

Part 5 - The Call for a Free Will Offering – a Willing Heart

[A Review: The Altar of Incense, Holy Anointing Oil & Perfume, Altar of Burnt Offerings]

Exodus 35

15 And the incense altar, and his staves, and the anointing oil, and the sweet incense, and the hanging for the door at the entering in of the tabernacle,

The next item Moses called for Israel to make was the incense altar. And, like the Ark of the Covenant (Ex 25:10), the Table of Shewbread (Ex 25:23), the boards used to form the walls of the Tabernacle (Ex 27), this incense altar was to be made of *shittim* wood, which actually is the *acacia* tree. Again, this tree is known for its durability, making it ideal for construction the Tabernacle and symbolic of the strength of God's Word, *for the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power* (1 Cor 4:20). For the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not *in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance* (1 Thess 1:5). The altar of incense was much smaller than the altar of burnt offering; it was only about 1.5 feet long and wide (it was a cube) and around 3ft high and it too was mobile. It too was overlaid with gold but it had four horns on the top as well as a wreath around it. But, while it wasn't a huge piece of furniture, the purpose of it was very important. Exodus 30:6 tells us that the altar of incense was to be put 'before' the vail that separated the Ark of the Covenant (i.e., Testimony). The altar of incense would thus also be 'before' the mercy seat for the mercy seat is *over* (on top of) the Ark of the Covenant (Testimony). Remember, the mercy seat is where *only* God sits (it's therefore, what Satan covets, Ezek 28, Isa 14) and that's why He says the Ark of the Covenant (in the Holy of Holies) is where He would 'meet' with Moses to speak to him (Ex 25:22, 30:6, 36).

Exodus 30:7-8 then tells us that 'sweet' incense was to be burnt on this altar every morning and every evening, at the same time the priest 'dresseth' and 'lighteth' the lamps. Also, this was to be perpetually done before YHVH, throughout *all* their generations. The word 'sweet' means *a sweet aroma* (#5561) and we'll learn more about what the incense was later on in this chapter. The word 'dresseth' is #3190 and means: *to be* (causative) *make well*, literally (*sound, beautiful*) or figuratively (*happy, successful, right*). Keeping it in context with the lamps, it's likely the 'dressing' refers to any maintenance they had to do to the lamps to keep them burning pure and bright, such as trimming the wicks or adding more oil. The priests were to make sure the lamps were *always* lit, so much maintenance would be done at night, before they went to sleep and then when they got up in the morning. They were responsible to make sure the lamps *always* stayed lit 'continually' (Lev 24:2) and throughout their generations (vs 8). So, while the burnt offering was to sacrifice animals on, this altar was to burn incense on and we are clearly told in the Word of God what that incense was symbolic of. What it means to us today is easier to understand if we understand a bit about how they used to burn incense. In the Israelite temple of old, the sound of musical instruments, singing and other activities resounded during the offering of the sacrifices, which occupied the first part of the temple service (Lk 1). But, at the offering of the incense, which followed the sacrifices, a solemn silence was observed for about one-half hour. The people knelt and prayed quietly outside the temple, *in hushed reverence*, while the priest inside

the temple offered up the incense to God. Thus, ***their prayers were intimately connected with the rising incense.*** And this is the point we must not forget. The Word of God absolutely documents this point (Ps 141:1-2, Rev 8:3-4). And because incense is an analogy for prayer, we see God use this to explain the spiritual apostasy and idolatry that comes through bringing incense to other gods (see Jer 19:13, Jer 18:15, Jer 44:2-8 for a few examples). It was not the physical act that angered God so much as *what was going on in their heart*. What He is really angry at, is the fact that, *in their hearts* (their carnal mind) they were communing with false gods. And they made idols (images) ***through their fantasies and daydreams.*** This is what is called ‘vanities’ (Deut 32:21, 1 Kings 16:13, 26, Ps 31:6, Jer 8:19, 10:8, 14:22, Jonah 2:8, Acts 14:15, etc.). God hates our evil ideas, thoughts, desires which are all essentially tied to our own fantasies and daydreams. It’s the ‘image’ of what we want to be and what we want to happen in life. This is how we worship other gods (usually our SELF) and make idols (things we want) in our heart. **We believe the lies (that evil spirits ‘whisper’ in our ears; we like to hear them.** This is why Paul warned Timothy that *the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables* (2 Tim 4:3-4). **People like to hear lies better than truth when their heart is not clean.** This is manifested by the fact that ‘prosperity ministries’ are so popular as is the erroneous Rapture Theory and many other ‘traditions’ taught in Churches today. People don’t like to hear personal accountability to Jesus Christ taught in the pulpits.

Now, because we’re in a spiritual war (Eph 6), we should be aware of how we can be drawn away from Jesus Christ. And the fact is that, many people ‘pray’ to evil spirits when they accept (and enjoy) the lies they are told by the evil spirits. Some even speak to them *in their heart*, albeit *usually unknowingly*. Many times in the Old Testament the people of Israel worshiped YHWH along with other gods. This is common in today’s world too, although we know God Almighty (YHVH) does not accept this form of worshiping Him for He demands that He be our only God. Nevertheless, people often confuse worshiping other gods and idol worship with worshiping Him simply because they are incredibly ignorant of what His Word actually says, even though they have the written Word of God to read. They, most people are ignorant of a large part of the spiritual battle: evil spirits truly can (and often do) speak to us, *even from the other dimension*. They do NOT have to be in this dimension to speak to us. And again, when we begin to *listen* to them, we also (subconsciously) begin to speak (pray) to them. Lest you think this is farfetched, check out the two-part special study on this subject on the interdimensional ‘internets’ that both God and Satan have [The Vine – Part 1 <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/992> The Vine – Part 2 <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/993>]. *We can either communicate with our Heavenly Father OR we can communicate with evil spirits.* **This is a critical part of the spiritual war we must be aware of.** Although we (our carnal mind) are perfectly capable of thinking up evil things by ourselves, we have a lot of help. ***The spiritual war is a war of words, ideas, thoughts, and desires that either clean us our corrupt us.*** So, we must be aware that there are not only many people in this dimension trying to corrupt our soul (think of the many means of propaganda out there) but also there are people (evil spirits) in *the other dimension* talking to us to try and get us to willingly listen to them so our spirit will be corrupted and we’ll willingly step out from

underneath the saving blood of Jesus Christ. But, don't get paranoid about this. Our Heavenly Father has given us His Word and His Holy Spirit to help us overcome the spiritual attacks we all face each and every day. That's why it's so important to study His Word and sincerely pray to Him *every day*. We must strive to stay connected to Him so we can overcome the evil that is attacking us spiritually.

This is why it's important for us to understand the purpose of this 'altar of incense' – it symbolizes prayer with God. Again, ***prayer is associated with incense***. Any why? Because incense was the only visual aid God could give to help people explain something we understand much better today: **digital communication**. Through technology, we can now see and speak to our loved ones, friends, co-workers or even leaders of other nations through the internet. We also don't have to store data on paper anymore; we can store digital data in a 'cloud' and retrieve them whenever need be. We can also organize events through social media. Propaganda (often called 'news') can easily be shared to all nations via the internet. However, *so can the truth*. In this life, what can be used for the good can (and is) also used for evil and vice versa.

So, while the internet, phones, tv and music are often used for the bad, they can also be used for the good. What makes our Heavenly Father angry is when we willingly choose to listen to lies that the evil spirits tell us (through *many* means) instead of His Word. Many self-professed Christians are actually agents of Satan because they don't actually study God's Word. (God expresses His feelings for this clearly in chapters like Jer 23, Ezek 13 and 34). Instead, they teach *lies disguised as doctrine* (traditions of man, Mth 15:2-9). This is why it's ever so important to study God's Word for yourself (2 Tim 2:15). **Do NOT outsource your thinking**. Don't let a preacher, *or anyone else*, do your thinking for you. Question what you are being taught by comparing it to the Word of God. Question what you are being told (be it by schools, governments, economics, science, Churches, social media, news, or *anywhere* – even this study you are reading) and **learn to accept only that which lines up with the Word of God**. This is called 'testing the spirits' (1 John 4:1-2) and learning to discern the fruit (Mth 7:15-27) of words and actions, by comparing them to our standard of right and wrong: the Word of God.

This then is why God wanted the incense to be burnt upon the altar for a *perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations*. Even today we are to 'burn incense' to God through our prayers to Him and to Him only. Study God's Word daily. Think upon it throughout the day. Strive to understand it and how you are to apply it to your thought process, your desires, your words and your actions. ***The world tells us to 'follow your heart' and your 'dreams' but this is directing us to Satan himself***. God's Word tells us *not* to follow evil (Ex 23:2) and our *heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked* (Jer 17:9); therefore, we should not follow our heart or our dreams – we should follow God's Word (will). Jesus Christ said...

Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.
Matt 4:19

23 *And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*

24 *For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.*

25 *For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?*
Luke 9:23-25

We must keep the incense (our prayers) *constant* (1 Thess 5:17) or else we will fall away to sin. This does not mean we become ‘religious fanatics’ but that we simply learn to keep our mind and heart focused on God’s Word (Eph 6:18) instead of the world (James 4:4). No matter where you are, what you are doing, or who you are with – stay focused on God’s Word and pray to Him whenever you need to or want to; you can pray anywhere you want when you do it in your own mind. It is your Light in a very dark world (James 4:7-8). Now, let’s look at Ex 35:15 again...

Exodus 35

15 *And the incense altar, and his staves, and **the anointing oil**, and **the sweet incense**, and the hanging for the door at the entering in of the tabernacle,*

Exodus 30:22-25 explains that myrrh, sweet cinnamon, sweet calamus, cassia and olive oil were to be mixed to make a holy anointing oil. We learned that these spices and the olive oil itself are greatly symbolic of the cleansing ability of God’s Word and His Holy Spirit. [You can get a refresher here: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Exodus/226]. And, of course, the physical anointing is symbolic of the *spiritual anointing* that comes only from the Holy Spirit. And when we are touched (anointed) by the Holy Spirit, He ‘lightens our eyes’ by giving us understanding and guidance (Ps 119:130 - *The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple*). Those who truly accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and King will strive to know Him better. And there is no better way than studying His Word. But we also must learn to listen to the ‘unction’ (spiritual touch) from His Holy Spirit because that is how He guides us in our daily life. Paul explains this as ‘walking in the Spirit’ and it’s important to study His Word when learning to hear the Holy Spirit (His Voice, Heb 3-4) so we don’t confuse His Holy Spirit with other spirits (unclean ones) because there are many of them vying for our attention. By studying God’s Word, staying focused on His Word and the reality of what you are doing in life (not being in a daydream or fantasy) and truly *thinking* (using your head instead of being off in ‘la la’ land), we will learn (through experience) how to both hear and obey the Holy Spirit of God.

So, there is more to worshiping God than just reading His Word, going to Church or believing in man’s traditions. It requires a true (sincere and parament) change in heart. It’s a new way of thinking. It changes the essence of who we are inside. Thus, we must learn to listen, hear and obey God’s Voice, which is His Word *and* His Holy Spirit. This means we must not only study God’s Word but we must also *listen for His Voice in our heart*. We must be open to His Holy Spirit convicting us of our sins and repent for them. Further, we must learn to ‘walk in the Spirit’ (Gal 5) by learning to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in our daily life. While we study God’s

Word to know right from wrong (God's Word teaches us this) we have to learn *how* to listen to the Holy Spirit (His Voice) because He will teach us how to apply His Word in our every day life, no matter the situation. His Holy Spirit will also help us learn how to discern and use wisdom and discretion in our words and actions. The Word of God and the Holy Spirit of God are both His 'Voice' and we must learn to listen to them both.

Now, God also commanded a holy perfume be made for use in the Tabernacle. We learned in Exodus 30, part 5 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Exodus/229] that this included spices such as *stacte, onycha, galbanum and pure frankincense*. These spices, like that in the anointing oil, also were powerfully cleansing but, in a different way. When they were burnt, they released smoke that is cleansing in an all-encompassing way. Even the fumes, or smoke, obtained from burning them had antiseptic and disinfectant qualities that totally eliminate bad germs as the smoke touches them. The tabernacle was a place where a lot of blood was shed. And since blood often carries diseases (i.e., 'blood borne pathogens as we like to call them today), those who worked in the area would be susceptible to getting sick; so there had to be a way to clean the area. We've seen with the Holy anointing oil that all the spices (along with olive oil itself) were very medicinal and cleaning, but so are the spices in the 'holy perfume' (incense). And, when they were burned, they literally cleaned *all* surfaces *and* the air, thus totally cleaning the Tabernacle, everything in it along with the very air they breathed (as we now know, viruses transfer *through the air*). Additionally, using these spices to clean the surface and the air (by burning them) *only* removed the **bad** bacteria and fungus' that were on surfaces and in the air. They did not, however, kill the good bacteria or fungi that are needed for us to be healthy. Yes, there are good bacteria and fungi that our bodies need to live healthily and when we use modern medicine and modern cleaners, we kill off the good with the bad, leaving us susceptible to 'super bugs' that plague us today.

So, basically, when God speaks of sanctifying the Tabernacle (Temple), the furniture in the Tabernacle (or Temple), the priests and/or the congregation – He is talking about cleaning them. And **He uses the physical cleansing to explain the way we are to clean ourselves spiritually**. He wanted His earthly Tabernacles to be healthy and clean - likewise, He wants His spiritual Tabernacle (our soul) to be healthy and clean. So, naturally, the spices He commanded be used in His anointing oil and perfumed incense have spiritual meanings to them as well. These beautiful spices surely reflect the holiness and amazing purity of Jesus Christ Himself. We see then that: spices like myrrh, sweet cinnamon, cassia, frankincense (and more) are not only good smelling but very cleansing as well. Thus, ***the Holy anointing oil is like the Word of God and Holy Anointing perfume is like the Holy Spirit***. And like the Holy anointing oil, the Word of God cleanses whatever it touches – that's why some people hate it. When we read it and absorb (touch) it (believe it), it cleanses our heart... but not everyone wants to be cleansed spiritually. Likewise does the Holy Spirit cleanse us. The Holy Spirit is more like the 'Holy Perfume' because it permeates our entire soul, cleansing our heart and mind. This is because the Holy Spirit of God is *what helps us understand His written Word*. The Holy Spirit also guides us in our daily lives and helps us learn and understand how to do the right thing on a moment-by-moment basis IF we are 'listening' for the guidance His Holy Spirit and know His Word enough to differentiate His Holy Spirit from other spirits (evil spirits which are unclean) trying to deceive us.

Also, remember that God had exclusive rights to the ‘recipe’ for the ‘holy anointing oil’ and the ‘holy perfume’. Neither were to be duplicated by anyone in the nation; God had sole rights to this recipe. Today we would say He had a ‘patent’ on these spice combinations. To duplicate (or mimic) this recipe meant losing their citizenship to the Kingdom of God (i.e., being ‘cut off’ from his people). Why such a strong punishment? God’s punishments are designed to keep law and order in the land because good judgment is the only thing that brings peace and justice. So, reserving this recipe for His Tabernacle not only distinguished His Government from all others, it also was a form of a mark. It thus symbolizes how the Holy Spirit marks His servants by cleaning them spiritually. Remember, the spices in the Holy anointing oil were extremely cleansing. And, Israel was allowed to use them but not in this combination. Likewise, God puts His mark on His servants by purifying their hearts and filling them with sweet spices we call ‘gifts of the Holy Spirit’. In Ezek 9:4-6, God commanded a ‘mark’ be *set a **mark upon the foreheads** of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof*. This wasn’t a physical mark, it was a spiritual mark that comes from being loyal to our Heavenly Father (YHVH) and His Son, Jesus Christ. It’s opposite of the ‘mark of the beast’ that Rev 13:16-17 and 14:9-11 speaks about.

However, God having a ‘patent’ on the ‘holy anointing oil’ and ‘holy perfume’ has an even broader implication. What it symbolizes to us today is that: **we cannot duplicate God’s Word** (Holy Anointing oil) **or His Holy Spirit** (Holy Perfume) lest we find ourselves cast out of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ with all the ‘heathen’ unbelievers. We must stick to studying and sharing God’s Word *as it is actually written*. **We can’t change it to make money, friends or gain influence or power, which is why people would duplicate the Holy Anointing oil and Perfume.** Stick with God’s Word (line-by-line and chapter-by-chapter) exactly as it’s written. Don’t add to it. Don’t take away from it. Even if it cuts *you* to the heart, share the truth exactly as it’s written. Speak exactly as the Holy Spirit bids you to. Don’t sway to the right or the left; keep God’s Word exactly (straight on) as it is written.

*23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.
24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.
25 Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.
26 Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.
27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.*
Prov 4:23-27

*18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:
19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*
Rev 22:18-19

Exodus 35

16 The altar of burnt offering, with his brasen grate, his staves, and all his vessels, the laver and his foot,

Next Moses explained to Israel that they were to make an altar of burnt offering. We learned of this in Exodus 27 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Exodus/179]. Unlike the ‘altar of incense’ this would be a much larger altar, roughly 7.5 feet long by 7.5 wide feet and then about 4.5 feet high. This altar had to be larger to accommodate all the ashes for the animals that were burnt. At times, *thousands* of animals would be burnt during the course of a feast week (i.e. 2 Chron 7:5). Consequently, there would be a lot of ashes from the many animals sacrificed. It was therefore designed to accommodate mass sacrifices. This altar was to be made of shittim (acacia) wood and then overlaid with brass instead of gold. We learned that the word ‘brass’ in the Hebrew is #5178 and means: *copper*, hence, *something made of that metal*, i.e. *coin, a fetter*; figuratively, *base* (as compared with gold or silver). It’s been translated in the KJV as - *brasen, brass, chain, copper, fetter (of brass), filthiness, steel*. The Companion Bible also has a note (back on Ex 25:3) that says a mixture of copper and zinc was unknown at that time. So, this ‘brass’ was probably pure copper or bronze (which is a mixture of copper and tin). Also, in Exodus 27:2 we’re told that there were to be *four horns* made upon the four corners of this altar. Rev 9:13 tells us that the golden altar before God in heaven also has four horns and the altar in the Millennial Temple also has four horns (Ezek 43:15-20). While blood sacrifices have been *forever* done away with (since Jesus Christ has died for our sins, once and for all, Heb 10:10), there remains an altar in heaven, and there will be one in the Millennial Temple because the altar still *signifies* the **spiritual altar**, which is **our soul**. After all, Prov 20:27 tells us that *the spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly*. [We learned about this in detail in Exodus 20, part 9. For a refresher, click here: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Exodus/113]. Thus, upon the altar of our soul, there are also ‘horns’. Jeremiah brings out the spiritual significance of this...

1 The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond: it is graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars;

2 Whilst their children remember their altars and their groves by the green trees upon the high hills.

Jer 17:1-2

The tables of our heart are likened to these horns of the altar... thus connecting the spiritual significance of the altar of God being *our heart*, which is where sin resides, as Jesus told us in Mth 15:13-20 and Mk 7:20-23. Thus, today, (as back then) God wants us to ‘kill’ the animal (our carnal mind/nature) that is within each and every one of us. This is called crucifying the old man (Rom 6:6, Eph 4:22, Col 3:9, Luke 9:23) and the ‘animal’ we are to kill on the altar of our soul is our carnal mind (our heart). That’s what all these carnal animals beings sacrificed symbolized. Further, because God does not want us to die spiritually, the blood sacrifices also looked forward to the Messiah, Jesus Christ who would die for our sins, so our soul does not have to die, for that death is *permanent* (Rev 20). And it is because of the Holy Spirit given to us after Jesus paid the

price for our sins (Acts 2:33) that we are able to crucify this ‘animal’ (carnal mind) within our heart (Rom 8:7).

So, why then, are there four horns on the altar? Horns have always been symbolic of *power* (i.e., 1 Sam 2:1, 10, 2 Sam 22:3, Ps 18:2, Ps 75:10, 89:17, 24, 92:10, 112:9, 148:14, Jer 48:25, Lam 2:2, 17, Ezek 29:21, Ezek 34:21, Dan 7:8, 20, 24, 8:3, 6, 7, 30, Micah 4:13, Amos 6:13, Hab 3:4, Zech 1:18-21, Lk 1:69, Rev 13:1, 11, 17:3, 7, 12, 16). And remember that four in Biblical numerics signifies: God’s *creation*, the *world*. So, **horns on the altar of sacrifice symbolizes the power that God has given us to sacrifice (kill) the animal within us (our carnal mind = heart)** (Rom 8:13, Col 3:5). What power is this? It’s **the power of the Holy Spirit of God** Himself, given to us through the great sacrifice of His precious son, Jesus Christ...

17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

*19 Behold, **I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.***

20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

22 All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.

Luke 10:17-22

Before Jesus died and was resurrected, He gave them power over the enemy (Satan); but afterwards, He would give them even more power from His Holy Spirit – the fire from His very altar. But, before that happened, He had to ascend into Heaven. Thus, He told them: *behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high* (Luke 24:49). Acts 2 documents that the Holy Spirit’s fire came...

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

*3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues **like as of fire**, and it sat upon each of them.*

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:1-4

This is the only fire we are to have upon the altar of our soul: God’s fire, for it is holy and it will clean our sin. Only God’s Holy Spirit can help us truly kill the carnal nature within us and it’s truly a life long journey. When you fall to sin, get back up and repent. Try harder next time and

learn from your mistakes. You don't need to be saved over and over again. Jesus saves us once and it's up to us to continue to repent as we see new sins, and also when we sin from time to time. But sin as a willing lifestyle is not to be in us anymore. 2 Tim 2:19 says: *let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity*. God's fire (His Holy Spirit) in our soul (the altar) will give us power (the four horns) to kill the animal (carnal nature) within us. While our carnal nature will always be with us in this flesh body, the Holy Spirit will help us learn to keep control of it and put it down whenever it tries to rise up to control us. That's why Jesus said we have to deny our 'self' and take up our cross *daily*, if we want to follow Him (Lk 9:23). He was speaking of our carnal nature (mind, our heart). Crucifying our 'self' (ego, pride) is a daily duty for the Christian and lasts our entire life. Paul explains this pretty good in Romans 6-7 [study the book of Romans here: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Romans].

Further, Jesus has given us power over the enemy, which is who? The enemy is the Devil (Matt 13:39) who is also called *the great dragon, that old serpent, and Satan*, (Rev 12:9, 20:2) and Lucifer (Isa 14:12). 1 Cor 15:26 also tells us that death is our enemy and Heb 2:14 tells us that Jesus destroyed the power of death, who is the devil. Further, James 4:4 tells us that *friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God*. So, anyone who is friends with the world is the enemy of God. This is a pretty broad range of enemies and we're advised in Rom 12:19-21 not to have a vengeful attitude but to simply give them '*spiritual*' food and water, which will heap 'coals of fire' on their heart. In other words, because of the sacrifice Jesus Christ made for us, God has given us power *through His Word and through His Holy Spirit*. This is power also over 'serpents and scorpions', which is explained in the Revelations to be Satan, his fallen angels and all those who follow (serve) them.

But the power Jesus Christ gives us is not to be used to take vengeance out for personal offense. The power Jesus gives is to be used (and truly can only be used) to serve God, not our selves. The power (horns on our spiritual altar) that Jesus Christ gives us is the power *through His Word and Holy Spirit* to speak (and teach) the truth no matter how it 'burns' someone. If you're given the unction from God, don't shrink back from saying something even if you think it'll anger or offend someone. Truth *does* burn but it only burns sin, which is a good thing. For those who have cleaned their hearts, it warms them instead of burning them. It's like the dross (slag) that comes off of gold or silver. If someone does not have much truth (or any at all) in their heart, the truth will burn much hotter in their heart than in someone who has the truth! However, if we still have sins we have not dealt with, God's Word will indeed burn us until we kick it out (Ps 90:8). This is why it's good to pray after the manner of the Psalmist...

*12 Who can understand his errors? **cleanse thou me from secret faults.***

13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Ps 19:12-20:1

Moreover, 1 Cor 4:20 tells us that *the kingdom of God is not in word, **but in power***. 1 Thess 1:5 says that, *our gospel came not unto you in word only, but **also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance***. 2 Tim 1:7 also says that, *God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of **power, and of love, and of a sound mind***. So, **the four horns on the altar symbolize spirit of power God gives us**. To reiterate: the power comes (only) from the Holy Spirit of God being IN us and it's given to us so we can burn the enemy *with the truth*, not to fulfill *our* lusts of vengeance upon *our* personal enemies. Further, Jesus will use this power when He returns (2 Thess 2:8, Matt 13:26-30, Rev 19:11-21). So, let's remember the vital lesson of horns being upon the altar of burnt offerings, for it is ever so important to us today (Ps 89:15-17).

We'll pick this up in part 6...

AMEN.