



Sharing

Elijah Prayer Discipleship School

Becoming an instrument of prayer

www.buildingfathershouse.org

Building Fathers House

A Dwelling Place for God by the Spirit

(Discipleship=doing the will of God walking in submission to the authority of God so that you can become an instrument of authority)

Workshop no. 23 : "Prayer evangelism" - A strategy for prayer part two - The pattern into intimacy.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Purpose of this workshop: To consider God's plan for His House as a House of Prayer, an intimate relationship with our Father in Heaven.

Intended Goal: To encourage the believer to put their trust in God as our Father in Heaven.

Scripture readings :

Luke 1:75-80 In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life. And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways: To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.

Matthew 4:16-17 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Colossians 2:13-18 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of

Christ. Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

Hebrews 8:5-11 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

Hebrews 10:1-13 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

Ephesians 3:9-11 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

Food for thought :

When Jesus said, "I AM the way, the truth and the life" He said unto His disciples He have made known to them the way unto God, not only in terms of eternity but to know God and to know Him. **As in John 17 :3 He explained that this is eternal life, to know God and His Son.**

If then eternal life is to know God and His Son Jesus Christ, the secret of eternal life is hidden in the knowledge of God and of His Son. This knowledge have been revealed unto us through Jesus Christ as He came to bring in fulfillment all the former things which was a shadow of the things to come.

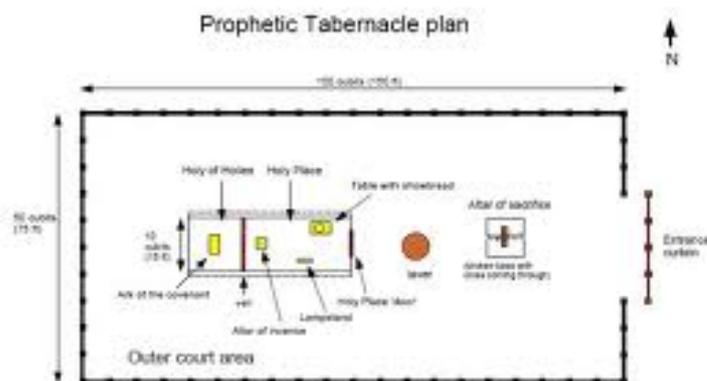
*Col 2:17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ. **Jesus came to establish a new way, a new pattern build upon the knowledge of who He is as the Son of the living God.***

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Shadow is an imperfect image of something that it represent, the Bible answer the question regarding the imperfect representation of the former as being that of which is to come which is Christ Jesus. Likewise the tabernacle as have been explained before is a representation of the things to come, which is Jesus Christ! But the shadow is still representational, thus when the real thing is unveiled the shadow can be explained and comprehended (understood) clearly. In like manner, we can explore the tabernacle/Temple as a shadow of the things which is and is to come, which is Christ Jesus. When Jesus enter the Temple and was questioned regarding His authority, He said they must breakdown the Temple down and He will rebuild it in three days, referring to His body - the Body of Christ. In the mentioned, Jesus acknowledge that the Temple which is a shadow of things to come, which is Himself. But when Jesus said to His disciples that He will build His church on the knowledge of whom He is, **He did not refer to a new building as representational, He referred to the knowledge of who He.** His followers will gather or assemble together, not in a representational manner again, **but in the knowledge of Christ Jesus as the support for coming together and the gates of hell not prevail.** Jesus said that a wise man will build His house upon the rock - the knowledge of who Christ is.

There seemed to be an idea of a New Testament church representing Christ, it is going back again. It is not about a church representing Christ, it is about coming together in oneness of faith in the knowledge of Christ Jesus. Jesus did not come to establish another representational building in the form of church (building) **He came to establish a way by which the believers could enter into fellowship with God and His Son Jesus Christ.** *John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*

God said unto Moses *Exodus 25:8-9 And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.*



The tabernacle was a pattern of progress to follow into God's presence. The priest could not miss any one of the steps of progression, for the pattern was designed to show the Holiness of God and to enable the priest to enter into the Holiness of God. Jesus said unto His disciples, "I Am the Way", meaning; a road; by implication a progress (the route, act or distance); figuratively a mode or means: - journey, (high-) way. to come unto the Father. As we said that the shadow is an imperfect image but it represent that which is perfect, the pattern is the same. So let us consider the pattern, and see if the pattern show us something concerning the truth which is Christ.

There is but one way. The tabernacle were an enclosed area with one entrance.

The entrance of the things to come, it is representational of the Gospel message, as Jesus explained unto His disciples. *John 10:9-18 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*

Altar of Sacrifice or brazen altar .

The first furniture within the tabernacle was the altar of sacrifice, where the sinners sin offer were burned as a burnt offering before God. Jesus the Lamb of God who came in obedience to His Father to take away the sin of the world, became a sin offering for all who believe in Him. *Hebrews 10:8-14 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldst not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

The Laver or wash basin.

The priest needed to wash their hands and feet before entering the holy place, this was a reminder of the holiness of God and that we need to be washed to enter into His Holiness. Jesus is the Word of God and He said unto Peter *John 13:8 "... If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me."* and in Ephesians it is said that *Ephesians 5:26-27 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.* God said to Moses to place the laver between the altar and the tent of meeting, we have received forgiveness but without being washed by the Word to become perfect and holy through obedience to the Word, we cannot enter into the presence of God.

The Table of Showbread.

The showbread represented the 12 tribes of Israel, unity and the "Showbread" also was called "bread of the presence" because it was to be always in the Lord's presence. The table and the bread were a picture of God's willingness to fellowship and communion with man. It was like an **invitation to share a meal, an extension of friendship**. Jesus came, as the true bread from heaven, to call sinners to Him, make them right with God, so that **they could enjoy everlasting fellowship with God**. *"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. ... Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is*

the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die.” (John 6:35, 49-50) At Jesus’ last Passover meal with His disciples, Jesus said that He desired to eat with His disciples and then HE said Luke 22:19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. In the fellowship, partaking in the Lords supper, we acknowledge that we are the body of Christ, for as we eat of the body we become part of the body of Christ. When we come together the body of Christ is unified and we must acknowledge that we are in the presence of God, for Jesus said Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

The Lampstand.

The priests were instructed to keep the lamps burning continuously. The lampstand was the only source of light in the Holy Place, so without it, the priests would have been in the dark. The light shone upon the table of showbread and the altar of incense, enabling the priests to fellowship with God and intercede on behalf of God’s people. Just as the lampstand was placed in God’s dwelling place so that the priests could approach God, Jesus, the “true light that gives light to every man” (John 1:9) came into the world so that man could see God and not live in spiritual darkness anymore. Jesus said: *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12) “I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.” (John 12:46)* Jesus is represented by the main branch of the lampstand, and we as believers are represented by the six branches that extend from original branch. Having believed, we are now living as “children of light” (Ephesians 5:8) who draw our source of light from Jesus, the true light. Jesus calls us “light of the world” and commands us to *“let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5: 14, 16).* Jesus said unto His disciples to wait until they receive power from above, and the Holy Spirit ascended upon them like a flame. It is significant if we realize the flame of the lampstand were blotted out on the day of the crucifixion. It is because that light, now live within the believer to enable them to fellowship with God in the name of Jesus Christ through His Spirit- not by might not by power but by My Spirit says The Lord.

The Incense Altar.

God commanded the priests to burn incense on the golden altar every morning and evening, the same time that the daily burnt offerings were made. The incense was to be left burning continually throughout the day and night as a pleasing aroma to the Lord. The incense was a symbol of the prayers and intercession of the people going up to God as a sweet fragrance. *“Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel’s hand.” (Revelations 8:3-4)* God wanted His dwelling to be a place where people could approach Him and pray to Him. *“...for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.” (Isaiah 56:7)* The Incense altar was just before the veil, the place of meeting.

Arc of the Covenant.

Because the arc was God’s throne among His people, it was a symbol of His presence and power with them wherever it went. The three items in the arc served as a reminder of man’s shortcomings.

First, the pot of manna: God's provision.

But Jesus told us that He is the true bread from heaven. “Jesus said to them, ‘I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father, He gives you the true bread from

heaven. I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die.” (John 6:32, 48-50).

Second, Aaron’s budding staff: God's authority.

Jesus didn’t reject God’s authority. Instead, He submitted Himself to the Father’s will and died on the cross. *“For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.” (John 6:38)* You receive only authority once you can submit to authority. *Luke 22:69*
Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God.

Third, the Ten Commandments: God's guidance.

Jesus didn’t reject God’s right standard of living. He lived a sinless life and obeyed God’s law perfectly, becoming our perfect sacrifice and intercessor. His sacrifice instituted a new covenant that was not based on the Law. *“But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.” (Romans 3:20-22)*

If we consider again, that prayer is to be convinced by God to go His way, **we can see that the pattern of the tabernacle and the reality thereof which is Jesus Christ, had one purpose to bring us unto a place of fellowship with a loving but Holy God and Father.**

He longs to fellowship with us so that we can do His perfect will and He can be glorified.

True stories :

How Much Does Prayer Weigh?

Louise Redden, a poorly dressed lady with a look of defeat on her face, walked into a grocery store. She approached the owner of the store in a most humble manner and asked if he would let her charge a few groceries. She softly explained that her husband was very ill and unable to work, they had seven children and they needed food. John Longhouse, the grocer, scoffed at her and requested that she leave his store.

Visualizing the family needs, she said: 'Please, sir! I will bring you the money just as soon as I can.'

John told her he could not give her credit, as she did not have a charge account at his store.

Standing beside the counter was a customer who overheard the conversation between the two. The customer walked forward and told the grocerman that he would stand good for whatever she needed for her family.

The grocerman said in a very reluctant voice, "Do you have a grocery list?"

Louise replied "Yes sir"

"O.K." he said, put your grocery list on the scales and whatever your grocery list weighs, I will give you that amount in groceries."

Louise, hesitated a moment with a bowed head, then she reached into her purse and took out a piece of paper and scribbled something on it. She then laid the piece of paper on the

scale carefully with her head still bowed. The eyes of the grocerman and the customer showed amazement when the scales went down and stayed down.

The grocerman staring at the scales, turned slowly to the customer and said begrudgingly, "I can't believe it." The customer smiled and the grocerman started putting the groceries on the other side of the scales. The scale did not balance so he continued to put more and more groceries on them until the scales would hold no more. The grocerman stood there in utter disgust.

Finally, he grabbed the piece of paper from the scales and looked at it with greater amazement. It was not a grocery list, it was a prayer which said: "**Dear Lord, you know my needs and I am leaving this in your hands.**"

The grocerman gave her the groceries that he had gathered and placed on the scales and stood in stunned silence. Louise thanked him and left the store. The customer handed a fifty-dollar bill to John as he said, "It was worth every penny of it."

It was sometime later that John Longhouse discovered the scales were broken; therefore, only God knows how much a prayer weighs.

Submitted by Karen Beckwith

God's authority :

Act 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1 Corinthians 1:9-10 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

Ephesians 3:9-12 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

Philippians 2:1-3 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

1 John 1:1-4 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life. (For the life

was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

Conclusion :

The pattern is the same, the plan is the same and the desire is the same - to fellowship.

God did not change, He is the same today, yesterday and tomorrow. From the beginning God wanted to have fellowship with His creation.

God's strategy for prayer is to transform us into the likeness of His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus became the pattern, the way of progression into the very presence of our Father in Heaven.

If it is so simple, then why do we not engage in this fellowship? Is the pattern too difficult, no Jesus prepared and brought it into fulfillment. Or is it that we do not want to fellowship with our creator in the fear of what He may ask of us. When God called unto Moses to assemble the children of Israel so that He could speak unto them, they cried unto Moses in fear of dying when they heard the Words of God. *Exodus 20:19-20 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die. And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.*

We tend to do the same, we would rather listening to someone speaking or preaching than to listen to God. For if and when we hear from God, we can only be obedient or disobedient, Jesus said "not My will but Thy will be done". The children of Israel new that if they listen to God, they will need to die to themselves, but if they listen to Moses they can still argue with him as if it is only his opinion.

*2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and **seek my face**, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

The pattern that God gave us in Christ Jesus is the pattern to seek the face of God, Jesus said to His disciples "if you have seen Me you have seen the Father". If we follow the pattern we will see Jesus and through Him we will see the Father.

Jesus said *John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

The way to the Father is clear, it has been a pattern from the time of the tabernacle and Jesus came to bring it in fulfillment so that we can follow after the pattern that He gave us into the presence of God.

The Truth. Jesus said in *John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.* It is by following the pattern that the truth is revealed and we are being sanctified. It is in this process that we need to die for to be sanctified means :

1. To set apart for sacred use; consecrate.

2. To make holy; purify.

The life. Jesus gave His life into the hands of a loving Father and received His life. Likewise Jesus explained *John 10:17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.* and again Jesus said unto us *Matthew 10:39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.*

It is in our Fathers House, which is called a house of prayer where we are being sanctified - set apart for sacred use. We have been recreated in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good works that God planned for us to do, for that reason we need to follow after the pattern which is Jesus Christ so that we can become an instrument in the hands of God.

Jesus is the Word of God, the Son of the Living God, but it was in His Fathers presence that He was strengthened to do the will of the Father.

Consider this - to become an instrument in the hands of God we need to be sanctified.

Questions to be answered :

1. What is the secret of eternal life?
2. What did Jesus come to establish?
3. What was/is the purpose of the pattern in the tabernacle?
4. Explain the new pattern in Christ Jesus?
5. What does it mean to be sanctified?