were unholy, they were to make a difference between holy and unholy,

Nadab and Abihu lost their lives because they didn't follow the instructions of the Law that was given to Moses by God. They died a pre-mature death because they neglected to follow the rules and regulations of God.

1st Peter 2:5

Ye also, as lively (living) stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Today, we are sanctified and made holy by the blood of Jesus Christ. We have been made priests to offer sacrifices upon the altar of our hearts. Just as God gave instructions to the priests of Old, He has also given the present day priests

instructions of how to carry out sacrifices. Just as the priests of Old had to be separated from things that were unholy, we too must carry out the instructions He has given us.

1st John 2:15

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Too many times Christians get caught up with the things of the world until we become stagnated in our spiritual walk with the Lord. We get so busy until we don't have time to spend with the Lord in prayer or read the Bible, but when trouble hits, we almost lose our minds and our salvation because we haven't been building on our spiritual building.

The priests weren't suppose to drink wine or strong drink when entering into the tabernacle. The tabernacle was a dwelling place for God. As Christians we are His dwelling place.

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode (home) with him.

People are professing to be Christians, and they're drinking alcohol, smoking and sniffing drugs, as well as being addicted to prescription drugs. God wants us to make

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a difference between holiness and the things of the world. There is nothing wrong with taking prescription drugs if you don't make yourself addicted to them. Some people have enough faith to believe God for their health, some don't, and it's not my right or anyone else to down you, but when you're taking pills throughout the day in order to function; a pill to go to sleep, a pill to wake up, a pill to soothe your mood, a pill to balance out the other pills, something is wrong.

As priests we are allowed to enter into the Holy of Holies because of the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In Biblical times and now, in order to enter into the Holy of Holies, the priest must be holy, meaning he or she has been separated from operating by the world standards. We can't enter into the presence of God with un-confessed sins, still hating, envying, backbiting and gossiping and other things that has entered into our spirit through listening and watching things that are not edifying spiritual wholeness.

God talks to each of us, but in order for us to hear Him and be sensitive to His Spirit, we must present ourselves as a living sacrifice. A sacrifice is to forsake your will and be willing to let God's will be before your will. We want to feel God's presence other than at church. If you have a relationship and not a religion you can feel His presence wherever you are if you have submitted yourself to Him completely. We want to have more than goose bumps, we want His presence!

The priests were to make sure the fire never went out for the burnt sacrifice.

We are the burnt sacrifice, if we let God burn everything in us that is different from His character. If we let Him, He will cleanse us from all unrighteousness, but with the purging comes pain and suffering.

John 15:2

Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth (prunes) it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Pain and suffering comes with Christianity. Jesus was our example, and as followers of Jesus, we too must suffer to bear fruit to please the Father.

As pressure comes upon us, just as with fruit, when you squeeze it, juice begin to flow, when we're squeezed, do we let everyone know that we're being squeezed by our attitude. Do we stop praising the Lord, can we still say for God I will live and for God I will die? Can we still be gentle and kind and thoughtful of one another?

The priest garments were to be holy. Christian women, we have a mandate to help our men to stay saved, but how can they, when we entice them by our dress attire? Some of the clothing sisters wear to church has a sign "I am available, and you can have it your way". Dress attire doesn't make us holy, but if we dress according to the way the Bible has instructed us too, we can keep godly men from sexual sins and having to suffer the consequence of assisting someone to fall from the Grace of God. The fire stops burning in the tabernacle when we're operating in sin. We lose our praise, we no longer hear God's voice nor do we feel His presence.

We try to praise Him, but we're sending up strange fire when we try to praise without repentance or to continue to repent over the same sin for months and years. Repentance and confession to God, open the door for Him to forgive us and deliver us from the sins that keep us bound. God is waiting to deliver us, we have to ask for help!

God instructed the priests to have on holy garments, and as priests we should have on the garment of praise, but we can't if our garments are defiled with the things of the world. There should be a difference between a Christian and a non-Christian, but too many times we react the same way non-Christians act. We disrespect each other, we will seduce each other spouses and come into the church to worship God as though we haven't committed sin. We will cause division between sisters and brothers in the church because of gossip and telling others about one's personal business, and yet we try to get our praise on. We're sending up strange fire!

Some of us think, if I haven't committed any sexual sins, or drink or smoke, then I am ok, but have you stopped to think have we cause someone to turn away from God because of our attitude? As Christians we should always have a repenting heart. If we truly want to please God, the Holy Spirit will let us know when we have done or said something that wasn't pleasing to God, the problem is, the Holy Spirit has convicted us so many times, but we continued to do and say things that wasn't pleasing in God sight. So the Holy Spirit no longer convicts us of sin. He's letting us continue in sin and as we continue in sin, we will have to answer to God.

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Hebrews 10:26

For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sin.

There comes a time, we will be accountable for what we have done. Many times we're having difficulties in our lives and we think it's Satan, but in actuality it's God releasing His Grace from us and giving us over to let Satan afflict us since we decided to become his servant. Whoever we are servant to will afflict us. Jesus was the son of God, and He was afflicted to learn obedience.

Hebrews 5:8

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things that he suffered.

God allows affliction to come to draw us closer to Him. Satan afflicts us because he's trying to make us lose faith in God, he tries to destroy us before we realize that God has something better for us.

No doubt Nadab and Abihu thought because they were priests they could walk in the office of the high priest, but what they fell to realize, God had given instructions, and the instructions were to be followed thoroughly.

Today, so many ministers are preaching on prosperity, and there is nothing wrong with prosperity, but before we receive prosperity naturally, God wants our soul to prosper; meaning our mind, wills and emotions, because if our soul doesn't prosper, we will not be able to handle natural prosperity without sinning against God.

Why do you think so many of Hollywood's residents are four times divorced, hopping from bed to bed, addicted to different drugs and others things that would probably make a normal person blush. They are prospering, but their souls are decaying.

Nadab and Abihu lost their lives because they didn't follow the instructions for the priests. They didn't do what was required of them. God has given us His instruction manual and He wants us to follow the instructions in the manual. The way we can follow the instructions, we must take the time and read it, we must begin to meditate on the word of God, as we meditate on the word of God, it will keep us from practicing sin. Reading the word of God will enrich our minds and help us to access what is rightfully ours, it will help us to send forth praises that will be pleasing and expectable in God's eyesight, we will not be sending forth strange fire because we have decided to live by God's standards and not by the world's standards. Therefore when we send God a praise it will be a sweet smelling savor in His nostrils.

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