

**Experiencing the Holy of Holies -
It is the difference between victory and defeat for our lives.**

Last week we talked about hope and how our hope came from the Holy of Holies while we are communing with the Lord.

Hebrews 6:19,

“19 This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence *behind* the veil.”

Only when we “experience the Holy of Holies” can we really receive God’s appointed hope for our lives.

Now we will see how to experience the Holy of Holies on a practical basis.

"There will I meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony" (Exodus 25:22).

The above Scripture refers to the Tabernacle, and in particular the portion of the Tabernacle named the Holy of Holies. This is where God invites His people to have intimacy with Him.

The results of our communing with Him in a very real-time and intimate way are beyond the contents of this short lesson. However they are extremely important to our well being, to God’s purpose for this world, and for eternal rewards as well.

It is the difference between victory and defeat for our lives. Also, it should be motivated by our love for God just as that is His motivation.

I believe we can learn a lot from the Old Testament about God’s desire and His ways of having intimate fellowship with us. Of course we apply the New Testament facts to this idea to make it practical for our lives.

We can take the Old Testament Tabernacle as a type and shadow for our walk with Him today. I want to make one thing very clear at this point. The veil that blocked the way into the Holy of Holies, except for certain priests at appointed times, has been torn. I like the KJV version that says, “the veil was rent.” That happened while Jesus was on the Cross. His death made way for us to eternally enter the Holy of Holies. In fact, we are now the Temple of God, so it makes sense that His presence actually resides in us! (I have a testimony about the veil being rent.)

Matthew 27:51,

“51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,”

There is a difference between what is legally and factually ours in the New Testament, and what we actually experience in our lives. When we are initially saved we got it all! However as we live our lives and begin to walk in obedience and little by little obtain

more sanctification experientially, we actually experience more of His character in our lives and more personal intimacy.

Here is the promise coupled with our responsibility.

Hebrews 10:19-22,

“19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,
20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,
21 and *having* a High Priest over the house of God,
22 *let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*”

Notice in Hebrews 10:22 above it talks about an evil conscience. Our spirit has three functions, conscience, intuition, and communion. If we have an evil conscience it is impossible to have communion with God!

Luke 9:23,

“23 And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him **deny** [to lose sight of one’s self and interests] himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

We cannot allow our flesh nature to prevail and expect to be intimate with Jesus.

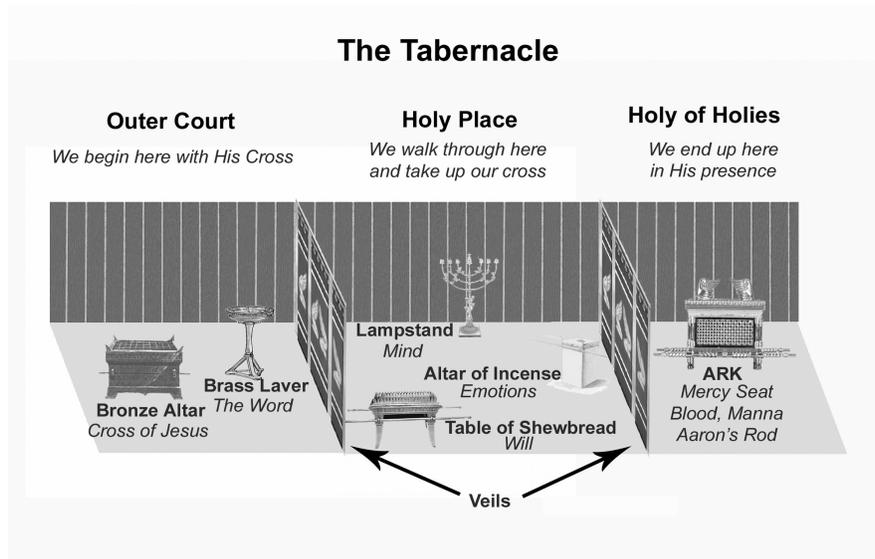
That is what I want to discuss in this lesson. What is our role? How do we develop a clean conscience so that we can commune with God in His presence?

I want to use the picture of the Old Testament Tabernacle as an example of our “walking into the Holy of Holies” experientially. I use this often, even daily, or sometimes hourly. It is really the swapping of our old flesh nature with God’s nature. Although that already happened, we need to walk it out.

1. The Outer Court. This is where we begin our journey. The Bronze Altar represents the Cross. This is where the animals were sacrificed. It was a very bloody place. We confess our sins here and are forgiven. Thank God!

Also, we need to be very real with God at this point and cast all of our cares upon Him. I have noticed that this is a needed issue before we can go any further. After all, trying to handle our own cares is not His will, and is a type of sin. 1 Peter, 5:6-7.

The Brass Laver represents The Word of God. It is like a mirror that we look into in order to expose what really is inside of us. Only The Word can really represent the truth of what is in us!



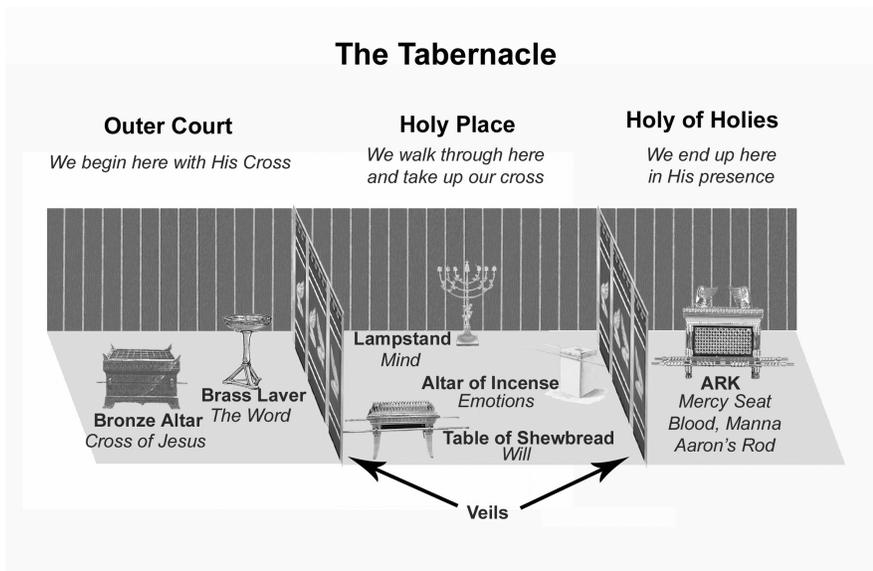
2. The First Veil. Come into His gates with Thanksgiving, into His courts with Praise. Now that you have been in the Word, you know you are right with God, Satan is judged. You have a lot to be thankful for! Even if you do not have things around you to be thankful for, try to find some. Thank Him that you are saved and going to Heaven. This kind of worship will indeed put judgment on the enemy who is trying to cause you to suffer.

3. The next Stop is inside the Holy Place. This is where you give Jesus your will for His will, your mind for His mind, your emotions for His emotions. This is taking up your cross, denying yourself and following Jesus (Luke 9:23). Only you can tell God to take all of your heart, He will not violate your will. He needs to hear you tell Him about the things of your will that you are surrendering to Him.

4. The Table of Showbread. Exchange the desires of your heart (even if they may be good) for God's plan or will for your life. Lay down your wants, desires and plans and ask God for His.

God is continually looking at our will; Showbread means consecrating our will. Bread is ground up flour, mixed with oil and baked in the fire. Our will and our desires must be continually offered up to the altar to be ground and burned. This is a very special sacrifice to God, for it is *our* will, and He will not overwhelm, nor control us. Offer your body a living sacrifice, so that we may prove that perfect will of God (Romans 12:1-2).

Make up your mind to forgive even if you do not feel like it. This is an opportunity to repent, to turn from the paths and ways of the world toward God's paths. When we turn, we get the power of God (Acts 26:18; 2 Corinthians 3:16).



4 Next stop is the Golden Lampstand. Exchange your old thoughts for the mind of Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:4-6 tells us the warfare is in our mind. It tells us that strongholds are our reasonings that holds captive our thoughts, and these thoughts keep us from the true knowledge of God. There is much to be said here because our thoughts are the very core of our being. We must set our thoughts free! How? When we were slaves to sin, we used the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, which is our reasoning. Now we should be using the Tree of Life, which is the Word of God. I no longer think and decide, but I use my mind for it's God given purpose, and that is to listen and obey! This alone will destroy the strongholds in our minds. When we truly see the Glory of God as Paul did on the road to Damascus, we no longer reason, we simply say, "Lord, what do you desire for me to do?" Take your negative thoughts captive by bringing them honestly to the Cross; giving them to Jesus as something you do not want. This is powerful!

Demons constantly accuse us and bombard our minds with half-truths. Isaiah 11 tells us that God replaces our natural intellect with that of the Holy Spirit: i.e., Spirit of the Lord, knowledge, counsel, wisdom, understanding, might and fear of the Lord.

We need to get our mind renewed by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God (Romans 12:2). Sometimes our intellect does not know how to pray. Romans 8:26 says that we should use our prayer language to pray God's perfect will. Every time you use your prayer language, you are praying out God's Word and God's will. Your speech center dominates

the entire brain, so your mind is being renewed and smoothed out to tell your flesh to conform to God's will.

5. The Altar of Incense. Exchange your old emotions induced by your flesh and the World for God's fruit of peace, joy, love, hope, etc.

This is the place of a sacrifice of praise. Read Psalms 145-150 out loud if you do not *feel* the praise in your heart. God is seeking those who worship Him in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:24). From this point of praise, God will seek you and desire your company!

Give Him those emotions that you have been holding back; perhaps your tears, maybe the raising of your hands, or perhaps just revealing to Him your true emotions. Go ahead, no one is looking except Him!

In front of this altar is the thick veil that hides the Holy of Holies and the presence of God. God wants you to come through the veil more than you desire to. He will pull you through. No natural man could go here without dying.

This veil tore from top to bottom when Jesus died on the Cross, giving us entry into God's presence by His blood and indicating that His death removed the obstacle that sin created for coming into the very presence of God. Praise Him for this fact.

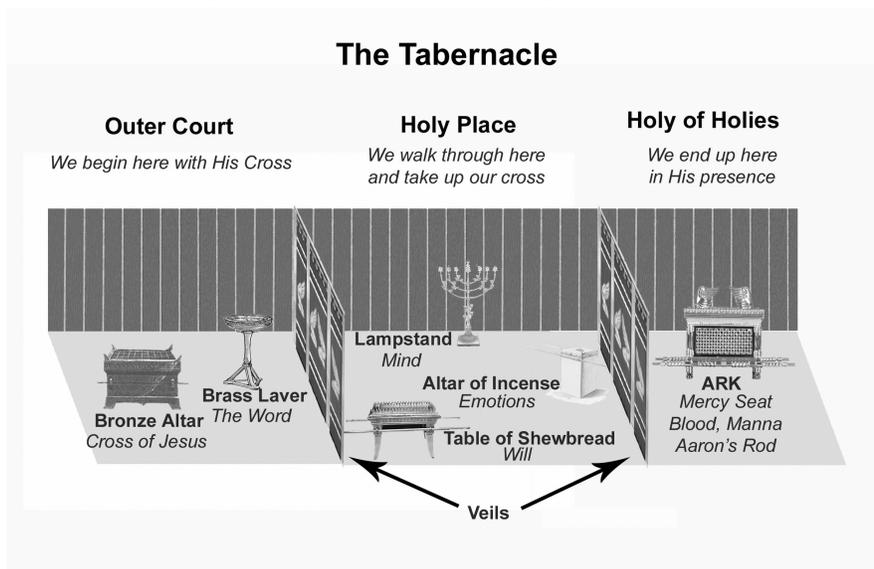
The Holy of Holies is the place where there is no light except for God. The High Priest could only go here once a year, and only under certain conditions. The incense censor from this altar actually went into the Holy of Holies with the High Priest once a year. This symbolizes that your praise and worship do not stop here but that they are the entry into His presence, and they go with us.

6 .The Holy of Holies, your destination. Now God pulls you through the veil into the Holy of Holies – the very presence of God. This is where we experience His presence. Sometimes we can just remain quite, or continue to praise, sing and worship. Often in here the Lord will plant His faith and hope into your heart.

Here is the Ark of the Covenant. It is covered by the Mercy Seat that is sprinkled with blood. We needed mercy at the Bronze Altar, the Cross, in the very beginning. However, now in His presence is a new dimension of realizing His mercy and the blood of Jesus in a way that only the Holy Spirit can show you. His mercy endures forever. It is almost impossible to write about, it must be experienced. This is when the seed of the Word is planting in your heart. When the Word of God is anointed by the presence of the Holy Spirit, it is powerful!

On either side are huge angels protecting everything. There is no light in here at all except for the Light of God.

Remember, the Ark of the Covenant is now in our heart! It is no longer an external thing. We are the Temple of God. Meditate on that. “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16).



"There will I meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony" (Exodus 25:22).