

Dear Friend,

I have often heard it taught from pulpits how the presence of the Lord filled the temple at its dedication. King Solomon had offered thousands of animal sacrifices, and the ark of the covenant was brought into the temple to God. Then one hundred and twenty priests sounded the trumpets, and the singers "were as one" singing to the Lord and thanking Him for His goodness. At that moment, the presence of God so filled the temple that the ministers could no longer stand upright, for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God.

**2 Chronicles 5:13-14** It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers *were* as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up *their* voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, *saying*, For *he is* good; for his mercy *endureth* for ever: that *then* the house was filled with a cloud, *even* the house of the LORD; (14) So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.

But I have seldom heard it taught that the same thing happened back when Moses had completed building the tabernacle in the desert. Here is that account:

**Exodus 40:34-35** Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. (35) And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

Said another way, God moved in so that He could dwell among His people. He has always desired to dwell among His people. Even in the book of Genesis, God would come and fellowship with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day. The problem was, sinful man had made it impossible to dwell in the presence of a Holy God. Remember what God told Moses when he asked to see God's glory?

**Exodus 33:20** And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.

God has a problem. He wanted to dwell among His people. But His people have become sinful in nature. If they even see His face, they will die. What to do?

We all remember God's first encounter with Moses. He spoke to him from a burning bush. Moses did not see God's face, but God managed to communicate with him in a unique way.

**Exodus 3:4** And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here *am* I.

After the children of Israel were delivered from Egypt, God gave Moses very detailed instructions how to build a tabernacle so God could dwell among His people, without them being destroyed in the process. Sure enough, when Moses had finished building the tabernacle, the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle ... or you could say ... God moved in!

There is so much to teach along this line, but the point for this letter is this ... today God does not live in a physical tent, or in a temple made with stones. Today, the body of every believer is the temple of God. Here are two witnesses to that truth:

**1 Corinthians 6:19** **What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?**

**1 Corinthians 3:16** **Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?**

God has always wanted to live with His people. The tabernacle was better than nothing, but it wasn't close enough for God. The temple made of stone was better than nothing, but it wasn't close enough for God. God wanted more intimate, personal fellowship with His people than either of those methods.

Here is one of the most astounding miracles of the Bible. The moment Jesus died on the cross, the veil of the temple was ripped in two from the top to the bottom.

**Mark 15:37-38** **And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. (38) And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.**

History teaches us that the veil was four inches thick. I would like to see the angel that ripped that veil in two, or perhaps it was the Holy Spirit Himself who did it because that veil represented spiritual death. It was spiritual death that had separated man from the Presence of God. Through the death of Jesus Christ, that veil was done away.

Through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, His suffering and resurrection from the dead, we have access into the true Holy of Holies which exists in heaven.

**Hebrews 10:19-22** **Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, (20) By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; (21) And having an 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.**

But there is more. Through the new birth, a "Holy of Holies" was created within you. It is a place where the Spirit of God can dwell. God now has a way to live among His people, very

intimately and very personally. Finally, His dream of intimate fellowship with man has been made possible. He says,

**2 Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

Yet most Christians walk around every day going about their daily lives and hardly think to even acknowledge the presence of God at all. It is obvious there are different levels of the "filling of the temple" from believer to believer. How do we dedicate our personal temple in the same way that Moses and Solomon did? What needs to happen for the presence of God to fill our bodies to the point of overflowing ... so that people who stand near to us can feel the very presence of God emanating from us?

Dedication to the Lord is one of the steps. Honoring the blood of Jesus is another. There was music, and cymbals, and loud praise and worship at the time of the dedication of Solomon's temple. It is not a coincidence there were 120 trumpeters at Solomon's temple and there were 120 people all speaking with tongues in the upper room the day the Holy Spirit was poured out upon them.

No wonder the Lord has been saying through prophecy to the church in this season, "Come away with me, My beloved. Spend time in prayer, worship, the Word, and fasting. Separate yourself from the world and spend time with Me."

Get ready! When His presence comes to fill ... YOU ... it may be difficult to stand.

Your fellow servant for Christ,

*GARY*