

THE GOLDEN ALTAR OF INCENSE

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Every time Apple releases a new iPhone model millions of Americans are enticed to drop their current iPhones in order to upgrade to the latest technology. Strong consumer demand for the newest gadgets has also carried over into the automobile industry, where the latest tech-equipped cars entice people to trade in their current vehicles as well. Tech envy is alive and well as in the pursuit to attain the best possible features available.

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

1. Do you buy a new phone as soon as your contract expires or your current phone is paid off? If not, what would make you want to upgrade?

The new covenant is much like a covenant upgrade with new and improved features of amazing grace and relational connectivity that simply didn't exist in the "old model."

Heb 8:3-6 *Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices... 5 They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven... 6 But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises. NIV*

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

2. What was something that stood out to you from Sunday's message?

As we are spiritually activated something within our lives begins to rise before our God as the incense would rise from the Tabernacle as a sacred aroma before God.

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

3. Our sense of smell is a much stronger sense than we realize. What are some of your favorite smells and what memories are associated with them?

1 Thessalonians 5:17-19 *pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. NAS*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

4. How has your prayer life been recently? What are the common enemies or distractions from prayer and how can we conquer these enemies in our daily lives?
5. The continual burning of incense is a picture of prayer without ceasing. How can we pray without ceasing?

It is significant to note that the golden altar was positioned in the very center of the Tabernacle. It sat in the heart of the holy place. Intercession truly is the heart of God as it involves coming before God on behalf of His desires and consideration of others. Whatever comes from prayerful conversation with God must truly come from the heart.

We Bring GP2RL: Pray through the tabernacle this week asking God to activate the anointing in your life.