

5. THE TABERNACLE: BLUEPRINT

God was careful to give detailed instructions to Moses on how to construct The Tabernacle. God outlined everything for how The Tabernacle should be made and used. His design for The Tabernacle had three basic sections:

- 1.) The Outer Court
- 2.) The Holy Place
- 3.) The Most Holy Place (also called The Holy of Holies)

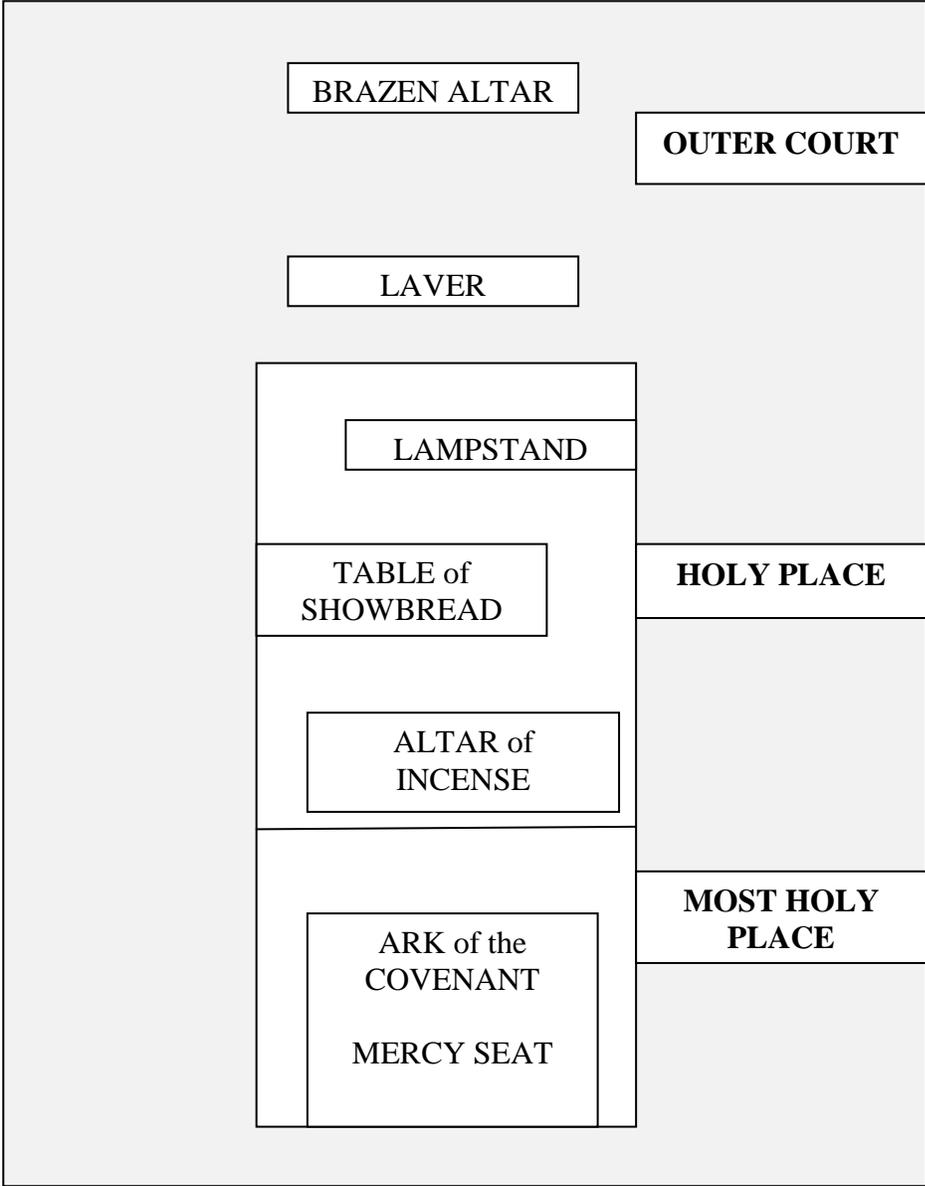
The Holy Place and Most Holy Place were inside the Tabernacle tent. The Tabernacle tent was surrounded by the walls of the Outer Court. All twelve Tribes of Israel encamped around the Outer Court, three tribes on the East, three tribes on the North, three tribes on the West and three tribes on the South. In this sense, God would dwell in the center of His people and be the object of their worship and life.

The Outer Court

The Outer Court measured approximately 75 feet (50 cubits) wide and 150 feet (100 cubits) long. The Outer Court curtain wall was supported by wood boards about 7.5 feet (5 cubits) tall. There was an opening in the wall on the East side and was covered by a veiled door. The Outer Court was always set up so that this opening faced East. The curtains were hung by silver rings supported by acacia boards set in bronze sockets. The Outer Court had two pieces of furniture located in it between the east Outer Court opening and the doorway to the Tabernacle tent.

The Tabernacle: 2 Sections

The Tabernacle was a tent erected inside the Outer Court. The Tabernacle measured about 15 feet (10 cubits) by 45 feet (30 cubits). The Tabernacle was divided into two sections, The Holy Place and The Most Holy Place which is also called the Holy of Holies. The Tabernacle contained furniture made of gold and acacia wood covered with gold. The two areas (Holy Place and Most Holy Place) were separated by a heavy veil wall. The Most Holy Place (Holy of Holies) was where God met with His people 'face to face'.



6. THE TABERNACLE: CONSTRUCTION

God said to Moses, "Make me a **sanctuary**, that I may dwell among them" (Ex 25:8). God gave the blueprint for this 'sanctuary' or 'holy place' to Moses. The sanctuary where God would meet with His people was called The Tabernacle.

God instructed Moses to employ two lead craftsmen to build The Tabernacle. They were to oversee and build all the Furniture, furnishings and priestly garments. The names of these craftsmen were Bezalel (betsal'el, meaning "in the shadow (protection) of 'El (God)"; and Oholiab ('oholi'abh, meaning "father's tent"). The meaning of Bezalel's name is very significant. God was overshadowing and giving Bezalel the gifts and ability to do the work He desired him to do. A piece of furniture called The Mercy Seat would be built to signify being in the presence of God and under the shadow or protection of His wings.

"Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "See, I have called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. **"I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship, to make artistic designs** for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, that he may work in all kinds of craftsmanship. "And behold, I Myself have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and in the hearts of all who are skillful I have put skill, that they may make all that I have commanded you: **the tent of meeting, and the ark of testimony, and the mercy seat upon it, and all the furniture of the tent, the table also and its utensils, and the pure gold lampstand with all its utensils, and the altar of incense, the altar of burnt offering also with all its utensils, and the laver and its stand, the woven garments as well, and the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, with which to carry on their priesthood; the anointing oil also, and the fragrant incense for the holy place,** they are to make them according to all that I have commanded you.""
(Exodus 31:1-11, NASB95)

Bezalel was from the Tribe of Judah and Oholiab was from the Tribe of Dan. "Judah" means "praise" and "Dan" means "God is my judge". God's house (sanctuary) is built with praise according to His will and judgment. Praise is acknowledging and giving credit to someone for their abilities or deeds. The work God was having done in building The Tabernacle was for His praise and glory.

We like to be in charge and the center of our own worlds. We like to do what is right in our own eyes and we would like others to praise us. God's standards and plans are much different than ours. He has made us and not the other way around. God is actually in control of the universe and we need to come into compliance with Him and His way of doing things. His judgment is right, true and holy and is for our best interests whether we agree with His ways or not. The Tabernacle and all that would go on in it was designed by God. It was to make a way for the unholy to meet with the Holy One on His terms.

Today we would call Bezalel and others like him "laymen" or blue collar workers. God highly values people and their work whether in an office building or out on a job site. All our work is sacred or holy if we are a believer in Christ. Bezalel and Oholiab were filled with the Spirit in wisdom, understanding, knowledge and **craftsmanship**. God specifically gifted them for the work they were to accomplish. Likewise, God has gifted us and has strategically placed us in our work for His glory.

"Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, **but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.** With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free. And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him." (Ephesians 6:5-9, NASB95)

God highly valued the workmen that built The Tabernacle. He values the work we do in the workplace and desires for us to reflect His glory to those around us.

Just a quick word:

I believe that there is no distinction between secular and sacred work for the follower of Christ. The believer's vocation is to follow Jesus Christ and minister to build the Body of Christ and expand His Kingdom. As believer's we have many avocations to provide funds for our living, giving and ministries. God wants us to see that He has strategically placed us where He wants us for His purposes and glory. Our occupation is to radiate Christ to others where we are placed whether in the workplace or home.

*The "clergy-lay" split concept is an abomination to the Lord and is the "Nicolaitan" spirit referred to in the Book of Revelation. God has given the Body various offices and leaders to equip the saints for the work of the ministry. Jesus has made every believer a priest in His Kingdom. When we elevate people and make them more important than others because of their "spiritual" positions, we fall away from what Jesus taught on serving others in the Upper Room. The danger to the Church is to follow a person and not God. (See **SIDE TOUR 5: The Church vs. the church**).*

*"And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest. And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.' "But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant. "For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? **But I am among you as the one who serves.**" (Luke 22:24-27, NASB95)*

God desires that His Presence be made known in every place (work place included) and not just in the Church. We are the ministers of the New Covenant. God wants us to bloom where He plants us in and out of church buildings.

*"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us **the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.**" (2 Corinthians 2:14, NASB95)*

We are all bond-servants of God in His Kingdom no matter how many Churches we oversee or how big our ministries become. We have One Head, One Teacher, One Chief Shepherd and One Leader, Jesus Christ. Under-shepherds must follow in Jesus' footsteps in learning and exercising servant leadership.

*"Do not be called leaders; for **One is your Leader, that is, Christ.**" (Matthew 23:10, NASB95)*

A "ministry" can become an idol. We are called to serve and seek God not letting anything come between our face and God's. God and not our ministries should be our focus. God told Ezekiel that the leaders of Israel had set up idols that blocked their faces from God. A ministry can become an idol and

worshipped instead of God. A ministry or position can become a snare in really serving God in spirit and truth.

" Then some elders of Israel came to me and sat down before me. And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Son of man, **these men have set up their idols in their hearts and have put right before their faces the stumbling block of their iniquity.** Should I be consulted by them at all? "Therefore speak to them and tell them, "Thus says the Lord God, "Any man of the house of Israel **who sets up his idols in his heart, puts right before his face the stumbling block of his iniquity,** and then comes to the prophet, I the Lord will be brought to give him an answer in the matter in view of the multitude of his idols, in order to lay hold of the hearts of the house of Israel who are estranged from Me through all their idols." ' "Therefore say to the house of Israel, "Thus says the Lord God, "Repent and turn away from your idols and turn your faces away from all your abominations. "For anyone of the house of Israel or of the immigrants who stay in Israel who separates himself from Me, sets up his idols in his heart, puts right before his face the stumbling block of his iniquity, and then comes to the prophet to inquire of Me for himself, I the Lord will be brought to answer him in My own person. "I will set My face against that man and make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from among My people. So you will know that I am the Lord." (Ezekiel 14:1-8, NASB95)

Idols block our face from God's face. A ministry can become so important to a person that they lose sight of Who they are really serving. We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works. Doing good works and ministry should be a result of seeing God face to face.

May we work as unto Him in all we do and not let anything cloud our view of Him. God intends for every one of His people to be full time ministers of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

7. THE TABERNACLE: SUPPLY OF MATERIALS

The basic construction materials for the Tabernacle were to be provided by God's people. God delivered His people out of slavery in Egypt through Moses by means of many plagues upon the land. Not only did God deliver His people, He gave them favor in the eyes of the Egyptians. The Egyptians were so glad to see the Israelites leave that they gave them many of their possessions and riches at the request of the Israelites.

"Now the sons of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, for they had requested from the Egyptians articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing; and the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have their request. **Thus they plundered the Egyptians.**" (Exodus 12:35-36, NASB95)

God invited His people to participate in His building plan by giving the "plunder" they received from the Egyptians. The invitation was to give these materials freely and willingly to Moses to be used to build The Tabernacle. No one had to give by compulsion but only as their own heart moved them.

" Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Tell the sons of Israel to raise a contribution for Me; **from every man whose heart moves him you shall raise My contribution.** "This is the contribution which you are to raise from them: gold, silver and bronze, blue, purple and scarlet material, fine linen, goat hair, rams' skins dyed red, porpoise skins, acacia wood, oil for lighting, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones and setting stones for the ephod and for the breastpiece. "Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them. "According to all that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall construct it." (Exodus 25:1-9, NASB95)

Please note that the contribution was to be made by those whose hearts moved them. The offering was truly free will and the response by the people was overwhelmingly positive. It turns out that the people gave so willingly and abundantly that the craftsman had to go to Moses and tell the people to STOP giving.

" "Now Bezalel and Oholiab, and every skillful person in whom the Lord has put skill and understanding to know how to perform all the work in the construction of the sanctuary, shall perform in accordance with all that the Lord has commanded." Then Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every skillful person in whom the Lord had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him, to come to the work to perform it. They received from Moses all the contributions which the sons of Israel had brought to perform the work in the construction of the sanctuary. **And they still continued bringing to him freewill offerings every morning. And all the skillful men who were performing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work which he was performing, and they said to Moses, "The people are bringing much more than enough for the construction work which the Lord commanded us to perform."** So Moses issued a command, and a proclamation was circulated throughout the camp, saying, "**Let no man or woman any longer perform work for the contributions of the sanctuary.**" Thus the people were restrained from bringing any more. For the material they had was sufficient and more than enough for all the work, to perform it." (Exodus 36:1-7, NASB95)

Ponder this question: Has there been any church service that you have ever attended that the leaders asked you to stop giving because the congregation had given too much? I haven't either. A couple of problems in the Church today are that people give too little or not at all and then the money is used for the wrong purposes. Teaching people to give so that they can get is not Biblical. When the offering and giving of the Church is used by leaders to live an extravagant lifestyle, this too is an abomination to God. Spiritual leaders are worthy of support yet the love of money is the root of all evils Our hearts must stay pure and right before the Lord in handling it. After all, it's His money.

A New Tabernacle Application

When we are drawn to God by the Holy Spirit, we are invited to give up our old life willingly when we come to Christ. We give all our old "Egypt" life to God so that we can have a new life in Christ. We surrender ourselves (our "temples") to Him freely so that He can construct in us that which is pleasing in His sight. We become His workmanship after we voluntarily surrender to Him.

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10, NASB95)

"According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. **But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.** Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward." (1 Corinthians 3:10-14, NASB95)

Our lives radically change when we come to Christ by faith. The Holy Spirit begins to build Jesus' life and character into our lives. As we cooperate with Him, He begins "construction" in us as His dwelling place, His Tabernacle. We are a spiritual house where God is at work to conform us to Christ.

8. THE TABERNACLE: BILL OF MATERIALS (BOM)

A BOM stands for a Bill of Materials. A BOM is a manufacturing term for a list of raw materials used to build or make a product. The materials used in the construction of The Tabernacle are outlined in Exodus 25.

" Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Tell the sons of Israel to raise a contribution for Me; from every man whose heart moves him you shall raise My contribution. "This is the contribution which you are to raise from them: **gold, silver and bronze, blue, purple and scarlet material, fine linen, goat hair, rams' skins dyed red, porpoise skins, acacia wood, oil for lighting, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones and setting stones for the ephod and for the breastpiece.** "Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them. "According to all that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall construct it." (Exodus 25:1-9, NASB95)

The BOM (Bill of Materials) for The Tabernacle included:

Metals:	Gold Silver Bronze
Cloth:	Blue Purple Scarlet Fine linen
Skins:	Goat Hair Ram's skin dyed red Porpoise skin
Other:	Acacia wood Oil for lighting Spices for the anointing oil and fragrant incense Onyx and setting stones for the ephod and breastpiece

The materials used in The Tabernacle have symbolic significance spiritually. Every item in The Tabernacle was specifically chosen by God and had special significance. Some examples of this symbolism are as follows:

Gold =	PERFECTION or PURE LOVE OF GOD
Silver =	REDEMPTION
Bronze =	MIXED METAL -Jesus as fully God and fully Man
Blue =	LOVE
Purple =	KINGSHIP
Scarlet =	Our SIN and the BLOOD of Christ
Goat Hair =	MANKIND
Ram's skin =	The BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST
Acacia wood =	The CROSS
Oil =	The HOLY SPIRIT

The linen material used in constructing the door of the Outer Court is an example of this spiritual symbolism. The colors of the linen were blue, purple and scarlet. These colors represent the Prophet (Blue), Priest (Scarlet) and King (Purple) offices of Jesus Christ. The door to the Outer Court is through Jesus Christ. Another symbolic example for these colors (red, blue, purple) is when Jesus' Outer Court (His Body) was bruised and beaten when He was flogged and crucified. His Body was made blue and purple as His scarlet blood was shed for our sin. The doorway to the Outer Court and Tabernacle is through the offices and broken body of Jesus Christ.

The posts holding the curtain up in the Outer Court were of special significance. The acacia boards were placed into bronze sockets. The boards had silver caps and silver hooks holding the curtain. Bronze is a mixed metal of copper and tin. Jesus was a mixture of being totally God and totally man. Bronze represents the God-Man coming to and touching earth. The acacia wood represents the Cross. The silver hooks and caps represent redemption. Jesus was betrayed by Judas with 30 pieces of silver. Jesus redeemed (silver) us when He hung on the Cross (acacia wood) as the sinless Man (bronze). He came to die and pay the penalty for our sins. A sky view looking down on the tops of the posts of the Outer Court would show silver caps of the posts. God looks at us through the lens of the redeeming Cross, Jesus' death for us.

All the Outer Court's metal was bronze. The Brazen Altar and the Altar's utensils, The Laver, the sockets for the boards and the tent pegs were all made of bronze in the Outer Court. Jesus came to earth to show us how to live before God. God became a Man in order to show God to man. His "Outer Court" was shown to mankind when He came to earth as God and as Man. Bronze is symbolic in The Tabernacle for this mixture of the God-Man in the Outer Court.

The Furniture and posts in the Inner Court were made of a different metal. Everything in The Tabernacle's Inner Court was made of gold or wood covered by gold. Jesus came and stood on the earth as God and Man (bronze) and He brought the love and perfection of God from His "Inner Court" (gold) to those who are separated from Him. Jesus is the manifestation of God's pure love for mankind.

The BOM for The Tabernacle is symbolically significant of the person and work of Jesus Christ. The point of seeing the symbolic significance in The Tabernacle is to understand that the whole Bible speaks of Jesus. All Scripture speaks of Him:

*"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that **testify about Me;**" (John 5:39, NASB95)*

There is a difference between "spiritualizing" the Bible and seeing the spiritual significance of a Bible passage. Spiritualizing a text stretches the intended truth of the passage and goes beyond the meaning or intent of the verse. The Bill of Materials used in The Tabernacle was specifically chosen by God and has spiritual significance. He did not pick these things at random. Everything that God does and chooses has a purpose. The Bible should be used to interpret the Bible. The spiritual significance of the BOM can be demonstrated by other passages that give the meaning or clarity to the item. The goal is to see how that item testifies to the work or person of Jesus Christ.

9. THE TABERNACLE: FURNITURE

The seven pieces of Furniture in The Tabernacle are:

1.) **The Brazen Altar:**

Material: Made of bronze.

Purpose: The sacrifices were burnt on the Brazen Altar. The animals offered to God were bled and burned at The Altar.

Location: Located just inside the East opening the Outer Court.

2.) **The Laver:**

Material: Made of bronze

Purpose: Various washings were conducted at the Laver. The priests were to wash before entering the Holy Place.

Location: Located between the Brazen Altar and outside the door of The Tabernacle tent of meeting.

3.) **The Lampstand:**

Material: Made of pure gold.

Purpose: Provided light in The Tabernacle.

Location: Located inside the Holy Place of The Tabernacle on the left side.

4.) **The Table of Showbread:**

Material: Made of acacia wood and covered with gold.

Purpose: 12 pieces of bread were placed on the table with other utensils.

Location: Located on the right inside the Holy Place of The Tabernacle.

5.) **The Altar of Incense:**

Material: Made of gold.

Purpose: Scented incense was offered up on this Altar.

Location: Located in the Holy place before the Veil.

6.) **The Ark of the Covenant:**

Material: Made of acacia wood covered with gold.

Purpose: Contained a gold jar with manna in it; Aaron's Rod; and, the Tablets of Stone

Location: Located inside the Most Holy Place.

7.) **The Mercy Seat:**

Material: Made of pure gold.

Purpose: Two cherubim set facing each other made of pure gold under golden wings. Represents the throne or dwelling place of God.

Location: Located on top of the Ark of the Covenant.

The Veil:

The two sections of The Old Tabernacle (Holy Place and Most Holy Place) and subsequent Temples were divided by a Veil. The Veil was made of blue, purple and crimson linen, goats hair and porpoise skins dyed red. The Veil separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place in The Tabernacle.

The New Tabernacle does not have a Veil. The Veil in the Temple in Jerusalem was torn from top to bottom when Jesus died on the Cross. God made the way open to His Presence and see His face by tearing the Veil. There was and is nothing man can do to get to God. God Himself opened the way for mankind to come to know Him. Jesus' body was the 'veil' that was 'torn' for us to come into God's Presence.

Another veil still covers the minds of those who do not know God. This 'veil' is what covers the minds of the Nation of Israel today and why Jesus has not been received as the Messiah. Anyone that turns to the Lord will have this veil taken away so that they can know Him.

"But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; but whenever **a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.**" (2 Corinthians 3:15-16, NASB95)

When a person receives Jesus as their Savior, the veil that covered their heart is removed. Until then, a person is held captive by Satan to do his will.

"The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, **if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.**" (2 Timothy 2:24-26, NASB95)

" And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, **according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest." (Ephesians 2:1-3, NASB95)

10. THE TABERNACLE: OLD and NEW

God gave The Old Tabernacle's design to Moses on Mt. Sinai. The Old Tabernacle is the prototype pattern for the New Tabernacle. There are two New Tabernacles in the New Testament. One is the believer's body as the tabernacle or temple of the Holy Spirit and the other is the corporate tabernacle or temple of the Body of Christ, the Church.

The Old Tabernacle represents the Old Covenant given to Moses on Mt. Sinai. Moses was allowed to come into God's Presence based on the Old Testament Law. The Law of God outlined all the instructions and protocol for how a person should live and approach God. God commanded that only a particular tribe could enter The Tabernacle and only at appointed times. Moses' brother Aaron and his children from the Tribe of Levi were appointed priests unto God. The Levitical priests were the liaison between God and the people of Israel.

When a person becomes a new creature in Christ through salvation, they become a priest in God's Kingdom. The New Testament changed the way God would be approached. Still, only priests can enter the new Tabernacle. In Christ, we have become royal priests in His Kingdom. We begin a new occupation as a priest when we come to Christ. God may have us involved with other work as an avocation, but our real life's pursuit is to follow Jesus as His priests.

"But you are a chosen race, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." (1 Peter 2:9-10, NASB95)

The New Tabernacle is the fulfillment of the shadow and pattern of the Old. Our bodies are the temple (or tabernacle) of God and the Church. The Body of Christ is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Our new instructions for approaching God are based on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is our protocol for approaching God. We are now a royal priesthood by faith in Christ and minister in the New Tabernacle of our hearts.

God's Presence guided the Israelites through the wilderness for 40 years by a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire by night under Moses' leadership. Today, God dwells in and guides us by faith in Him. The cloud and fire of His Presence dwells in the New Tabernacle (i.e. the body) of a believer. The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin. He leads us to the Cross for redemption and our sin nature and sins are forgiven based on the sacrifice of our High Priest, Jesus Christ. Jesus came to bridge the gap between God and mankind. Our High Priest paved the way for us to be in the Presence of God. Jesus resides in the New Tabernacle and He is the New Covenant protocol for our relationship with God.

Our Outer Court is our physical body. The Inner Court had two sections which were the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. Our Soul corresponds to the Holy Place of the Old Tabernacle and our Spirit corresponds to the Tabernacle's Most Holy Place.

In Christ we have three parts. We have a body, a soul and a spirit made alive in Christ. The Bible describes our three part make-up (i.e. spirit, soul and body):

"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of **soul and spirit**, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." (Hebrews 4:12-13, NASB95)

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your **spirit and soul and body** be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 5:23, NASB95)

Our soul is made up of our mind, will and emotions. Our spirit is the seat of our heart and is where God dwells in the life of a believer. The Bible says we are to love God with our whole heart (spirit), soul (soul) and might or strength (body).

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart and with all your soul and with all your might.**" (Deuteronomy 6:5, NASB95)

BODY: The New Tabernacle's Outer Court

The Holy Spirit fills our bodies and resides in us to work on conforming us to Christ. The Holy Spirit works with the activities we do in the flesh. We have the ability to follow our natural desires or choose to follow God and His will. If we walk in the flesh we do not fulfill the desires of the Spirit; conversely, if we walk in the Spirit we will not fulfill the desires of the flesh. The will of Holy Spirit and our fleshly appetites are in contrast and opposition to each other.

"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the **flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh**; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please." (Galatians 5:16-17, NASB95)

Our natural activities are driven and controlled by our flesh. The Holy Spirit works in us to put to death these natural fleshly activities so that we can walk according to the will of the One who made us. As we understand that we are crucified with Christ by faith, God uses the Cross as the instrument to put our natural desires and activities to death. We are justified before God by the work of Jesus on the Cross. The Holy Spirit begins to work in us to form the life of Christ in us after we are saved. God's goal is for us to live a Godly life in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit through our God given bodies.

"Now the **deeds of the flesh are evident**, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." (Galatians 5:19-21, NASB95)

The Holy Spirit has come to lead us into all truth. He shows us the truth about ourselves and gives us the opportunity to change. The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin and gives us the way to gain forgiveness by the finished work of Jesus on the Cross. The Cross is the means God designed to forgive our sin.

“But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. “And He, when He comes, **will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin**, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, **He will guide you into all the truth**; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. “**He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you**. “All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.” (John 16:7-15, NASB95)

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things**, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.” (John 14:26, NASB95)

Satan has no interest in the Cross and God’s forgiveness and grace. The enemy of our souls is not interested in us finding relief from the penalty of our sin. He is active in accusing us before God and wants us condemned.

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10, NASB95)

The Holy Spirit equips a believer with gifts, fruit, ministries and manifestations. His desire is to conform us to Christ and to help build and strengthen the Body of Christ. He is at work in us to manifest the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit are expressed to others through our “outer court” or behavior. The Holy Spirit exercises the manifestations and ministries of the Spirit through our outward actions and life to help and build others up spiritually in the Body of Christ.

The Holy Spirit has come to grant gifts, develop fruit, equip for ministry and manifest supernatural effects.

Seven GIFTS

“Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if **prophecy**, according to the proportion of his faith; if **service**, in his serving; or he who **teaches**, in his teaching; or he who **exhorts**, in his exhortation; he who **gives**, with liberality; he who **leads**, with diligence; he who shows **mercy**, with cheerfulness.” (Romans 12:6-8, NASB95)

Nine FRUIT

“But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” (Galatians 5:22-24, NASB95)

Five-fold MINISTRIES

"And He gave some as **apostles**, and some as **prophets**, and some as **evangelists**, and some as **pastors** and **teachers**, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;" (Ephesians 4:11-12, NASB95)

Nine MANIFESTATIONS

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to **each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good**. For to one is given the **word of wisdom** through the Spirit, and to another the **word of knowledge** according to the same Spirit; to another **faith** by the same Spirit, and to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit, and to another the **effecting of miracles**, and to another **prophecy**, and to another the **distinguishing of spirits**, to another **various kinds of tongues**, and to another **the interpretation of tongues**. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills." (1 Corinthians 12:4-11, NASB95)

SOUL: The New Tabernacle's Holy Place

Jesus is the Savior of our souls. Our soul is made up of our mind (thoughts), will (choices) and emotions (feelings).

Our Mind

God desires for us to have our thought life centered on Him. We do not die physically when we are reckoned crucified, dead and buried in Christ, but we are to die to our own thinking and actions. Our mind must be transformed so that we can think and discern and know spiritual things.

" Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **Set your mind on the things above**, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God." (Colossians 3:1-3, NASB95)

"For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, **combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words**. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised." (1 Corinthians 2:11-14, NASB95)

For our minds to be protected, the head (where our mind resides) should be covered with the spiritual armor of salvation. Our thoughts need to be taken captive so that we can focus on Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Savior and protector of our mind. Jesus wants our minds to be placed under His control (Inner Court) rather than being controlled by our own flesh (Outer Court).

"And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Ephesians 6:17, NASB95)

"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,**" (2 Corinthians 10:5, NASB95)

We know what God thinks by His Spirit inspired Word, the Bible. We are to set our minds on the things above, where Christ is seated, by meditating on God's Word. The Hebrew word for meditating comes from the activity that a sheep does in chewing its cud. The sheep eats grass, swallows it and then coughs the casting back up to begin chewing it again. This process breaks down the cellulose of the grass in order for it to be digested. The process of rumination by a sheep is compared to how we are to meditate on God's Word. Meditating on God's Word involves reading, reflecting and praying. Memorizing and even singing God's Word helps us to understand and apply God's Word in our lives. Regularly meditating on God's Word helps us to set our minds on the things of God.

"This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but **you shall meditate on it day and night,** so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success." (Joshua 1:8, NASB95)

Our Will

The soul's choices or the acts of our will need to be brought into conformity to the will of God in Christ. We walk in a manner worthy of the Lord when we look to Him and not to our own desires.

"Your Kingdom come, **Your will be done** on earth as it is in heaven..." (Matthew 6:10, NASB95)

God's will and our will can only become the same as we yield ourselves to Him. Frankly, we like to have our own way and we are naturally self-centered and selfish. Dying to our will and choosing God's way needs supernatural intervention. Jesus showed how a person can deny the self will and choose God's will. When Jesus was faced with dying on the Cross, He said not His will but the Father's will be done. We will either conform to the natural way of the world or we will be transformed by the renewing of our minds and have God's way in us.

" Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, **so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**" (Romans 12:1-2, NASB95)

Our Emotions

The soul is also the seat of our emotions and feelings. Although feelings should not guide our lives, our emotions are a very real part of who we are. Jesus demonstrated love, compassion, joy, sorrow, anger. Our emotions need to come under the control of the Holy Spirit so that we will demonstrate our feelings in a manner that glorifies God. Praise and thanksgiving should be shouted to our living God. We sing with heartfelt emotion in love to our Redeemer. The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Our feelings can be fleeting and deceptive. One minute we feel like we are on top of the world and the next we can be in the depths of despair. God invites us to cast all our cares on Him, because He cares for us. His peace can calm the stormiest emotions.

"casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7, NASB95)

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7, NASB95)

Our soul is the battlefield between Christ and our enemy, Satan. Jesus is the lover of our souls while Satan is the enemy of our souls. Our enemy wants our mind set on the things of this world, our choices to be self centered and our emotions ruling our lives. Satan tries to cause a believer to fail through the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the boastful pride of life. Adam was tempted in these areas in the Garden of Eden and failed. Jesus was tempted by Satan in the desert in these same areas and succeeded. By the power of the Holy Spirit a believer can follow in Jesus' successful footsteps.

SPIRIT: The New Tabernacle's Most Holy Place

God is Spirit and desires to be worshiped in spirit and truth. He desires our hearts to be in love with Him as His children. A believer is adopted by the Father into His family as His child. The difference between a natural child and an adopted child is that the adopted child was specifically chosen by the parent. We have been specially chosen by our Father and become part of His family through the sacrifice of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:24, NASB95)

"So, as those who have been **chosen of God, holy and beloved,** put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;" (Colossians 3:12, NASB95)

"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, **God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"**" (Galatians 4:4-6, NASB95)

Our spiritual heart is the place where God dwells in us. This most holy place is where we are joined with God and commune with Him. Our spirit is joined and communes with God as Spirit in our most holy place, our heart.

Spirit, soul and body are who we are as a complete human being. Our completeness is only found when we are in a right relationship with our Maker. God's will is that we walk united with Him in love for Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. The parallels between God, The Tabernacle and how we are made help us to see how we are a wonderful creation of God.

A Tabernacle Comparison

The following chart shows an interesting relationship between the Old Tabernacle, New Tabernacle, Mankind and the Godhead.

OLD TABERNACLE	NEW	Mankind	Godhead
OUTER COURT	BODY	Physical Body	Holy Spirit
HOLY PLACE	SOUL	Mind, Will, Emotions	Jesus Christ
MOST HOLY PLACE	SPIRIT	Heart	Father

The Old Tabernacle's Outer Court corresponds to the New Tabernacle's Outer Court which is our physical body. The Holy Spirit dwells in our bodies as the sanctuary of God. Our Holy Place, the soul, is the seat of our mind will and emotions. Jesus came to be the Savior of our souls. Finally, we approach God in the Most Holy Place of our lives which is our spirit. God is Spirit and dwells in our spirit.

The Tabernacle is a picture of who we are. As we walk through the Tabernacle we can see a wonderful relationship between God, The Tabernacle and we who are made in His 'image'.