

The Holy Temple - The New Man Part II The Light and the Life

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What does it really mean that the believer in Christ is the Temple of God?

As some generally say or conclude, *the human body of flesh* is the Temple of God. It is true that the body, the outermost man, is the place where the soul and spirit of man are contained. It is also true that many marvelous things are spoken through and done with our bodies.

The glorious gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed to the world through the body of flesh. The body should be the servant of the soul, and the soul should yield itself to the spirit. It is from this regenerated "Temple" that **Light with Life** flows.

It is just human nature when a new local church is started because a man of God is delivering the gospel in what appears to be a fresh new way. There was, and it still might be the case when this was necessary. But what lessons about tabernacles can we learn from Jesus' transfiguration?

Matthew 17:1-4 (NKJV) ¹Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; ²and **He (Jesus) was transfigured** before them. **His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.** ³And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. ⁴Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." *Emphasis mine*

How does Peter's experience keep us on the right track and prevent us from being hasty about building things?

Jesus *chose* Simon Bar-Jonah, whom He named Cephas, which is translated, "A Stone." He also chose James and John, whom He nicknamed "Sons of Thunder."

Jesus *led* them to a high mountain to be alone with them. They were allowed to *see* His essence to not only light up His face like the sun, but also to light up the clothes He wore.

The vision of Jesus' appearance also included Moses and Elijah. Moses represented the law, and Elijah represented the prophets. The law and the prophets were the constituents of the Old Testament as a full testimony of Christ.

John 5:39 (NKJV) ³⁹ You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

Luke helps us understand the reason for the appearance of Moses and Elijah.

Luke 9:30-31 (NKJV) ³⁰ And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, ³¹ who appeared in glory and *spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.* *Emphasis mine*

Lessons for us:

- We are chosen. *No, not the Amazon series. Sorry, I couldn't help it.*
- There are times when our thoughts, or focus on Jesus, must be above our earth-bound circumstances. We must learn to have mountain-top experiences in the valleys of life. Therefore, we do not need a special place.
- We are reminded that the source of Holy Light and a Holy Life will allow the glory of the Son of God to shine forth through us for others to see.
- We should never build other tabernacles to place beside Him, unless you like the chastening of the Father.
- We are blessed and highly favored when the Father does rebuke us.

The prophet Daniel also gave us a glimpse of Him as the Ancient of Days.

Daniel 7:9 (NKJV) ⁹ "I watched till thrones were put in place, And the *Ancient of Days was seated*; His garment *was* white as snow, And the hair of His head *was* like pure wool. His throne *was* a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; *Emphasis mine*

Jesus's resurrection was another occasion of His full glory.

Matthew 28:3 (NKJV) ³ His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.

In all of these things, we too have something to look forward to, which is possible on this side of glory, according to Apostle Paul.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (HCSB) ¹⁸ We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and *are being transformed* into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit. *Emphasis mine*

We are being transformed, but how do we look naturally?

Well, so everyone can understand, we have to do something gruesome first. We must perform an autopsy on the bodies of two men.

One body is an atheist, and the other body in the coroner's examination room is that of a known Christian. Aside from the obvious features, such as skin color, size, and weight, can the coroner determine whether someone is a Christian?

When the coroner finishes his report, is there a line item that states that this man was a Christian because I found this in his body?

The coroner's job is to determine the likely cause of physical death. The Christian had left a note for the coroner that said:

Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ *And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment;*

Sometimes we need a constant reminder of why the body dies, and the need for the Cross and a Savior.

Romans 5:12 (KJV) ¹² Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and *death by sin*; and so, death passed upon *all* men, *for that* all have sinned: *Emphasis mine*

Apostle Paul tells us that man tends to fall short of God's intended purpose. Most of the time, many will quote **Romans 3:23** with the wrong heart.

Romans 3:23 (KJV) ²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

You know what they say, "Why are y'all looking and judging me because I fell short?" Sometimes they might say, "Didn't Paul say he was the chief of sinners?"

After Paul was converted, I don't think he intentionally practiced sin. We feel Paul's conviction of the influence of the sinful nature in **Romans 7**, but Paul also revealed the power that allowed him to overcome.

What does it mean to come short of the glory of God?

“God's glory is God expressed. Whenever God is expressed, His glory is seen. Man was made by God in His image that man might express Him for His glory. But man has sinned and has contradicted the holiness and righteousness of God. Instead of expressing God, man expresses sin and his sinful self. Hence, man falls short of God's glory. This falling short of God's glory and expression is sin.” *The Recovery Version of the Bible – Rom. 3:23 note¹*

Where can we find the symbolic pattern of God's glory in the Holy Temple? God's glory was “The Mercy Seat with winged Cherubim” from one solid piece of gold. As we previously said, God's Mercy is one with His Glory.

What did God require of the priest once a year? The sprinkling of blood from a lamb without spot or blemish. Our Lamb of God with the shed blood, of course, is Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ.

Where is all of this glory and holiness performed in the Temple? The only place it could take place is the Holy of Holies.

What did the autopsy report of both men reveal?

- They are dead legally, and the most likely cause of their physical death.
- Their spirit and soul are not in the flesh anymore. *Okay, some faith transforms man's essence into another form.*

The ONE NEW MAN is the Light of the World and offers a NEW LIFE.

Why can we say the believer in Christ Jesus is the light of the world? Jesus said so.

Matthew 5:14 (NKJV) ***¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.** Emphasis mine*

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV) ***¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.** Emphasis mine*

Glory, by another definition, is God's LOVE expressed, because God is LOVE and God is LIGHT.

Before Jesus of Nazareth began His ministry, John the Baptist made this statement about himself. Maybe this is how we should define ourselves?

John 1:6-9 (NKJV) ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John. ⁷ This man came for a witness, *to bear witness of the Light*, that all through **HIM** might believe. ⁸ He (*John*) was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. ⁹ That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. *Emphasis mine*

Apostle John had stated that the Word is the Son of God, the Son of Man, the creator of all things, and in Him was the life and light of men. Jesus, therefore, is the source, unlike a Star Wars movie, the force with us.

John 1:4-5 (NKJV) ⁴ In Him was life, and *the life was the light of men*. ⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. *Emphasis mine*

Defining the Temple of God

Where is the Temple on the Natural Man's Body

1. : the flattened space on each side of the forehead of some mammals, including humans (*the Brain is there*)

In a discussion, we need to know the starting point.

The Temple: A Religious Place Dedicated

A temple is a dedicated structure used for religious or spiritual activities, such as prayer, meditation, and sacred rituals. Considered "houses of God," they often serve as specially consecrated places for high-level ordinances, distinct from and usually more sacred than regular weekly houses of worship such as churches or synagogues.

The local church building is mostly treated as a place for assembly or a temple for worshipping God.

The Earthly Holy Temple

1. Made by hand according to God's design
2. Separated from the world, but existed in the world
3. A meeting place for the Holy God and the unholy man by following God's instructions

The "Perfect" Spiritual Temple

1. Holy from Birth - Emmanuel

Matthew 1:23 (NKJV) ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

Isaiah 7:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

2. Sinless in life

Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.

1 Peter 2:22 (NKJV) ²² "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth";

Isaiah 53:9 (NKJV) ⁹ And they made His grave with the wicked-- But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor *was any* deceit in His mouth.

3. The Builder of the New Temple - ONE NEW MAN

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, **that WE might become the righteousness of God in Him.** *Emphasis mine*

1 John 3:5 (NKJV) ⁵ And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, *and in Him there is no sin.* *Emphasis mine*

When we have conversations with others about the born-again believer being the Temple of God, most of the time, they are referring to the whole man. God's Spirit can truly influence man, as in the Old Testament. But God was clear that the permanent place for His Spirit to dwell in man can only happen after the sacrifice of the Son of Man, the Perfect Lamb of God.

God's Spirit can dwell only in a Holy Place, and that place is in Christ Jesus. Thank God, we learn through God's Word that *we are in Christ Jesus.*

If we have that as our foundation, we apply the latter part of **1 John 3:5**, "and in Him there is no sin."

Hebrews 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all.*

Colossians 1:13-14 (NKJV) ¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

The coroner has stated that if I look at the bodies of these two men, the only thing I can tell you is that both are dead. I have no way of knowing whether one was a Christian.

I love the way God has placed it in Brother Dave's heart to remind us to be good stewards over these physical bodies. *They do not belong to us.*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ *For you were bought at a price;* therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. *Emphasis mine*

I am glad my conscience bothers me when I overindulge. When I would do good, evil is present... in the form of Blue Bell ice cream.

The Temple of God in the One New Man

The dwelling place of God in the born-again believer is a spiritual reality. Yes, the soul of man surrounds the spirit, and the body of flesh houses all of the above. Just as the Tabernacle and the Temple of old, God's temple has a defined boundary, and the Holy Spirit is the sealer.

No Condemnation is in the Holy of Holiest, nor in the Spirit of Man.

Romans 8:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ There *is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are *in Christ Jesus*, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. *Emphasis mine*

Don't you hate Paul sometimes?

If I walk after, or mind the things of the flesh, I will, *or should* feel, some condemnation. But thanks be to God, the other law of the Spirit of life in Christ has made me free.

The Body of Flesh contains the Sinful Nature

Romans 7:18a (ESV) ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh.

Job 14:4 (NKJV) ⁴ Who can bring a clean *thing* out of an unclean? No one!

Psalms 51:5 (NKJV) ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

We have all of these Scriptures to help us define where the sinful nature is located. Since we cannot find the temple of God through a coroner's autopsy, how can we confirm that the Temple of God is living and active in us?

A Mustard Seed of Faith is Required

Romans 8:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead *will also give life* to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. *Emphasis mine*

Is this life in the body only about being physically well, with its rewards?

Does it mean that the life one lives grows in material posterity?

Apostle Paul tells us that the results of faith at work are like this.

Ephesians 1:6 (KJV) ⁶ *To the praise of the glory of HIS grace*, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. *Emphasis mine*

Our friend Brother Job is an example of the spiritual warfare in heaven, specifically of Satan's appeal to prove that he is not the only one who will rebel against God under the right circumstances.

We focus a lot on the end of Job and his patience, but it is the record of Job telling us what it felt like during his testing.

Job's response to his wife in the beginning is very noble.

Job 2:9-10 (NKJV) ⁹ Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" ¹⁰ But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" *In all this, Job did not sin with his lips.* *Emphasis mine*

Then God allows us to read and hear what the troubled soul can really feel in a situation like this. It did not take that long.

Job 3:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. ² And Job spoke, and said: ³ "May the day perish on which I was born, And the night *in which* it was said, 'A male child is conceived.'

I find this interesting. Job might have longed for death due to the extent of his sickness, but he did not suggest he wanted to end his life or commit suicide.

Job reveals the existence of some light, although it is very faint. It is enough to get through the darkness.

Job 3:20-22 (NKJV) ²⁰ " *Why is light given to him who is in misery*, And life to the bitter of soul, ²¹ Who long for death, but it does not *come*, And search for it more than hidden treasures; ²² Who rejoice exceedingly, *And* are glad when they can find the grave? *Emphasis mine*

Job is probably not aware that Satan does not have permission to take his life.

Job 2:6 (NKJV) ⁶ And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he *is* in your hand, but spare his life."

The bottom line was the fact that God intended for us to hear and heed what was in the mind of Job, the righteous man like no other. It appears God is saying that when you are in this extreme condition, these thoughts can come to mind, and they are natural. Therefore, hang in there and learn Job's patience. I am the Lord thy God, and I change not.

James 5:11 (KJV) ¹¹ Behold, we count them happy which endure. *Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and **have seen the end of the Lord**; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy. Emphasis mine (Glory attached to mercy)*

Apostle Paul says, here is the bottom line for us to remember.

Romans 14:7-9 (NKJV) ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

The dead in Christ will be rewarded for their time; the Christians living in Christ are the light-bearers in the world in our age of grace.

The Light of the World is One Source

First and foremost, we must acknowledge the LIGHT source.

John 8:12 (NKJV) ¹² Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "**I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.**"

The King of kings has the right to give His Light to His servants.

Matthew 5:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ **You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.**

Okay, Jesus has given us LIGHT, but why doesn't the Light shine forth all the time? The short answer is, there must be **brokenness**.

What needs to be broken? The Outer Man (*the soul*) needs to be broken. Brother Nee says it this way.

“We thus will speak of the spirit as the **inward man**, the soul as the **outer man**, and the body as the **outermost man**. We must never forget that our inward man is the human spirit where God dwells, the place where the Spirit of the Lord is joined to our spirit (1 Cor 6:17). Just as we are dressed in our clothing, so our inward man wears an outward man – i.e., our spirit wears the soul. Moreover, the spirit and soul similarly wear the body. It is quite evident that men are generally more conscious of the outer man and the outermost man, but they hardly recognize or understand their inner man, their spirit.”

“We must know that *he who can work for God is the one whose inward man can be released*. The basic difficulty of a servant of God lies in the failure of his inward man to break through his outward man. Therefore, we must recognize before God that the first difficulty to our work is not in others, but in ourselves. Our spirit seems to be wrapped in a covering which cannot easily break forth. If we have never learned how to release our inward man by breaking through the outward man, we are not able to serve. Nothing can so hinder us as this outward man. Whether our works are fruitful or not depends upon whether our outward man has been broken by the Lord so that the inward man can pass through this brokenness and come forth. This, in a statement, specifies the basic problem. The Lord wants to break our outward man in order for the inward man to have a way out. When the inward man is released, both unbelievers and other Christians will be blessed.” *Emphasis mine - Excerpts from The Release of the Spirit by Brother Watchman Nee*

Our topic is broad, but I pray that we all see that the starting point of all spiritual things is the Cross of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ.

But let's review some instances of being in the Light of God and how it affected the lives of His servants. The effect was clearly visible to others.

The Case of Moses

2 Corinthians 3:7 (NLT) ⁷ The old way, with laws etched in stone, led to death, though it began with such glory that the people of *Israel could not bear to look at Moses' face. For his face shone with the glory of God*, even though the brightness was already fading away. *Emphasis mine*

Greater news is for us, says Paul.

2 Corinthians 3:13 (NLT) ¹³ We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face so the people of Israel would not see the glory, even though it was destined to fade away.

Stephen the Deacon Testimony

Acts 6:14-15 (NLT) ¹⁴ We have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy the Temple and change the customs Moses handed down to us." ¹⁵ At this point, everyone in the high council stared at Stephen, because *his face became as bright as an angel's*. *Emphasis mine*

The gospel of Jesus Christ has the power to remove the veil of a hardened heart and will impart new life into the one who believes in Him. The gospel also strengthens us with renewed life in Him.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (NLT) ¹⁶ But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ *So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. (This sounds more like, maybe we will or maybe we won't)* And the Lord – who is the Spirit – makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image. *Emphasis mine*

I had to pause several times and face the truth that the Holy Spirit gave us all these revelations to a carnal church like Corinth. It appears, and I suspect because of all the schisms that existed, that they focused on themselves and their cliques. Welcome to the "Latter Days." *There is nothing new under the sun.*

Paul taught them this in his last letter.

2 Corinthians 4:5 (NLT) ⁵ You see, *we don't go around preaching about ourselves*. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake. *Emphasis mine*

Paul's conclusion.

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NKJV) ⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that *the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.* *Emphasis mine*

2 Corinthians 4:15-18 (NKJV) ¹⁵ For all things *are* for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, *may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.* ¹⁶ Therefore, we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal. *Emphasis mine*

Jesus, I have one last question?

How does "virtue (doo'-nam-is)" come out from You to us?

Mark 5:30 (KJV) ³⁰ And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of **HIM**, turned him about in the press, and said, **Who touched my clothes?** *Emphasis mine*

Mark 5:34 (KJV) ³⁴ And **HE** said unto her, **Daughter, THY FAITH hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.** *Emphasis mine*

This intrusion by the woman with the issue of blood was for us, the Gentiles, for Jesus was on His way to restore life to Israel. The miracle in type was for Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue.

All things are still working for the good of the Body of Christ, the Church in glory.

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus."