



Advent Day 14 (written by Deb Bakken)

Flame

1 Kings 18: 36-39

At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again." Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate

and cried, "The LORD-he is God! The LORD-he is God!" (NIV 1984)

What's the best way to start a fire with two sticks? Make sure one is a match.

Starting a fire can be a difficult assignment if you have no matches or if the wood is wet. What if both of those things were true? That would certainly be a campfire that would never happen. Then only God could help. The prophets of Baal did everything they could to start their fire without matches—and their wood was perfectly dry! But God started Elijah's wet-wood fire in an instant!

That is the same way that people are brought to faith in Jesus. When we are born, we are sinful, enemies of God, just a pile of wet wood without a match in sight. Through his Word, God creates a spark of faith in our hearts. God fans that spark into a bright flame every time he speaks to us in his Word.

God's Word is a precious treasure that keeps the flame of our faith burning. God's Word is also a precious gift to be shared with other people, so that more wet wood can be set on fire for God.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for starting the fire of faith with the wet wood of my heart. Help me to share your Word with others. Amen.