

RESTORING THE PRIESTLY ROLE OF INTERCESSION (Part 9)

The Fragrance of Prayer

Alie was saved because of the prayers offered to God on his behalf. So many prayers were directed at him in his tiny jail cell that the air was saturated with sweet incense of intercession. When believers from all over the world began to exercise their priestly duties and offer the incense of intercession before the presence of the Lord, the air in that Hong Kong prison cell was so filled with prayer that even unbelievers could smell the fragrance! The fruit of that prayer was that Alie surrendered his life to Jesus.

Is anyone smelling your prayers? Can anyone tell what day it is by the fragrance of your intercession?

The laws of God are immutable, including the natural laws of gravity. "What goes up must come down!" The law of gravity applies here. In the days of Aaron, the incense of prayer created a cloud as the fragrant smoke of the incense covered the mercy seat on the ark of the covenant. Then God would descend and distill His visible qualities in the midst of the cloud where He would commune with the high priest. The presence of God always descended after the fragrance of prayer ascended. In our day, an entire kingdom of priests has been authorized and commissioned to minister in God's presence, offering up unceasing prayer, praise, worship, and intercession for all men.

John tells us that there is an altar in Heaven where the angels minister to the Lord continuously. One angel has a censer that must be similar to the fire pan of the Aaronic priests.

Revelation 8:3-5 NKJV

[3] Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. [4] And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. [5] Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

The Bible says that the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar mingled with incense. Beside this altar in Heaven, there is also a golden bowl filled with incense. What is incense? Revelation 5:8 tells us that this incense is the prayers of the saints. What is the Lord's response to the fragrance of the incense of our prayers rising before Him?

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He commands an angel to turn over that bowl and spill the prayers of the saints onto the fire of the altar! Then the angel takes the censer and fills it with fire from the altar and the incense of the prayers of the saints and casts the fire down from Heaven onto the earth.

What goes up must come down! When the prayers of the saints rise as incense before the throne of God, they are gathered into a golden bowl and burned again with the fire of the altar in the presence of the Most High God. This illustrates how our prayers are multiplied and savored by God before He responds by sending His fire to the earth as answered prayer. This is the multidirectional dimension of prayer. Remember, what goes up must come down.