

Incensed!

*Personal Processing
Through Prayer*



Resistant to Decay

“And you shall make an altar to burn incense upon; of acacia wood you shall make it.”—Exodus 30:1

Discovery One:

Prayer makes us resistant to the
decay of the world.

1. The Altar of Incense was built using wood from the acacia tree.

2. The acacia tree produces certain preserving substances which insects do not like. It sends these substances to the heartwood at its center, making it resistant to decay.

3. Just as the acacia tree sends preserving substances to its heartwood making it resistant to decay, it is through prayer that who we are at our center, deep within our spirits, is transformed and preserved.

4. Decay is also defined as “gradual falling into an inferior condition; progressive decline”, or a slow fade.

5. According to 1 John 2:15-17,
daily exposure to the world
weakens our resistance.

6. Satan's strategy against us causes us to slowly develop a love for the world by believing everything is "all about me".

7. It is through prayer that our gaze is redirected to God, the One who holds everything together.

8. Exposure to the world can cause us to have two centers, resulting in an unstable life.

9. Just as we would not allow ourselves to be exposed to radioactive materials without wearing protective gear, we should not move through our daily lives without praying.

10. Ephesians 6:18 tells us that prayer is part of our spiritual armor and helps us to recognize a setup by the enemy to knock us off center.

11. James 1:5-8 reveals that with wisdom we can take action but with mere knowledge we will have a reaction , which causes spiritual radiation.

12. Giving off spiritual radiation is not the response of a stable Christian, but prayer will keep us stable, fixed and centered.

13. Constant exposure to the world without spending time with God in prayer leads to atmospheric drag.

14. As we draw near to God in prayer, the negative atmosphere trying to drag us down cannot maintain its hold on us. We will soar above our circumstances.

15. How greatly we are affected by the world's negativity is really up to each of us and our answer to one powerful question: will we pray?

Next Week:

Connected to God's Heart