

BE HOLY

Joshua 5:13-5 “Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, ‘Are you for us or for our adversaries?’

He said, ‘No; rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the Lord.’ And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, ‘What has my lord to say to his servant?’ The captain of the Lord’s host said to Joshua, ‘Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.’ And Joshua did so.”

The living sacrifice – allow the Lord to burn up self/flesh – empty self and be filled with His Spirit—allow His passion to burn

In the same way that the Israelites brought a burnt offering, believers come to the altar to sacrifice **our self on the altar of God to receive His life.** “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1-2)

We come to the altar once to give ourselves to the Lord and to accept His sacrifice for our sins. After that initial transaction of accepting Jesus and receiving His Holy Spirit, we daily are given the opportunity to offer ourselves and what our flesh desires to the Lord and ask Him to transform our minds by His power so we will know what God’s will is for our life. Then the Spirit can lead us. Romans 12:1-2

1 Peter 1:16”... because it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy’.”

How do we become holy vessels and vessels of honor for the Lord?

Deny self and be filled with the spirit

Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must **deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.** For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then repay every man according to his deeds. Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.’” (Matthew 16:21-28)

Using the Greek definition of man: 1-body, 2- soul, 3-spirit. "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

Are these areas of me in alignment with the Holy Spirit?

Inward parts

Body – flesh – natural man

Soul – immaterial part that includes

Thoughts

Emotions

Attitudes

Actions

Volition - will to do

Passions

Spirit – spirit of God within us, spirit means breath

Outward expressions – Are my actions/ways from Jesus? Do they give Him glory?

Ephesians 5:17-21

17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, **but be filled 4137 with the Spirit,**

19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. Ephesians 5:17-21

(From Church vision I) In the same way that the Israelites brought God a burnt offering, believers come to the altar to sacrifice ourselves on the altar of God to receive His life.

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When the individual and the church becomes a living sacrifice then believers lay down their lives and take hold of His life.

“Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16)

Church or House of God

God the Father
Christ the head of the church
Spirit leading/teaching/empowering men

+ Church or temple of God
000000000 Believers are living,
0000000000 growing stones being built into a
00000000000 spiritual house of prayer for all nations
0000000000000 to proclaim the excellencies of God

\Foundation – Corner Stone - Living Stone-- Rock – Jesus Christ –way, truth, life /

\Individuals and church have a relationship with the Lord so their lives are built upon the Rock, Jesus Christ /

\ Foundation is the written Word of God and Jesus, the Living Word of God John 1:1ff /

How to BE THE TEMPLE OF GOD “that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.** (Ephesians 4:22-25)

God’s role 23 Now may the **God of peace Himself sanctify you** entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass. 1 Thessalonians

The church interceding for the nations

How to become a functioning temple

Besides God’s plan for us to dwell with Him in oneness, is God’s desire to work through His Body to accomplish His eternal plans. In Isaiah 56:7 we read that Gentiles or the nations, along with Jews, are to come to God’s holy mountain. “ Even those I will bring to My holy mountain and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; for **My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.**” The word ‘**house**’ is “probably from the root word meaning to build.” (Strong’s, # 1004) ‘**Prayer**’ (Strong’s, #8605) “means intercession for someone.” This house of prayer **for all the peoples** (Strong’s, #5971) refers to “a people (as a congregated unit), a nation, a tribe,...a community;

the common people, human beings in general, the whole human race.” God’s people are to be praying for all peoples.

Because the Holy Spirit dwells with believers, we are not only to be the temple of God but also **a house of prayer for all nations**. Jesus referred to Isaiah 56:7 when He cleansed the temple and said the temple had become a den of robbers. (Mark 11:17) Because the Holy Spirit dwells with believers, we are the temple of God and are not to allow the temple, i.e. ourselves, to be robbed of the relationship the Lord desires to have with us, His plans and purposes for which He created us, and our role of being **a house of prayer for all nations**. **Since we are not to rob God in any way** (Malachi 3:6-12), we are surely not to rob Him in this way. When we do not allow the Holy Spirit in us to give us His life and to work through us, we quench His Spirit. Then we do not bear fruit, we do not pray for the nations or for God’s will to be done. At this juncture in our lives, we have joined the thief (Satan) who wants to rob us of our place in the Kingdom, our blessing and joy of being one with the Holy Spirit.

Being built as a house of prayer

Whether there are actual buildings or not, believers abiding in the Lord can be houses of prayer for all nations. As a house of prayer for all nations we can pray as at all times, for all the saints, in the Spirit.

In Hebrews 7:25: “ **Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.**”. We know **the Chief Intercessor is Jesus and He is our pattern for who we are and what our work is to be**. **When we follow in Jesus’ steps we choose His work, which is to intercede for believers and unbelievers**, whom He is bringing into His kingdom. “We are told in Isaiah 59:16 the Lord was surprised to **see** no one interceding so He worked **salvation**. “**And He (God) saw** that there was **no man**, and **was astonished** that there was **no one to intercede**; then **His own arm brought salvation to Him, and His righteousness upheld Him.**”

Believers find the pattern of doing what they **see** Jesus doing or in reading the Scriptures about what Jesus or the Father does. For the Father shows His children what He is doing and what He wants done because He loves them. “Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is **something He sees the Father doing**; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.’” (John 5:19-20)

“Since the Lord your God walks in the midst of your camp to deliver you and to defeat your enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy; and He must not see anything indecent among you or He will turn away from you.” Deuteronomy 23:14

God establishes our hearts without blame in holiness

11 Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you;

12 and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you;
13 so that He >>>may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints. [1 Thessalonians 3:11-13]:

Psalm 2

Why are the nations in an uproar

And the peoples devising a vain thing?

2 The kings of the earth take their stand

And the rulers take counsel together

Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,

3 "Let us tear their fetters apart

And cast away their cords from us!"

4 He who sits in the heavens laughs,

The Lord scoffs at them.

5 Then He will speak to them in His anger

And terrify them in His fury, saying,

6 "But as for Me, I have installed My King

Upon Zion, My holy mountain."

7 "I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord:

He said to Me, 'You are My Son,

Today I have begotten You.

8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance,

And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.

9 'You shall break them with a rod of iron,

You shall shatter them like earthenware.'"

10 Now therefore, O kings, show discernment;

Take warning, O judges of the earth.

11 Worship the Lord with reverence

And rejoice with trembling.

12 Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way,

For His wrath may soon be kindled.

How blessed are all who take refuge in Him

Acts 4:23-31

23 When they had been released, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them.

24 And when they heard this, **they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is You who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them,**

25 who by the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Your servant, said,

'Why did the Gentiles rage, Psalm 2

And the peoples devise futile things?

26 'The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together

Against the Lord and against His Christ.’ [spiritual enemies in high places (Ephesians 6:12) are against God and Christ and Christ’s people. However, when a person receives Christ, then ‘Christ is in you, the hope of glory’ (Colossians 1:27) Christ leads His people in victory through His Spirit and by His power. (2 Corinthians 2:14)]

27 “For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,

28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur. 29 “And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence,

30 while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.”

31 And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

Isaiah 56:7-8

7 Even those I will bring to My holy mountain

And make them joyful in **My house of prayer.**

Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar;

For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.”

8 The Lord God, who gathers the dispersed of Israel, declares,

“Yet others I will gather to them, to those already gathered.”

God is creator and Maker and what He creates and makes is good. He sustains life and gives creation life. However, God is set on destruction of anything and everything that causes us to sin or builds iniquities in nations or from one generation to the next. He is calling his people to be holy. As Creator God, He wants the web site to be a holy place that remains good in His sight.

PRAYER STRATEGY

Have faith in Jesus to protect His people, to give them strength to do what He has said and boldness for each act of prayer. Through the power of the Spirit and the hand of Jesus may God bring His words of truth and wisdom; give life, light, and agape’ type of willful-love; salvation of the nations; healing, restoration, signs, and wonders in our day.

Principle 1: Enter into the Holy of Holies

Principle 2: Enter joyfully into His House of Prayer through Jesus’ name

Principle 3: Lift our voices in one accord & watch for His signs and wonders taking place

Principle 4: Christ in you the hope of glory is for your encouragement and for others' hope of seeing/knowing God's glory