

PRAYING THROUGH THE TABERNACLE

PRAYER GUIDELINES

- Daily prayer and communion with God is the goal.
- Each part of the Tabernacle is a "shadow of heavenly things". (for example, the Altar of Sacrifice represents Repentance).
- Scriptures and suggestions for how to pray are provided as a guide.

The Gate – One way into the Tabernacle

John 10:9 ...I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved.

Psa 100:4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

Praying at the Gate

- Thank God for the truth of His Word and for the path to eternal life.
- Name your blessings one-by-one.
- God is worthy to be praised regardless of how you feel.
- Even if you lose everything in this world, you will always have what is most important: Jesus and His love.
- Praise differs from worship
 - Praise – Lifting up God on a pedestal, vocally adoring Him
 - Worship – Reverence and submission to God. Worship is an altar we place ourselves on.
- Prepare your heart for repentance

I Sam 7:3 ...prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only...

Brazen Altar – Place of repentance

- Jesus died so that you might live. The Lamb of God was the final blood sacrifice and His blood was shed for all of mankind.
- Search your heart and repent daily to insure you are free from any and all sin.

I John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Col 3:2-3 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

I Cor 15:31 ...I die daily.

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Prayer at the Brazen Altar

- Personal repentance is necessary every time you seek to come into God's presence.
- Stay at the altar as long as necessary to insure you have repented fully.
- Ask forgiveness and claim the sacrifice Jesus made on Calvary to pay for your sins.
- Pray the Word (see Psalm 51)

Psa 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Psa 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Psa 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Brazen Laver – Place of cleansing

- After you have accepted Jesus' sacrificial death on your behalf, you must continue to be cleansed from sin and strive for holiness.
- The brazen laver is where you cleanse yourself from the works of the flesh (Gal 5:19-20) by the blood of Jesus.
- The Bible tells believers to cleanse their hearts from guilt before approaching God. (Heb 10:22)

James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts...

2 Cor 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

See also Rom 8:13, Eph 5:25-27, Heb 10:21-22, I John 1:7

Prayer at the Brazen Laver

- Ask the Lord to cleanse you from all your sins and weaknesses through the blood of Jesus and by His Word.
- Determine in your heart to live a life that is holy and acceptable to God. Claim victory over the works of the flesh (Gal 5:19-20)

THE HOLY PLACE – The first room of the Tabernacle where the priests ministered daily. It contained the Golden Lampstand (direction and guidance), The Table of Showbread (sustenance and strength) and the Altar of Incense (praise and intercession).

Golden Lampstand – The lampstand was the only source of light in the Holy Place.

- Jesus is the light of the world and those who follow Him will never walk in darkness (John 8:12; 9:5; 12:46)
- The Word of God is a light for believers. It guides them through life, and protects them from evil and darkness. (Psa 119:105)
- Believers are God's light (witness) to the world. (Mat 5:16)

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John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

II Cor 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Psa 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Prayer at the Golden Lampstand

- Thank God for His guidance, light and protection.
- Ask God to provide guidance, light and protection to our pastor and the leadership of the church. Pray a similar prayer for our missionaries.
- Pray for every CARE group and Home Bible Study.
- Pray for each church ministry and staff.
- Pray for our leaders. (I Tim 2:1-2)
- Pray to be a light to this dark world.

Table of Showbread – Each Sabbath, twelve loaves of unleavened bread (showbread) covered with frankincense were placed on the golden table.

- The showbread provided sustenance for the priests. It was renewed regularly just as the Word of God should be renewed in our hearts.
- Jesus is the bread of life and His Word is also the bread from heaven. Eternal life can be found through His Word.

John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

Mat 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.

Prayer at the Table of Showbread

- Pray for your family, friends; and pray for your enemies
- Thank God for His Word and the strength it provides.
- Ask the Lord to lead you to specific Scriptures relative to your needs and the needs of those to whom you minister.
- Thank God for the freedom we have to own and distribute Bibles—and to teach others the truth of God's Word.
- Pray the Word: Psalm 19:7-10

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Golden Altar of Incense – The altar where the priest offered the sweet smelling sacrifices; a type of drawing nigh unto God in prayer.

- The incense was offered daily, just as we are to pray daily and without ceasing.
- The fire for the altar of incense had to come from the altar of sacrifice. We must stop at the altar of repentance before attempting to approach God in prayer and worship.

Psa 141:2 Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship* him in spirit and in truth.

*proskuneo (Greek): to kiss the hand; to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence.

Prayer at the Golden Altar of Incense

- Worship God in Spirit and in Truth.
- Get lost in the Spirit.
- Intercede with God on behalf of others first. Then pray for your own needs.
- Ask God to prepare your heart for even deeper communion with Him.

THE HOLY OF HOLIES – Only one man (the High Priest) was permitted to enter the Most Holy Place once a year on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur).

- The room called the Holy of Holies represents the Holy Ghost experience. It was the closest that man could get to God here on earth.
- The Veil that separated the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies represented the barrier between God and man that existed before the death of Jesus.
- When Jesus died on the cross, the veil was miraculously torn in two. This miracle made salvation available to “whosoever will.”
- The torn veil symbolizes the ability of every believer to approach God through the death of Jesus.
- The High Priest wore a simple, white linen robe. We, too, must lose our identity when we enter the Holy of Holies to worship and commune with God.

Prayer in the Holy of Holies

- Thank God for His death on the cross — and for “the new and living way He has prepared for us through the veil, that is to say, His flesh.” (Heb 10:22)
- Thank God that salvation is extended to all, and that anyone can enter into God's presence and commune with Him.
- Thank God for the “better way” in the New Covenant.
- Thank God for His beautiful presence.

Inside the Holy of Holies was the Mercy Seat, which sat upon the Ark of the Covenant.

The Mercy Seat – On the lid of the Ark of the Covenant were two solid gold angels facing each other. The presence of God dwelled between the two angels.

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Isa 37:16 O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth.

Heb 4:15-16 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Prayer at the Mercy Seat

- Humble yourself as you bask in the “shekinah glory” of the Lord.
- Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The Ark of the Covenant – A box of wood and gold representing the humanity and deity of Jesus. It contained the Stone Tablets, the Rod of Aaron, and a Pot of Manna.

Prayer at the Ark of the Covenant

Tables of Stone – God's law and commandments written with the finger of God

- Pray the 10 Commandments (Exo 20:3-17)
- 1-5: man's obligation toward God
- 6-10: our obligation toward our fellow man (Matt. 5:21-22; 27-28)

Rod of Aaron – The rod represents authority.

- Pray with authority for the needs in your life, your family, and the church

Pot of Manna – Heavenly food that was always fresh

- A reminder that our relationship with God is fresh every day (great is thy faithfulness)

Lam 3:21-24 This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.