

## THE JOURNEY OF WORSHIP IN THE TEMPLE

Tabernacle / Temple	Scripture	For us today
<b>1 PRAISE &amp; THANKSGIVING</b> People approached the great gates, reminding them to be thankful to God - for all He had done, was doing and would do.	Psalm 100:4 - Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.	The baseline is thanks and praise. Always. In the cross, we have a well of thanks that is applicable no matter our circumstances.
<b>2 SUBMISSION &amp; SACRIFICE</b> The Altar of Sacrifice. A visceral, gruesome experience that powerfully connected the people with God's grace - giving them a means to access Him despite their brokenness.	Romans 12: 1-2 "Therefore, I urge you brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."	We don't bring an animal to die ceremonially in our place anymore. We bring the whole of ourselves, the same as Jesus did for us. We bring ourselves, our lives, as living sacrifices to God.
<b>3 CLEANSING</b> The Bronze Laver (or "molten sea") used to physically wash the priests that they might be reminded to spiritually cleanse themselves to enter into the holy place.	Ep 5:26 Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.	We can not omit scripture from our worship journey. If we try to get to an intimate place with the Lord, without regularly washing ourselves with the water of the Word, there can be warped truth in our minds and hearts, stumbling our approach.
<b>4 COMMUNION</b> The Table of Showbread. To the priests, this represented intimacy, communion with God: to commune with someone is to "share ones intimate thoughts and feelings."	John 17:3 "Now this is eternal life that they know you, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."	We have a God who desires intimacy with us. Friendship, communion. This calls for spending quality time with Him and dedicating time and attention to Him.
<b>5 SPIRIT &amp; FRUITFULNESS</b> In the tabernacle, the Golden Lamp Stand gave light to the Holy Place and was a representation of the Holy Spirit and His ministry. Almond flowers represent new life - the life given by the Spirit. Pure oil and fire always represent the Spirit in scripture. And the nine lamps indicate the nine gifts and fruit of the Spirit.	Galatians 5:22 - "but the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control."	We don't go <i>after</i> the fruit, in fact we go after intimacy with God first and then the fruitfulness comes. The lamp stand and the table of showbread are adjacent to each other. Everything else is sequential - you can't approach the next leg of the journey without its predecessor, but here, communion with God produces the fruit of the Spirit in our lives and the fruit of the Spirit brings us back into deeper intimacy with Him.
<b>6 INTERCESSION</b> God instructed the priests to keep incense burning on the Altar of Incense day and night. It represents constant prayer & praise. It was the place He promised to speak to His people.	Romans 12:11-13 "Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder."	When we pray, we need to catch God's heart for situations and let our prayers <i>burn</i> ! It's also a reminder to listen - this is the place God said He would speak - let's train ourselves to hear Him.
<b>7 THE HOLY OF HOLIES</b> Only <i>once a year</i> , the high priest would enter to apply the blood of atonement to the Ark of the Covenant, which represented and hosted God's presence on earth. It was the space where God's heavenly throne room overlapped with earth.	Hebrews 9 (just <i>all</i> of it! But also - ) "But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the great and more perfect tabernacle... How much more then will the blood of Christ... cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death so that we may serve the living God!"	This space of intimacy, where His presence is thick, is the ultimate aim of our worship journey. Consider how to overlay all the aspects of temple worship into your weeks so that, when you come together with others for corporate times of worship you are already "in the Holy place", poised to enter the Holy of Holies!