



**Memories!  
Last-Saturday-in-February Meeting**

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### February Birthdays

5 Lyle Graddon

#### Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Website:  
[indiochurchofchrist.com](http://indiochurchofchrist.com)

**Preacher: Vacant**

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# Indio Informer

*"Trust in the Lord with all  
your heart and do not lean on  
your own understanding."*

Proverb 3:5

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- *"Fight the good fight"*
- *"Keep the faith"*
- *"Finish the course"*

**Last-Saturday-in-February Meeting  
Just 1 Week Away!  
Make Final Efforts**

### **"Do This" = "Don't Do That"**

By Seth Myers

Without controversy, one can declare that God does not change (Mal. 3:6). But what many may not realize is that the same is true of God's spiritual principles. Among these is the exclusive nature of God's "positive" commands—that is, "When God says, 'Do THIS,' it means, 'Don't do THAT.'" Let us briefly consider the clearest possible example of this spiritual truth.

Leviticus 10 opens with the account of the divine execution of two men who were in charge of the incense-burning portion of OT worship (1a), which, naturally, required fire. But the fire they offered on this occasion is said to have been "strange" (1b | ASV) to God, or "unauthorized" (ESV) by God. That kind of statement naturally leads the reader to ask this question: "Why was this fire 'unauthorized'? What was it that made this fire

‘strange’ in God’s sight?” According to the Holy Spirit, the reason it was “unauthorized” is because it was *“fire that [God] had never prescribed for them”* (ISV)—fire *“which he had not commanded them [to make]”* (1c).

When it comes to the manner in which we worship God: if it is not in His word, it better not be in our worship.

This terminology is extremely significant—for it was NOT that God had said, “You shall NOT make that kind of fire,” and that these two men made that kind of fire anyway; rather, God had simply said, “You shall make THIS kind of fire,” and, therefore, to make any other kind of fire was sin. Unfortunately for these two men, they did just that: they made “Fire B” when God had prescribed “Fire A,” and He repaid their fire with a fire of His own (2). Not one Israelite would have failed to “get the point”—you and I had better “get it,” as well! He didn’t have to specifically condemn or prohibit every single particular thing of which He disapproves. All He has to say is: “Do THIS,” and everything which the mind of man could possibly imagine besides “THIS” is direct rebellion against the word of God.

The spiritual principle that resulted in the death of Nadab & Abihu has not changed. When it comes to the manner in which we worship God: if it is not in His word, it better not be in our worship. For, if we want our worship to be acceptable to God, we *“must worship him in spirit and in truth”* (John 4:24).

### **Religious Experiences**

By Joe Slater

Does having a “religious experience” save you (or prove that you are saved)? Some religious groups require one to relate a religious experience; then they decide whether

that experience shows the person is saved and should be granted membership. How does this compare to the New Testament record?

In Acts 2, the Jews in Jerusalem definitely had a religious experience! *“And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they (the 120) were sitting . . . And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language”* (2:2, 6). But even though it was supernatural, that “experience” didn’t save anyone! When the apostles preached the gospel, 3000 believed and responded in repentance and immersion, thus receiving salvation.

Who can deny that Saul of Tarsus had a religious experience in Acts 9? *“Suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’”* (9:3-4). Contrary to popular belief, this experience didn’t save Saul. God sent Ananias to tell him what to do; Saul *“arose and was baptized”* (9:18).

Cornelius certainly could lay claim to having a religious experience. An angel of God appeared, telling him to send for Peter (Acts 10:1-6). But that experience didn’t save him! Peter told him *“words by which you and all your household will be saved”* (Acts 11:14). Cornelius and his household obeyed the gospel just like all the others (Acts 10:47-48).

Even if we had a supernatural experience today (which we won’t), that wouldn’t save us! *“Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord!”* (Acts 22:16)