

# Weekly Word

August 25, 2008

By Mary Ruth Stone

## Devotion

### The Fire of God in Worship

The fire of God is symbolic of the Holy Spirit in scripture. God is Spirit and those that worship Him must worship Him in spirit. The Spirit of God is present in *true* worship. Literal holy fire was important in Old Testament worship. When Abraham went to worship God on Mount Moriah thinking he would sacrifice his son Isaac, He carried fire with him. The night before the Hebrews left the slavery of Egypt, they worshiped by eating a Passover lamb that was roasted in fire. God manifested Himself by fire on Mount Sinai when Moses received the Law.

The ritual offerings of Leviticus were to be burned by fire—not strange fire, but the fire of God. “And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not be put out. And the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order on it and he shall burn on it the fat of the peace offerings. A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out” (Leviticus 6:12, 13). So fire, symbolic of the Holy Spirit, and worship go together.

One of the most beautiful and exciting settings in scripture is the dedication of the awesomely elaborate temple that King Solomon built. King Solomon went to his knees, spread out his arms, and prayed a comprehensive and moving prayer (2 Chronicles 6). He ended with a poetic expression culminating in a reminder to God of His covenant with David.

Then the fire fell to the extent that, “. . . the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord’s house. When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the Lord on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the Lord, saying: ‘For He is good, for His mercy endures forever’” (2 Chronicles 7:2, 3).

It is our responsibility to worship in a mode conducive to the fire of God and to see that the fire is passed to the next generation.

## Scripture

“When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the temple”  
(2 Chronicles 7:1).

## This 'n That

*“The Holy Spirit literally resides within your being. The more you yield your life to Him, the more His power flows through you. He is there, ready and able to empower us.”*

— Charles Swindoll

## Prayer

Holy Spirit,

Please dwell in me as a flaming fire cleansing and enabling. Amen.

Waiting on Him,  
Mary Ruth