

CHUCK D. PIERCE

AND ALEMU BEEFTU

Rekindle
the
Altar
Fire

Making a Place for
GOD'S PRESENCE

“Nothing is more tragic for the victim or disheartening to the witnesses than the burnout of a man or woman of God. What was once a bonfire of vision and passion is reduced, seemingly all of a sudden, to a pile of smoldering embers, and we wonder, *What happened?* In truth, the fire has died down gradually over time, and beware—it can happen to anyone. God wasn’t referring only to an ancient blaze on an altar of rocks when He warned, ‘Do not let the fire go out.’ The altar God desires most is a heart that is fully committed to Him. In *Rekindle the Altar Fire*, Chuck Pierce and Alemu Beeftu teach us from Scripture about the significance of biblical altars and their relevance for us today. If your zeal has cooled in your spiritual life, your family life, your church or your ministry, let this book help you discover why and what you can do about it. Here is an insightful, challenging and inspirational manual for preventing burnout in the first place, or for restoring our heart-altar so the Holy Spirit can reignite His fire within us!”

Dr. Wess Stafford, president emeritus, Compassion International

“In a day when it is easy to be busy for God, Chuck Pierce and Alemu Beeftu understand there is no easier place to lose Jesus than in the temple of religious activity and flurry. Far more than just a great book, *Rekindle the Altar Fire* is ‘an anchor within the veil’ that calls us back to true covenant and passion for God. *Rekindle the Altar Fire* is a powerful manual that shows us how to keep the fires hot on the altar of our relationship with God.”

Dr. Don Crum, Leadership International

“In *Rekindle the Altar Fire*, Chuck Pierce and Alemu Beeftu have done a great service to the Body of Christ. This book

leaves one with a passion for the presence of God and the pursuit of holiness that few books have ever achieved. As I read it, God lit a new fire in my own heart.”

Cindy Jacobs, founder and president, Generals International

“Chuck Pierce and Alemu Beeftu are to be commended. *Rekindle the Altar Fire* is a wonderful handbook for those who want to burn with holy fire.”

Dr. Dutch Sheets, founder, Dutch Sheets Ministries

Rekindle
the
Altar
Fire

Rekindle *the* Altar Fire

Making a Place for
GOD'S PRESENCE

CHUCK D. PIERCE
AND ALEMU BEEFTU



Chosen

a division of Baker Publishing Group
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Rekindle the Altar Fire • Chuck D. Pierce & Alemu Beeftu
Chosen Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group © 2020 used by permission

© 2020 by Alemu Beeftu and Chuck D. Pierce

Published by Chosen Books
11400 Hampshire Avenue South
Bloomington, Minnesota 55438
www.chosenbooks.com

Chosen Books is a division of
Baker Publishing Group, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Printed in the United States of America

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—for example, electronic, photocopy, recording—without the prior written permission of the publisher. The only exception is brief quotations in printed reviews.

ISBN 978-0-8007-9979-3 (paperback)

ISBN 978-0-8007-6217-9 (casebound)

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Control Number: 2020943483

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 Biblica. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations identified AMPC are from the Amplified® Bible (AMPC), copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.Lockman.org

Scripture quotations identified GNT are from the Good News Translation in Today's English Version-Second Edition. Copyright © 1992 by American Bible Society. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations identified NKJV are from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked TPT are from The Passion Translation®. Copyright © 2017, 2018 by Passion & Fire Ministries, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved. ThePassionTranslation.com.

The guest contributions in chapters 4, 7 and 8 are used by permission. The song “Let It Burn” in chapter 14 is used by permission.

Cover design by Bill Johnson

20 21 22 23 24 25 26 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

To the Kingdom remnant intercessors
and watchmen who build new altars
throughout the world

Contents

1. Why Build an Altar? 11
2. Fresh Fire for Salvation and Revival 21
3. What Is the Altar of God? 37
4. Protecting the Altar from Ruin 49
5. Overthrowing False Altars 65
6. Building the Altar of Worship 77
7. Making Your Altar a Priority 89
8. Keeping the Altar Fire Burning 103
9. Lost Your Way? Go Back! 127
10. Lord, Return the Fire to the Altar! 139
11. Understanding God's Kingdom 151
12. Rekindle Your Prayer Fire 163
13. Decree Using Bold Prayers 179
14. Keep the Fire Burning 191

You are about to enter a journey of seeing and experiencing revival from a personal, corporate, territorial and generational dimension. Revival is the renewal of one's spirit to regain life and lost power. From ancient times until now, there is one concept of revival that is not usually discussed. The principle of God's altar being central to our lives is the key to the awakening and strengthening of our spirits—the inner, eternal life within us. As you build an altar and sustain the fire deep inside, the outward reflection of that power changes the world around you.

1

Why Build an Altar?

They built the altar of the Lord is a phrase found in every move of God, at every new beginning, at every defining moment in biblical history:

- Noah built an altar
- Abraham built an altar
- Moses built an altar
- Aaron built an altar
- Joshua built an altar
- Samuel built an altar
- Even Saul built an altar unto the Lord God of Israel
- Upon return from the Babylonian captivity, the people built an altar
- And on and on and on

John the Baptist cried in the desert, “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the One coming after me will

baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” To know this fire and keep it burning within us is the understanding we must have in order to experience a perpetual relationship with God—and a move of God within and around us! The fire of God is a sign of spiritual renewal, consecration and empowerment.

In modern history we have forgotten the importance of God’s altar. This book, *Rekindle the Altar Fire*, is a modern-day call and explanation for God’s people to find our way back to building His altar, resulting in experiencing His fire, joy and renewal.

Building God’s Plan of Worship

Most of us are living in an environment of worldly domination. Perhaps that is why I, Chuck, especially like the story of Gideon. Remember that Gideon was motivated by the oppression of the times: The Israelites were not able to prosper. Whenever they planted crops, the Midianites would invade the land and ruin their harvests for the year ahead. Now think about this: You have worked hard all year and saved enough for the year to come—and you get robbed . . . *year after year*.

Finally, you have deep within you a cry that says, *Enough is enough!* God, the Ruler of the universe, and of your harvest, visits you with a solution. The real issue becomes not just knowing what will save you and your family’s future, but deciding whether or not to act in faith. Gideon is like most of us—unsure, insecure, fearful and filled with a lack of confidence. When the angel of the Lord appeared to him as he was threshing wheat in a winepress, and commanded him to go and save Israel, Gideon offered excuses and asked

for a sign. When the Lord confirmed the sign, the call to save Israel created action within him.

“So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD Is Peace” (Judges 6:24). In other words, an altar of peace and wholeness had to be established in the midst of the trying and confusing times.

That same night, the Lord gave him instructions to tear down his father’s idolatrous altar to Baal and “build a proper kind of altar to the LORD your God on the top of this height” (Judges 6:26).

Here is the scenario. Baal, the most prominent idol mentioned throughout the Bible, was the demonic ruler of Canaan. To destroy Baal’s altar, along with the Asherah pole beside it, was certain to incur the wrath of Baal’s worshipers as well as anger the demonic presence. This action was a bold declaration that the ruler of that land was being dethroned.

But Gideon obeyed God. At night, with ten of his servants, he tore down the idolatrous altar, built a new altar to God and made a sacrifice upon it.

The next morning, as he expected, the townspeople were furious, and demanded that Gideon be put to death. His father made the logical argument that if Baal were a god, he could defend himself when someone came to break down his altar. The people were silenced, and ultimately Gideon led Israel into battle, gaining freedom from the oppression of the Midianites.

It is time for a generation of Gideons to arise and change the course of nations! *We must have a generation that tears down iniquitous altars. To remove the evil, we must have a generation that builds altars filled with God’s uncompromising fire.* It is not enough just to overthrow and defeat

the powers in a region. We must then build God's plan of worship. This book will help you understand how to build an altar so that the renewed fire comes to God's people.

Dr. Alemu Beeftu, my co-author for this book, has established the key to seeing a nation shift. He is a man of God from Ethiopia with one desire: to see the fire of God sweeping through nations. We will explain how each individual altar is built to contain this fire. This altar is a place for presenting our sacrifices of worship and praise. The altar of God is not an ancient concept but a necessary element in our worship today. It is a place of anointing, and anointing breaks the yoke of the enemy. The altar is a place of overcoming. The altar is a place of daily communion.

In this book, you will learn much about worship and will be motivated to "go up to a high place," tear down the devil's altar and build God's altar. Now is the time for our generation to build God's altar so that His fire may fall. *Rekindle the Altar Fire* defies any dispensation and says, *Build now! Your future depends on the altar.*

Build, Sacrifice and Commune

God's command to the children of Israel through Moses was to construct altars on which sacrifices and offerings would be placed: "Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you" (Exodus 20:24).

The reason He commanded altars to be built was to establish a meeting place of relationship. In essence, God was saying, "Honor Me and I will bless you." God was not

promising to bless the altars, although wherever His presence is, there is blessing. He was promising to bless the people who built the altars. Every believer in every generation desires that blessing, that fire, to fall from God's throne. Without that fire, we quietly and desperately lead the lives of servants, but not children; hired hands, but not heirs to a Kingdom. That kind of servitude is not what Jesus meant when He said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

Maybe you have thought of the fire that comes from God as passion or drive or enthusiasm. We have chosen the word *fire* intentionally because of its status in the Old and New Testaments as an equivalent for the presence and power of God. From a burning bush that demanded shoes be removed to flaming tongues that amazed the early Church, "our 'God is a consuming fire'" (Hebrews 12:29). That fire, *God's fire*, is what is needed for our personal lives, our families, our churches and our nations if we are to have any hope of burning away the impurities of a people whose lips are close but whose hearts are far from Him.

This is where the use of an altar must be established in our lives on a daily basis. There cannot be a lasting fire without an altar: "For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him" (2 Chronicles 16:9). God desires to send *fire*, to strengthen and equip us for every good work; our Holy God wants an altar, a place of pure and wholehearted relationship, where He can meet with us and His fire can be seen in us. Without a daily place, an altar where the fire within can be stoked hot, we walk common to the world around us.

Our lives can be up-and-down, inconsistent, unstable dramas. This book has been written to help you reflect consistently the lasting, life-transforming fire of God and be revived again. You have a role to play in this drama! Your role is to build and maintain the place inside your heart that reflects commitment to the One who created you and knows the ultimate best for you. That place is where you prepare for daily sacrifices. This is where your identity shines, and you reflect fully who you are in the time and place in history that you occupy. Our hope for the pages ahead is to remind you that you have a purpose and destiny, and to encourage you “to fan into flame the gift of God” that dwells so richly within you (2 Timothy 1:6).

God’s fire is like a diamond. Diamonds sparkle with fiery reflections and refractions of light, every facet beautiful. These gemstones are solid forms of the element carbon, which is crystalized through high temperature and pressure. Their beauty reflects that bonded heat and strain, which also help determine a diamond’s worth.

We will be studying the mystery of fire as it is reflected in Scripture, the Word of God, much as a diamond reflects the sparkling brilliance of light. There are eight kinds of fire we must consider—including those that Scripture warns us against—both for our spiritual well-being and for the effectiveness of our ministry in the world around us:

1. The *fire* of the Holy Spirit, the real and present indwelling of the Spirit of the Living God.
2. The *fire* of the love of God—the fire of the cross. The cross is the meeting place between heaven and earth.
3. The *fire* of God’s word to us. Scripture tells us that “the grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of

our God stands forever” (Isaiah 40:8 NKJV). Having a place in our hearts ready to receive all that God will speak to us helps stabilize us for the storms of life ahead.

4. The *fire* of holiness. God’s Word says, “Be holy, because I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16). God will not ask of us what we cannot attain. Not being common to the world around us is holiness.
5. The *fire* of worship and prayer. The presentation of this fire is pleasing in God’s eyes and causes His favor to rest on us. This fire must be guarded diligently. We have an enemy who seeks to steal and destroy this favor.
6. The *fire* of impurity. This comes from the mixture of soul and spirit in our worship. It includes what the Lord tried to guard His people against as they moved into the Promised Land. This is called Yahwism—their worship of God among the many Canaanite gods.
7. The *fire* of hell. We will discuss how Satan builds altars so his fire can burn. He hopes to redirect the passion of God’s people to himself.
8. The *fire* of ministry that reflects our call and destiny. One of the pressing needs of our age is for men and women to rise up and live in their true callings. Without consistent altars for this fire, confusion abounds and the Kingdom tarries.

The time is now! Let’s build our altars so that fresh, perpetual fire burns. For too long we have let the altars of our hearts become common and lie in disarray. God’s people

must awaken and once more prepare places for the fire to fall. And it is not just any fire—but the fire of a Living God, the possessor of heaven and earth. The hour is late, and the days are evil. We must redeem the time. Let's restore the altars of our hearts throughout the land. If we will build, then He will come, and the fire will fall.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Why must we have a generation that tears down iniquitous altars?
2. Why would an altar establish a meeting place of relationship?
3. What kind of fire do you most desire to see established (or reestablished) on your altar?