

23. TOUR INTERMISSION

We are going to take a quick Intermission on our Tour. We will watch the High Priest of our salvation perform three very important rituals. These vital acts are not just formalities but are essential in our pursuit of the Face of God.

Please stand aside as the High Priest performs these three very important deeds. The Sprinkling of the Blood (Act 1); The Washing of Water (Act 2); and, The Anointing with Oil (Act 3) are vital in the Tour of The Tabernacle. Without these three Acts being performed, the pieces of Furniture in the Tabernacle are merely interesting historical artifacts of an ancient religion.

Watch as the High Priest shows us what He and the Holy Spirit do in the Old and New Tabernacle to the Furniture and the 'priests' on the Tour.

ACTS of Sprinkling, Washing and Anointing

ACT 1: Sprinkling of the Blood (JUSTIFICATION)

The Old Tabernacle was cleansed by blood. Although this may sound strange to our modern senses, every piece of The Furniture had blood sprinkled on it from the blood collected from the sacrificial animals at The Brazen Altar.

"Then the anointed priest is to take some **of the blood of the bull and bring it to the tent of meeting, and the priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle some of the blood seven times before the Lord, in front of the veil of the sanctuary.** "The priest shall also put some of the **blood on the horns of the altar of fragrant incense** which is before the Lord in the tent of meeting; and all the **blood of the bull he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering which is at the doorway of the tent of meeting.**" (Leviticus 4:5-7, NASB95)

"Moses slaughtered it and took some of its **blood and put it on the lobe of Aaron's right ear, and on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot.** He also had Aaron's sons come near; and Moses put some of the blood on the lobe of their right ear, and on the thumb of their right hand and on the big toe of their right foot. **Moses then sprinkled the rest of the blood around on the altar.**" (Leviticus 8:23-24, NASB95)

"And in the same way he **sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood.** And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." (Hebrews 9:21-22, NASB95)

Our High Priest shed His own blood as the Lamb of God. His blood is sprinkled on all who turn from sin and put their faith in Him. Jesus' blood was shed just like the Old Testament sacrifice was killed and offered on The Brazen Altar. The blood was sprinkled on the Tabernacle and on each piece of Furniture and all the vessels used in worship. Blood from the sacrifice was applied to the priest's right earlobe, thumb and big toe.

The New Tabernacle's priests must also be sprinkled by Jesus' blood in order for us to walk into the Presence of God.

" Therefore, brethren, since we **have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus**, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, **having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience** and our bodies washed with pure water." (Hebrews 10:19-22, NASB95)

Amazing! The High Priest gave Himself as the offering for sin. Since He was without sin, He was able to redeem all who were under sin. Please remember that there is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood. Sin is costly and requires a penalty to be paid. In our case the Son of God willingly paid the price with His blood. Our sin cost Him His life. Every area of our "tabernacle" is covered with the blood of Jesus. As His priests, our hearing and minds (earlobes), our actions (thumbs) and our way of life (big toe) are sprinkled with His blood so we can walk in His holiness.

ACT 2: Washing with Water (SANCTIFICATION)

Water from The Laver was used to wash the priests before they entered the Old Tabernacle. The hands and feet of the priests were washed before entering to perform their daily duties. Although this was a ceremonial washing prescribed by God, hands and feet are what get the dirtiest. What we do (hands) and where we go (feet) need to be washed. The High Priest washes every priest that enters the Tabernacle. The priest would die if he was not washed.

"Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doorway of the tent of meeting and **wash them with water.**" (Exodus 40:12, NASB95)

"Aaron and his sons shall **wash their hands and their feet from it**; when they enter the tent of meeting, they shall **wash with water, so that they will not die**; or when they approach the altar to minister, by offering up in smoke a fire sacrifice to the Lord. "So they shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they will not die; and it shall be a perpetual statute for them, for Aaron and his descendants throughout their generations." (Exodus 30:19-21, NASB95)

A priest in God's Kingdom is required to be continually washed by the living water of the Holy Spirit. When we resist Him, we begin to cool off spiritually. Our spiritual cooling can lead to a blockage in our relationship with God. Sanctified living requires us to be washed regularly when we approach God. The "dirt" of our walk and actions must be washed by the Holy Spirit. As the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, we can regularly wash through confession, repentance and forgiveness.

"As for me, **I baptize you with water for repentance**, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11, NASB95)

"but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; **but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.**" (John 4:14, NASB95)

"Such were some of you; but **you were washed**, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God." (1 Corinthians 6:11, NASB95)

"Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and **wash away your sins**, calling on His name." (Acts 22:16, NASB95)

"Then I will **sprinkle clean water on you**, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols." (Ezekiel 36:25, NASB95)

"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by **the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,**" (Titus 3:5, NASB95)

Watch the High Priest. He is reminding us of His example on how to serve others. None of the disciples in the upper room celebrating the Passover with Jesus wanted to wash the feet of his brothers. Watching the hesitancy of the disciples, Jesus humbled Himself and took a towel and bowl and washed their feet. Jesus gave us a vivid example on how to serve one another in love. Look as He washes Peter's feet:

*" Then He poured **water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.** So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter." Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do*

not wash you, you have no part with Me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, "Not all of you are clean." So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? "You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **"For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. "Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."** (John 13:5-17, NASB95)

As we are washed we too are freed to serve others. We can be caught up with our own life and we never get free to serve others. The purpose of washing is not to show others how 'clean' a life we live but to serve others in love. The Christian life is not just avoiding sin, but it is seeking the One who gave His life for us. When we focus on Jesus and pursue Him, we have less time and energy to focus on our own self and sin.

ACT 3: Anointing with Oil (CONSECRATION)

Everything in the Tabernacle was sprinkled with blood. Likewise, everything was anointed with oil. The blood came from the sacrifices at The Brazen Altar. The anointing oil was made by the craftsman appointed by God. The oil was used to consecrate or make holy that which was anointed.

"You shall make of these a **holy anointing oil**, a perfume mixture, the work of a perfumer; it shall be a holy anointing oil. "With it you shall **anoint the tent of meeting and the ark of the testimony, and the table and all its utensils, and the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense, and the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the laver and its stand.** "You shall also **consecrate them, that they may be most holy**; whatever touches them shall be holy. "You shall anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister as priests to Me. "You shall speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'This shall be a holy anointing oil to Me throughout your generations. 'It shall not be poured on anyone's body, nor shall you make any like it in the same proportions; it is holy, and it shall be holy to you. 'Whoever shall mix any like it or whoever puts any of it on a layman shall be cut off from his people.' "" (Exodus 30:25-33, NASB95)

The New Tabernacle is also consecrated and anointed with oil, the oil of the Holy Spirit. The New Tabernacle is holy, consecrated and separated unto God. Just as a particular artisan was appointed to make the oil, The Holy Spirit was specifically appointed by God to anoint us in Him.

"But you have an **anointing from the Holy One**, and you all know." (1 John 2:20, NASB95)

"If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, **for the temple of God is holy**, and that is what you are."
(1 Corinthian 3:17, NASB95)

"just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that **we would be holy and blameless before Him...**" (Ephesians 1:4, NASB95)

"As for you, the **anointing which you received from Him abides in you**, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but **as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.** Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him."
(1 John 2:27-29, NASB95)

Our High Priest suffered and died; rose from the dead and sent the Holy Spirit to anoint and fill us for empowered living and service. The High Priest commands that we not only be anointed but filled with the Holy Spirit continually...

"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but **be (JR:Greek: be being) filled with the Spirit,**"
(Ephesians 5:18, NASB95)

The Tour Guide has used some very important words in these Acts: Justification; Sanctification; Consecration. Some operational definitions of these words are as follows:

Justification *is defined as declaring a person free from guilt and acceptable to God based on the sacrifice Jesus made on the Cross.*

Sanctification *is defined as the process of becoming holy in life and action by the work of the Holy Spirit.*

Consecration *is defined as dedicating and yielding ourselves to the will of the Father in our spirit, soul and body.*

The High Priest's goal is to take us into the Presence of God for a work of Heart Transformation. In His Presence there is continued Transformation. The object is to transform us into His likeness and that transformation begins in our heart...

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed into the same image from glory to glory**, just as from the Lord, the Spirit." (2 Corinthians 3:18, NASB95)

24. TOUR DESTINATION: FACE to FACE with GOD

TOUR GUIDE: Where do we meet with God 'face to face'? In the Old Tabernacle it was at God's throne, The Mercy Seat.

"There **I will meet with you**; and from above the mercy seat, from **between the two cherubim** which are upon the ark of the testimony, **I will speak to you** about all that I will give you in commandment for the sons of Israel." (Exodus 25:22, NASB95)

The cherubim of The Mercy Seat are facing each other or, in other words, they are 'face to face'. Made of pure gold and shadowed under their golden wings, the cherubim are positioned 'face to face' with each other.

These golden cherubim symbolize God's desire for us to be 'face to face' with Him. Symbolically, we take the position of one of the cherubim and God takes the other. God loves us and wants us to be in a face to face relationship with Him. In the Old Testament God met with Moses in the Holy of Holies at the Mercy Seat 'face to face'. Now, it is by God's mercy that we can be in a 'face to face' relationship with Him.

TOUR GUIDE: Psalms 16 and 17 indicate an apparent contradiction. In Psalm 16 the Scripture says that the Lord is at our right hand. Psalm 17 states that we are at His right hand.

"I have set the Lord continually before me; Because **He is at my right hand**, I will not be shaken." (Psalm 16:8, NASB95)

NOTE: The Lord's position is at **our right hand**.

"Wondrously show Your lovingkindness, O Savior of those who take refuge **at Your right hand** from those who rise up against them." (Psalm 17:7, NASB95)

NOTE: Our position is at **His right Hand**.

How can God be at our right hand and we be at His right hand at the same time?

The answer to this dilemma is in how we are positioned in relationship to God. If we were standing beside God we would be at His right hand but He wouldn't be at our right hand. Likewise if God was standing at our right hand, we wouldn't be at His right hand. But, if God takes our hands and we take His, we are 'face to face' with each other at each other's right hand.

At a wedding, the groom takes the bride's hands and faces her. He delivers his vows and commits his love to her. She in turn declares her love for the groom as she holds his hands. Our Groom takes His Bride's hands; looks at us 'face to face'; and commits His love to us in Christ. At The Mercy Seat we are positioned hand to hand and face to face with Him.

God intended for us to be in this glorious relationship with Him. We are brought near to God through the blood of Christ. The wonder and beauty of God are seen up close and personal. We don't deserve such a high and privileged place and there is nothing in us that qualifies us to be in the Presence of the Most Holy God. Our access is only through our High Priest. In Him we are in God's Presence... **'face to face'**.

"But God, being **rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us**, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and **seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ

Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the **gift of God; not as a result of works**, so that no one may boast." (Ephesians 2:4-9, NASB95)

"...remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**" (Ephesians 2:12-13, NASB95)

God has chosen us in Christ and brings us near to Him in His Tabernacle. God desires us to be blessed in our 'face to face' relationship with Him.

"How **blessed is the one whom You choose and bring near to You** To dwell in Your courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple."
(Psalm 65:4, NASB95)

TOUR GUIDE: Matthew 5 says that only the pure in heart will see God.

"**"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."** (Matthew 5:8, NASB95)

The way a person can get a pure heart is by having their heart changed by God at the Cross. All things become new at the Cross and it is where God does surgery on us to give us a new heart.

The entire Tabernacle Tour gives us an opportunity to exercise the new heart God has given to us when we were born again. With this new transplanted heart we can come to God and build on our relationship with Him. He will continually keep our heart tuned up and in relationship with Him if we allow Him. We do this by daily bringing our hearts before the Lord to keep them pure and upright. Just as an engine is tuned up to keep it running at its best performance, our hearts run at their best performance when they are 'tuned up' before the Lord.

Part of tuning our hearts is to understand more about our Lord and our own hearts. Our natural heart is desperately wicked and we are not able to understand it:

"**"The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick;** Who can understand it? "I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds. (Jeremiah 17:9-10, NASB95)

There is wisdom in understanding the nature of our 'old' heart and our 'new' heart in Christ. The Scriptures teach that a heart can be turned toward God or away from Him. Understanding more of the function of our heart gives us the ability to test our hearts before the Lord. Different heart conditions are described in Jesus' parable of the soils:

" When a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable: "The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell **beside the road**, and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up. "Other seed fell on **rocky soil**, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. "Other seed fell **among the thorns**; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out. "Other seed fell into the **good soil**, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great." As He said these things, He would call out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable meant. And He said, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. "Now the parable is this: **the seed is the word of God.** "Those **beside the road** are those who have heard; then **the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that**

they will not believe and be saved. “Those on the **rocky soil** are those who, when **they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away.** “The seed which fell **among the thorns**, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with **worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity.** “But the seed in the **good soil**, these are the ones who have heard the word in an **honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with `perseverance.**” (Luke 8:4-15, NASB95)

The seed of the Word of God is sewn into our hearts. Some truths are taken away by the enemy before it even takes root just as some truths fall on the rock hardness of our hearts and never take root. Our hearts can be drawn away from God by the temptations of this world. When our hearts are set on the cares, riches and pleasures of this life, the truth of God’s Word never comes to maturity in our lives. We remain babies in the faith and never produce any fruit in our lives. An honest and good heart receives the Word and brings forth much fruit.

The difference between the good soil (heart) and the “thorns and thistle” soil is the act of weeding. As any gardener knows, weeds grow as fast as or even faster than good plants. The gardener must be diligent to keep the weed population down in order for the good plants to have room to grow. The same is true of our hearts. The “weeds” of our hearts are removed as we seek God’s face in His Presence. As we allow God to show us the “weeds” in our hearts, He is able to clear the soil as we confess our sins that separate us from Him. Face to face with God is the place where the Gardner of our soul “weeds” our heart.

"If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and righteous to **forgive us our sins and to cleanse** us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9, NASB95)

Our confession of sin is the process God uses to “weed” our hearts. When we walk in the light as He is in the light, there is a continuing process of “weeding”. Our hearts are tuned to be pure and upright in Him. The challenge we have is to be obedient and diligent to come into His Presence daily and allow God to do this work in us.

Our hearts are transformed as we are face to face with God. We cannot change our own heart. God does the necessary work in us to create the right kind of heart.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10, NASB95)

(See the **SIDE TOUR 2: Heart Exam**)

TOUR GUIDE: As we meet God daily in the Most Holy Place ‘face to face’, our hearts are changed and we can declare our love to and for Him. He desires this and made the way for it. The protocol for coming to Him is based in The Tabernacle. May we hear His invitation and respond with eager hearts for Him. He invites us to run into His Presence as a child runs to greet their dad coming home from a long trip. As He holds us in His loving arms, He does a work that only He can do, i.e. transformation of our heart.

A Deceiver Transformed

A good example of this heart transformation is in the life of Jacob in the Old Testament. Jacob’s name means “supplanter” or “deceiver” in Hebrew. Jacob started his life clinging to the heel of his twin brother at birth and continued on in a life of pursuing his own way. The eldest son was to be given the inheritance and the blessing of the father. Jacob took the inheritance from his brother and deceived his father, Isaac, into giving him the family blessing.

The 'deceiver' continued a life of deception and being deceived. Eventually he had an encounter with God. His life was transformed and his name changed as he came 'face to face' with God.

" Then Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." But he said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." He said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him and said, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And he blessed him there. So Jacob named the place Peniel, for he said, "**I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved.**" Now the sun rose upon him just as he crossed over Peniel, and he was limping on his thigh. Therefore, to this day the sons of Israel do not eat the sinew of the hip which is on the socket of the thigh, because he touched the socket of Jacob's thigh in the sinew of the hip." (Genesis 32:24-32, NASB95)

Jacob's name was changed to Israel (prince of God). The deceiver was transformed to be one who found favor with God. Jacob's heart was changed and he was transformed. What caused this transformation? What was the vehicle that God used to change his heart? Jacob was changed as he came 'face to face' with God.

We too can participate in this life changing transformation as we have 'face to face' encounters with God. A question to ask ourselves is whether we are willing to take the time and energy to 'wrestle' with God. We will always lose but we will win. Our old life might be put out of joint from our perspective but we will be changed. God will change us by drawing our hearts closer to His.

25. CONCLUSION

The goal of the entire Temple Tour is to have our hearts transformed by seeking the face of God. Every piece of The Furniture is a picture of Jesus. Our Tour Guide, the High Priest, is Jesus Christ. All of the materials used to build the Tabernacle represent an aspect of the life and work of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the express image of God. When we look into the face of Jesus we are looking into the face of God. The Word of God, the Bible, shows us the face of God. Every word, every thought, every analogy, story and allegory, is designed to show us God's face.

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven." (Colossians 1:15-20, NASB95)

The goal of God is to bring us into a 'face to face' relationship with Him. He has made the way open and has given us the protocol in The Tabernacle to come into His Presence. He desires us to be with Him under the shadow of His wings (symbolized by the cherubim and their wings). David expresses the heart of The Tabernacle Tour and being 'face to face' with God in Psalms:

"One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: **That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord And to meditate in His temple. For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; In the secret place of His tent He will hide me;** He will lift me up on a rock. And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, And I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord. Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice, And be gracious to me and answer me. When You said, **"Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, O Lord, I shall seek."** Do not hide Your face from me, Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not abandon me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation! For my father and my mother have forsaken me, But the Lord will take me up." (Psalm 27:4-10, NASB95)

David sought one thing in His life and that was to seek the Lord and His face in The Tabernacle. God and he met in the secret place (The Mercy Seat) where David beheld God's face. God invited Him to seek His face and David's heart cried, "I will. I will seek Your face." Is this the cry of our heart? What one thing will we seek? God invites us to make our 'one thing' Him. When God says to us "Seek my face", may our hearts answer with the cry "Your face, O Lord, I shall seek."

26. TOUR SUMMARY: Face to Face with God

The Furniture in the Tabernacle was sprinkled with the blood of the sacrifice and then anointed with oil. Every piece of the Furniture in the Tabernacle cries out the love God has for us in Christ.

Faith at The Brazen Altar is based on the Cross of Christ and His sacrifice for the penalty of our sin.

{Our God and Savior, Jesus Christ was the Sacrificial Lamb that rose from the dead and is now our High Priest.}

Moral Excellence at The Laver is based on the Resurrection of Christ and the sending of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit fills us and works in us God's life, character and holiness.

Knowledge at The Lampstand is based on Jesus Christ coming as the Light of God. The Word of God came to earth to bring us the knowledge of God in Jesus Christ.

Self-Control at the Table of Showbread reminds us that we are to live by the Bread (Jesus Christ) made flesh that came down from heaven. As we eat of His body and drink of His blood we are reminded that He is our life. We are to live by the promptings of the Holy Spirit and not our own desires.

Perseverance at the Altar of Incense shows that Jesus continually makes intercession for us. The Holy Spirit guides our praying and encourages us to pray without ceasing.

Godliness at The Ark of the Covenant reminds us that Jesus fulfilled the Law and His godliness is given to us. The Old Tabernacle was based on the Law. The New Tabernacle is based in grace. God's grace is lavished upon us so we can walk "Godly" and obediently in Christ.

The Kindness of God is found at The Mercy Seat. God's mercy has been shown to us in the life and death of Jesus Christ. He draws us near where we can be "face to face" with Him. Our hearts are transformed as we meet with God daily under the shadow of His wings.

All these qualities are to be diligently sought, applied and practiced in love in our lives. The Furniture in the Tabernacle was made of gold or wood covered with gold (God's love). God's love and the expression of His love on the Cross are the basis of our 'face to face' relationship with God. He desires us to be face to face with Him in love. He, our Groom, takes our hands as the Bride of Christ and declares His love for us. We in turn express our love for Him by seeking His face.

In the Old Testament David recorded some of his 'face to face' time with God in the Book of Psalms. David bares his heart before God and cries and complains; praises and worships; gives thanks and expresses disgust; makes confession and supplication; questions and gains understanding in various Psalms. David's heart is exposed to and transformed by God as he is in God's Presence. David's heart was open to the Lord and he allowed God to change his heart.

"Oh, give ear, Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who are **enthroned above the cherubim**, shine forth! Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up Your power And come to save us! O God, restore us And **cause Your face to shine upon us**, and we will be saved." (Psalm 80:1-3, NASB95)

"He will cover you with His pinions, And **under His wings** you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark." (Psalm 91:4, NASB95)

Meeting God at The Mercy Seat allows us to be under the wings of the cherubim. David knew that under God's 'wings' is where we meet God face to face.

"O God of hosts, restore us And **cause Your face to shine upon us**, and we will be saved." (Psalm 80:7, NASB95)

"One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That **I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord And to meditate in His temple. For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His Tabernacle; In the secret place of His tent He will hide me**; He will lift me up on a rock." (Psalm 27:4-5, NASB95)

David's desire was to dwell in The Tabernacle all the days of his life. He wanted to take shelter under God's wings (The Mercy Seat). He longed for God to shine His face upon him under those wings.

The testimony concerning David was that he was a man after God's own heart. Our hearts need to be reformed and transformed in God's Presence. May it also be said of us that we have a heart after God. We can do this by making it a priority to dwell in His Tabernacle all the days of our lives. Only then can our hearts be transformed. Our hearts are transformed when we come 'face to face' with our God. God has made the way wide open for us to come into His Presence by the blood of Jesus.

As God shines His face upon us, we enjoy and experience his lovingkindness:

"Make Your face to shine upon Your servant; Save me in Your lovingkindness." (Psalm 31:16, NASB95)

God takes responsibility to instruct us in His ways as we draw near to Him:

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you." (Psalm 32:8, NASB95)

Real satisfaction in life is found when we are in God's Presence:

"How blessed is the one whom You choose and bring near to You To dwell in Your courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple." (Psalm 65:4, NASB95)

Genuine integrity is found, developed and kept in His Presence:

"As for me, You uphold me in my integrity, And You set me in Your Presence forever." (Psalm 41:12, NASB95)

Our heart cries out for God to meet our every need. God teaches us to ask Him to give us each day our daily bread:

"Do not hide Your face from me in the day of my distress; Incline Your ear to me; In the day when I call answer me quickly."
(Psalm 102:2, NASB95)

Our heart's desire is to experience God's love and protection and be the apple of His eye:

"Keep me as the apple of the eye; Hide me in the shadow of Your wings" (Psalm 17:8, NASB95)

The goal of being face to face with God is to become like Him:

"As for me, I shall behold Your face in righteousness; I will be satisfied with Your likeness when I awake."

(Psalm 17:15, NASB95)

THE LION AND THE LAMB

Holding God's hands and looking into His face is the culmination and destination of The Tabernacle Tour. As we behold His face He speaks to our hearts and changes us.

The Bible says that we are the sheep of His pasture and in Proverbs the Bible says the righteous are bold as a lion. Are we to have a sheep's heart or a lion's heart before God? A personal story may shed some light on the answer.

I was hospitalized after suffering a very difficult attack from the enemy. During a visit from a pastor friend, we discussed whether I would be fit to preach in his congregation as scheduled on the next Sunday. It was Tuesday and I was still in the hospital. I asked him if he would allow me to preach if I met a few conditions. One was that I would be released from the hospital. The second was that I would need to walk a mile on Friday and a mile on Saturday to show that I was strong enough to preach on Sunday. He agreed but was going to have a sermon ready just in case I didn't make it. Part of the many tests and procedures I experienced during my stay in the hospital was exploratory abdominal surgery and I knew it would be very difficult to walk.

Following my release from the hospital on Thursday I set out on my mile walk on Friday. Every step was very difficult and painful. After about a third of a mile I stopped and cried out to the Lord. Unexpectedly the Lord spoke to my heart. He said that I was being a 'warrior' against Him and a 'child' in the world. He desired to reverse the direction of these hearts. He wanted me to be a child before Him and a warrior in the world.

I wasn't anticipating that God wanted to speak to me about my own heart. At first I didn't understand what He meant. How was I being a child in the world and warring against Him. The more I thought about it, it was true. I needed to submit my heart to Him as His child. In turn, He would give me a warrior's heart to fight spiritual battles.

A child's heart...

Unless we convert and take on the trusting nature of a child's heart, we will not see God. A child's heart is dependent upon and strengthened by a loving father. This type of relationship is symbolized by the relationship between a shepherd and sheep. The sheep are dependent animals. They are easily led; they will eat the wrong things if left alone; they are subject to various diseases. Sheep need the care and protection of a shepherd. As a child requires the care and guidance of a loving father, we need our Father in heaven to shepherd us. Our hearts must be subject to God like a child.

"And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, and said, "Truly I say to you, **unless you are converted and become like children**, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:2-4, NASB95)

A warrior's heart...

Jesus came to be the Savior of the world the first time. In His Second Coming He will come as the Lion of Judah.

"and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, **the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah**, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."" (Revelation 5:5, NASB95)

We are to stand in His righteousness, holiness and strength against the enemy and his evil works. As warriors, we need to stand firm against the flesh, the world and Satan. We overcome Satan by the Blood of the Lamb, the word of our testimony in Christ and not loving our lives even unto death.

"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, **the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion**, seeking someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8, NASB95)

We need a heart like our Lord's. We need a 'warrior's' heart. Children and sheep can't stand against the roaring lion's attack in their own strength. But, we can stand firm in the strength of the Lion of Judah and have the heart of a warrior.

"The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, But **the righteous are bold as a lion.**" (Proverbs 28:1, NASB95)

A common quote is "the lion will lay down with the lamb" and refers to the Millennial reign of Christ. The quote is not in the Bible but the concept comes from a passage in Isaiah. Isaiah actually says that the wolf will lay down with the lamb and the lion with the calf. In other words, natural "enemies" will live in harmony in the Millennium.

"And the **wolf will dwell with the lamb**, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And **the calf and the young lion and the fatling together**; And a little boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze, Their young will lie down together, And the lion will eat straw like the ox. The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea." (Isaiah 11:6-9, NASB95)

After Jesus rose from the dead, He was seated at the right hand of the Father. As we come 'face to face' with God we are facing God the Father on the Throne and Jesus sitting beside Him. With the Father we need a "lamb's" heart that will cry "Abba" (i.e. daddy). With Jesus we need to acquire His "warrior's heart" towards the enemy of our souls. We need both types of hearts. In this sense the "lion will lay down with the lamb" as our lamb and lion's hearts come before the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, we are a child (lamb) before the Father and we are a Christian warrior (lion) standing strong in the Lion of Judah in and against the world forces of darkness.

"Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might**. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.** Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. **Stand firm therefore**, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints," (Ephesians 6:10-18, NASB95)

God is looking for Godly champions with warrior's hearts. God desires champions that will stand and not be turned by every wind of doctrine, ungodly practice or deceiving spirit. These types of champions have paid the price in prayer and fasting by disciplining their lives for obedience to Christ.

Gideon: A Lion with a Lamb's Heart

God reprimanded the nation of Israel for their disobedience and had given them an oppressor from a foreign nation to punish them.

"Now it came about when the sons of Israel cried to the Lord on account of Midian, that the Lord sent a prophet to the sons of Israel, and he said to them, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'It was I who brought you up from Egypt and brought you out from the house of slavery. 'I delivered you from the hands of the Egyptians and from the hands of all your oppressors, and dispossessed them before you and gave you their land, and I said to you, "I am the Lord your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live. But you have not obeyed Me." '"" (Judges 6:7-10, NASB95)

" Then the angel of the Lord came and sat under the oak that was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press in order to save it from the Midianites. The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "**The Lord is with you, O valiant warrior.**" Then Gideon said to him, "O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian."" (Judges 6:11-13, NASB95)

The Angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and called Gideon a "valiant warrior". Gideon was the youngest member of his family. His tribe was the least of the Tribes of Judah. Gideon's reaction to the greeting he received from the Angel was to begin to complain about his people's circumstances. The Midianites had conquered Israel as a result of their disobedience to God. The Angel told Gideon that He will use him to defeat the Midianites as "one man".

"But the Lord said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat Midian as one man." So Gideon said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who speak with me." (Judges 6:16-17, NASB95)

Gideon did not see himself as a "valiant warrior". He was a young man who was living under the tyranny of an oppressive nation. He heard an Angel call him a warrior but he saw himself as the youngest member of a family who was the least of the tribes in his nation. He was just a little "lamb" even in his own eyes.

"When Gideon saw that he was talking to was the angel of the Lord, he said, "Alas, O Lord God! For now I have seen the angel of **the Lord face to face.**" The Lord said to him, "Peace to you, do not fear; you shall not die." Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord and named it The Lord is Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites." (Judges 6:22-24, NASB95)

Gideon was transformed. He boldly went out and pulled down the foreign idol that was put up in his town. This act demonstrated the heart of a 'warrior' not a weak 'lamb'. The Bible says the righteous are bold as lions. Gideon's heart became the heart of a valiant warrior.

" The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, But the **righteous are bold as a lion.**" (Proverbs 28:1, NASB95)

Gideon sees the Lord face to face and he did not die. Seeing God 'face to face' began a heart change in Gideon. In the process of his heart transformation, Gideon proceeded to ask for confirmation from the Angel to verify what He was saying was true. He couldn't believe what the Angel was saying. Gideon uses a fleece of wool

(sheep or lamb) to seek his confirmation to go to war. He was depending on his “lamb’s” heart before God to get confirmation.

God changed Gideon’s heart from a “lamb” to a “lion”. Gideon went on to conquer Israel’s oppressors which numbered over 120,000 with only 300 men. Gideon became more than a conqueror after his heart was changed by seeing God ‘face to face’.

Gideon is an example of one whose heart was changed. He became obedient as a child before God, but as bold as lion against the enemy. His heart transformation came by meeting God ‘face to face’.

David: A Lamb with a Lion's Heart

Like Gideon, David was the youngest son in his family. He was a shepherd who took care of his family's sheep. When David was a young man, Israel was at war with the Philistines. David's older brothers were part of the army fighting the Philistines. Israel was led by their first king, Saul. The Philistine champion was a giant of a man named Goliath. He taunted and ridiculed the men and the God of Israel. King Saul would have been the logical choice from man's point of view to fight Goliath. He was the king and the tallest man in the nation. Man may have chosen Saul because of his position and his physical stature. God does not judge by the outward appearance but by what is in a person's heart. God knew that Saul had a disobedient and fearful heart while David had a heart of a warrior.

"But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but **the Lord looks at the heart.**" (1 Samuel 16:7, NASB95)

God knew that David had a lion's heart. Although he was a young man, David was God's warrior. David heard what Goliath was saying in defaming his God and countrymen and he responded with bold courage and righteous indignation.

"Then David spoke to the men who were standing by him, saying, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? **For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?**" (1 Samuel 17:26, NASB95)

David slew Goliath and demonstrated that a "lamb" (young man) with a "lion's" heart (warrior) can defeat any giant of an enemy.

How did David get a warrior's (lion's) heart?

"Then Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are but a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth." But David said to Saul, "Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued it from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized him by his beard and struck him and killed him. "Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God." And David said, "**The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.**" And Saul said to David, "Go, and may the Lord be with you." (1 Samuel 17:33-37, NASB95)

What did David do while he was out shepherding the flocks? He spent time with God... 'face to face'. David was in love with God. David got his lion's heart from spending time alone with God. The Book of Psalms is where David recorded some of his time with God. David complains, praises, gives thanks, cries out, rejoices, confesses, and gives supplication in the Book of Psalms.

As we spend time 'face to face' with God, we will be able to share our hearts with God and He with us. God will change our hearts to be a warrior's heart in His army. The weapons of our warfare are not guns and tanks and bombs. Our weapons are love, joy, peace and righteousness in Christ.

"For though we walk in the flesh, **we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.** We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are

taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete. You are looking at things as they are outwardly. If anyone is confident in himself that he is Christ's, let him consider this again within himself, that just as he is Christ's, so also are we." (2 Corinthians 10:3-7, NASB95)

27. TOUR CONCLUSION and CONTINUATION:

God met with His people and dwelt in The Most Holy Place in The Old Tabernacle. The Most Holy Place in The New Tabernacle of our hearts is where God invites us to be 'face to face' with Him. Meeting with God at The Mercy Seat is where God transforms our heart. He desires us to have a heart of a child before Him. As we come to God as our Father, our hearts cry "Abba" or "daddy". We are taught by Him and learn to live like Him. Our normal "childish" heart is foolish, disobedient and prideful. We are given a new heart when we repent of our sin and put our faith in Jesus Christ.

The first time our High Priest came to earth He came as the Lamb that would be slain for our sin. John pointed to Jesus and told his disciples that Jesus would be the holy offering for our sin.

"The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "**Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**" (John 1:29, NASB95)

Jesus as the Lamb...

Jesus demonstrated to man how to walk with God. Jesus subjected Himself to the Father to show us how we are to live in relationship with Him. Jesus gave the temple of His body to be bruised, beaten and crucified for us. He yielded Himself meekly to the Cross, His place of physical death, as payment for the penalty of our sin. Meekness is not weakness. Meekness is power under control. Jesus could have called down legions of angels to wipe out all His adversaries. Jesus knew the end game was to accomplish what He came to do and that was to die for us as the sacrificial Lamb of God.

Jesus as the Lion...

The second time our High Priest comes, He will come as the Lion of Judah. He will be the Righteous Judge who will come as the royal Lion. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He is Lord.

" I solemnly charge you in the Presence of God and of Christ Jesus, **who is to judge the living and the dead**, and by His appearing and His kingdom:" (2 Timothy 4:1, NASB95)

"For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that **at the name of Jesus every knee will bow**, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that **every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11, NASB95)

If we are a lamb before Satan, we will die. If we are a lion in our own pride before the Father, we will not see His face. Our life in the flesh is to follow Jesus and His example. He is the example for The New Tabernacle. He is our blueprint for living a life pleasing before God. Every aspect and practice of The Tabernacle is a demonstration of the life of Christ. Jesus is the fabric of the Tabernacle, Jesus is the Furniture of the Tabernacle; Jesus is the face of The Tabernacle. Jesus is all in all. As we set our minds and hearts on Him, face to face, He develops in us a lamb's heart before the Father and a lion's heart in the world.

As we walk with our High Priest through The Tabernacle in the face of God, we gain an upright and pure heart. Our lives are transformed when we are face to face with God. We hear His heartbeat and walk in a manner worthy of Him. We know His mind and understand His will. We are vitally connected to Him and bear much fruit. The heavens are opened to us and we are supplied and empowered by the resources of His Kingdom. We joyfully express love for God and other people fulfilling the two greatest commandments.

""Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ""This is the great and foremost commandment. "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:36-39, NASB95)

The secret of The Tabernacle Tour is that it never ends. The Tour goes on for our whole life and into eternity. Eternal life is having the life of Jesus living in us. We become like Him, not as gods, but in His image. We will be outside the Presence of sin and free to live for Him...in Him. We have the privilege of walking 'face to face' with God every day of our lives here on earth. He works in us that which is pleasing in His sight. Our hearts are drawn closer to Him and we get to hear His heartbeat and learn what is important to Him. We can actually lose ourselves in Him.

The Great Physician's Prescription:

- ✓ **Take a walk daily through The Tabernacle with the risen Lamb of God, our High Priest!**
- ✓ **Understand the magnificent work Jesus Christ has done for you at The Brazen Altar**
- ✓ **Confess your sin and invite God to continually cleanse your heart at The Laver**
- ✓ **Know God as He enlightens your heart with His Word at The Lampstand**
- ✓ **Fellowship with God in His broken body and shed blood at The Table of Showbread.**
- ✓ **Persevere in prayer as you offer your life and intercession at The Altar of Incense**
- ✓ **Die to self and allow Jesus' righteousness and godliness to be your life at The Ark of the Covenant**
- ✓ **Seek and see God 'face to face' under the shadow of His wings at The Mercy Seat**

Remember His lovingkindness is better than life and in His Presence is the fullness of joy!

" He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!" For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper And from the deadly pestilence. **He will cover you with His pinions, And under His wings you may seek refuge;** His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark. You will not be afraid of the terror by night, Or of the arrow that flies by day; Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, Or of the destruction that lays waste at noon. A thousand may fall at your side And ten thousand at your right hand, But it shall not approach you. You will only look on with your eyes And see the recompense of the wicked. **For you have made the Lord, my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place.** No evil will befall you, Nor will any plague come near your tent. For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, That you do not strike your foot against a stone. You will tread upon the lion and cobra, The young lion and the serpent you will trample down. "Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him securely on high, because he has known My name. "He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. "With a long life I will satisfy him And let him see My salvation."" (Psalm 91, NASB95)