



A weekly reflection by members of the Precious Blood Community

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**Josh Bessler**

*You shall call on your gods, and I will call on the Lord:  
The God who answers with fire is God.”(1 Kings 18:24)*

### **The Flame of Faith**

In the depths of obscurity, where shadows dance in the embrace of darkness, a single flame flickers, defiant against the engulfing blackness. Its gentle glow cutting through the void like a beacon of hope radiant and rebellious against the pressing darkness. The life of this flame is parallel to our own faith. The Lord God guides us with gentle hands just as he has since he gave us the first commandments on Mount Sinai. He breathes life into the flame that we call faith and leads us to his word. The first reading focuses on Elijah preaching to the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel as well as God’s children. He challenged the false prophets of Baal to invoke their god and show all the supposed wisdom and strength Baal provided. But in the end not one divine sight was seen or whisper was heard. God is not like the pretenders and fakes. God brought down the flame of His wisdom to the altar Elijah prepared on the mountain and showed His children that He was there; He existed. As the altar on the mountain roared and crackled so did the flame in the darkness in all of those who watched. The flame of faith strained against the darkness and stood defiantly in its place. The flame blazed.

So, too, did the gospel teach us how to apply our own flame to the lives of others, in order to nurture the faith of God in all of those around us. The gospel states, “But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.” The Lord then chastises those who work to snuff the light of others. As the flame dances in the confines of that darkened room, it beckons us to explore the profound depths of our own faith and existence. Where enlightenment awaits those brave enough to confront the shadows that linger within and combat the ever-hungry darkness in the world around us. The flame of faith dances in our own temple, the in-dwelling of the holy Spirit, and calls us to share it with the world.

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*This weekly reflection is made available to all who are part of our Precious Blood family. Feel free to share it with others. Would you be willing to write a reflection? If so, please contact Vicky Otto at [votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org](mailto:votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org)*