

*Hello! This is Dorothy -*

This morning I want us to turn in the Old Testament to the **Book of Leviticus**. This book is called *the Gospel of the Old Testament*. In **Leviticus, chapter 10**, we are going to read of something that is called *strange fire*. What is this strange fire? You might want to read the preceding chapter, which speaks of the building of the tabernacle. It had all been completed. Through this, we read of some of the offerings and sacrifices that God had ordained that were necessary because everything that was involved spoke of what was one day going to be complete in Christ Jesus, our Lord. It all points to the Cross, as now we look back to the Cross where Christ became our sacrifice - the Only perfect sacrifice. Back in **chapter 8**, we read all about the robes and why the priests had to wear certain clothes and why they had to carry certain sacrifices. Then we get into this amazing **chapter 9**, which speaks of an awesome reality: it speaks of a visible God; a manifestation of God; the very presence of God suddenly coming down in the midst. Oh, what a glorious dedication service that was! Nothing on earth that we see these days could compare with such a time.

In the middle of this working of God in the midst, fulfilling all that He had longed to do amongst them, suddenly, two people, dressed for the

part, stepped right out of the plan of God. They were the two sons of the high priest Aaron and, suddenly, they were wiped out by God! They were consumed by the fire of God. He had said in **verse 3 of chapter 10** - . . . **I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified.** You see, these two sons, whose names were Nadab and Abihu, endeavored to draw attention to themselves from God.

We see so much of it these days that we don't realize what it means to God to have to look at this. God doesn't want what I can do. My very best of jumping around, or singing the loudest, or performing in such a manner that draws attention to myself, God does not want. God wants it all to be around Himself. It is for this reason that He makes it very clear that what I bring of myself is acting on the things of God without seeking the mind of God. It is what we call *will-worship*. It is a show of wisdom and humility, but it is showing the carnal, instead of bringing what only God can through His Son Christ Jesus. Perhaps you feel guilty about this. Perhaps you realize that your Christian service is very much a demonstration of you, your talent, your training and you hope some day there will be the biggest plaque one day about yourself. You do not realize this is an anathema to God. God is not looking for what we can do. God has made it clear through all the Scriptures that what He is looking for is what Christ can do through you and me. Therefore, it is through humility we have to say, *With all*

*my training, with all my ideas of what I can present to God - of myself, I can do nothing. Lord, it has to be You through me.*

A very well-known pastor once said, "I realized something was wrong and one day God said, "It is your ability to preach!" The pastor said, "But don't You want me to preach?" And God said, "I am waiting for you to see it is only I who can preach through you the eternal Word if there is to be eternal fruit."

Perhaps you are a singer; perhaps you have a part in the church; perhaps you think you are something great in some Christian organization. Are you willing now to say, *Forgive me, Lord. Thank you that I was not consumed as Nadab and Abihu with strange fire. I rushed to bring my own self before You, when all the time, it should have been that I was standing in the presence of Almighty God in the Person of Christ Jesus alone and what He did through me could stand for all eternity. To this end, Lord, forgive me. In turn, from now on, let it be Christ, only Christ, doing those things which will alone bring You the glory and honor forever and ever. I love you, Lord, for speaking to me this day about these things.*

*In Jesus' Name. Amen.*