

## Spiritual Growth Questions for February 12, 2023

1) Read Genesis 3:8-24. How did God communicate with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden? What changed after sin entered the world? Why did they have to leave the Garden?

2) Building the tabernacle was a huge undertaking, why did God give such specific instructions to Moses? (Skim Exodus 25-30 for building specifications)

3) Read Exodus 40:34-38. God dwells in the tabernacle! Describe what it must have been like for the Israelites to see God's presence in the cloud/fire.

4) Read Hebrews 9:23-28. How is Christ's sacrifice similar to the priest's sacrifices in the Tabernacle? How was Christ's sacrifice different?

5) What other passages of scripture teach/remind you of what Christ accomplished for us on the cross?

6) Read 1 Corinthians 3:16. What does it mean for you to be God's temple? How can you be more aware of the Spirit of God living in you? If you are participating in the 21 day fast, is your fast helping you experience God's presence in your life?

7) What questions are you still pondering? What passages would you like to read over again? What concepts or truths would you like to grasp with more clarity?

## God Dwells with Us Because He Loves Us

February 12, 2023

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Hebrews 9:1-14

Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. 2 For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. 3 Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, 4 having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. 5 Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

6 These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties, 7 but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people. 8 By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing 9 (which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper, 10 but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation.

11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

**Big Idea: God's desire is to dwell with his creation because he loves us.**

**I. God's desire to dwell with his creation in the Garden of Eden**

Genesis 3:8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

- Separation between God and man occurred after the first sin and changed the way we relate to God for all of eternity,

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**II. God's desire to dwell with his people in the wilderness**

Exodus 25: 8-9 And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

Exodus 29: 45-46 I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the Lord their God.

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**Furnishings of the Tabernacle**

1) Bronze Altar: Exodus 27:1-8 , Hebrews 9:13-14, 22

Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

Represents: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Bronze Basin: Exodus 30:18, Ephesians 5:25b-27

Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

Represents: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Table for the Bread of the Presence: Exodus 25: 23-30, John 6:35, Mark 14:22

Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

Represents: \_\_\_\_\_

4) Lampstand: Exodus 25: 31-40, John 1:4, John 8:12, Revelation 21:23

Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

Represents: \_\_\_\_\_

5) Altar of Incense: Exodus 30: 1-10, Psalm 141: 2, Revelation 5:8

Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

Represents: \_\_\_\_\_

6) The Veil: Exodus 26: 31-37, Hebrews 10:19 -22

Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

Represents: \_\_\_\_\_

7) Ark of the Testimony; Exodus 25:10-22, Hebrews 4:16, Romans 5:1-2

Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

Represents: \_\_\_\_\_

**III. God's desire to dwell with his people now**

The Holy Spirit:

- came upon the disciples like a fire, (Acts 2:3)
- is a seal on us as a guarantee of his saving grace (2 Corinthians 1:22)
- will be our helper and teacher (John 14:26)
- dwells with us and in us (John 14:17)

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you.

- The Holy Spirit in us is God dwelling in us.
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**IV. God's desire to dwell with his people forever**

Revelation 21:1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."