

Jan 17th
Psalms 5 vs 1-6
~ Praying with Fire ~

*“Give ear to my words, O LORD;
consider my groaning.
Give attention to the sound of my cry,
my King and my God,
for to You do I pray.
O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice;
in the morning I will direct my prayer to you and eagerly watch.
For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;
evil may not dwell with you.
The boastful shall not stand before your eyes;
you hate all evildoers.
You destroy those who speak lies;
the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.”*

David was dedicated in prayer because he knew for certain God would answer. He declared his pledge to direct his voice to God - first thing in the morning. Our voices are used for many things throughout the day, yet the most important one is to secure audience in heaven by praying in certain faith. He was motivated because the presence of God meant everything to him, and in God's holy presence no wickedness would be able to survive. This certainty is seen in the phrase “eagerly watch” that refers to one arranging the offering on on the altar, and expecting with certainty for God to receive the offering by consuming it with fire. (Fire, in many biblical instances, is a manifestation of the presence of God, who is a Consuming Fire - Heb. 12:29).

As in the case of Abel's accepted sacrifice versus Cain's, and Elijah's sacrifice on Mount Carmel, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost illustrates that Jesus once for all went into the more perfect tabernacle in heaven and presented Himself as an acceptable sacrifice to His Father (Hebrews 10:11-12). The Holy Spirit being poured out at Pentecost, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in us now when we believe in the finished work of Christ, is the evidence of God's acceptance of the Perfect Sacrifice of the Son.

When we prioritize seeking God in prayer and being led by the Spirit rather than fulfilling the natural desires of our flesh, we are deliberately arranging “the living sacrifice” of our lives to honor the Once-for-all, Sufficient Sacrifice of Christ (Romans 12:1-2). What an incredible thought that we are acceptable with God through faith in Jesus Christ alone, and that acceptance is known by the fire of the Holy Spirit’s presence, leading us in the wilderness of this life!

Lord, what burdens on my heart have I been carrying alone, perhaps doubting You would answer, or doubting my own merits to be heard? Thank you, Jesus that You, the Perfect Sacrifice have opened the way to the Holy of Holies for me at all times! I lay before You _____, knowing You will answer because of who You are.