

INTRODUCTION

The most intense form of communication is actually being face to face with another person. Seeing the person allows us to view their countenance and know they are listening to what we are saying. We like to be 'face to face' with each other in almost every area of our lives. We value the benefits of being in the presence of each other. As we are 'face to face' our minds, hearts and lives can be influenced and changed.

Political candidates like to go out and shake hands with people in order to see and be seen by their constituents. The voters, in turn, get to see the politician and make decisions based on what they see and hear in the faces of the candidates. In business a sales person likes to get some "face" time with a company's decision makers to make an appeal for their product or services. A phone call, email or other forms of communications fall short of actually being in the presence of the one that can approve a purchase or deal.

Businesses are run by meetings. People sit and exchange all sorts of ideas, thoughts and emotions while being in the same room 'face to face'. Even in the court system, a person is able to see their accusers 'face to face'. Friends and family stay in touch with one another by various forms of communication like cell phone, email, texting and social network sites, but there is nothing like being 'face to face' with one another.

Family members like to get back into personal contact and see each other after being apart. I traveled to Kenya, Africa and was out of range for my cell phone and internet coverage. It was the longest time I had ever spent without being able to regularly communicate with my wife. When I got back into range, I was relieved to hear her voice. Hearing her voice, though, was nothing like seeing her 'face to face' at the airport.

The advantage of being 'face to face' is that we have the opportunity to communicate far more deeply than in other ways. We get to see the facial expressions, hear the nuances of voice and discern the fine distinctions of the person's intent. Words alone cannot compare to being in the presence of another person...'face to face'.

How much more important is it then to be 'face to face' with our Maker? I don't mean just seeing Him 'face to face' after we die. I am talking about being 'face to face' with the Lord here and now on a daily basis. I am referring to having a relationship with God that is not mere talk, but actual intimacy with our Father in heaven.

Join in on the Tour outlined in this manual and discover how you can begin or enrich your 'face to face' time with God. Your heart can be challenged and changed as you spend time in His Presence...'face to face'.

1. CHURCH WARNING!!!

The Body of Christ is in extreme danger! The danger is not only from an outside enemy (i.e. Satan and the world). The danger is not from some internal lack of strong Biblical teaching or the wrong kind of music in a worship service. The trouble is much deeper and much more serious.

The danger has to do with us...and our condition. The Old Testament Law required a lamb without spot and blemish to be offered as a sacrifice for sin. Jesus was the final Lamb without spot and blemish (i.e. without sin) that was offered for our sin. His death and resurrection are the means for the Bride to become holy. Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, will have a Bride, the Church, without spot and without blemish. In other words, God desires us to have a pure and holy relationship with Him and a life that demonstrates His Godly character in Him.

The Old Testament sacrifice:

"And you shall provide a lamb a year old without blemish for a burnt offering to the Lord daily; morning by morning you shall provide it." (Ezekiel 46:13, NASB95)

Jesus as the Lamb of God:

"how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:14, NASB95)

The New Testament Bride of Christ:

"that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, **having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.**" (Ephesians 5:27, NASB95)

(See **SIDE TOUR 1: Spots and Blemishes**)

The current state of the Bride is in disarray and full of spots and blemishes. She is pulled by political forces from within and persecution from without. Like sheep, She is easily led in the wrong direction.

God's people in the Old Testament were commanded not to offer the wrong kind of incense on the Altar of Incense.

"You shall not offer any strange incense on this altar, or burnt offering or meal offering; and you shall not pour out a drink offering on it. (Leviticus 30:9, NASB95)

Aaron's two sons were anointed priests and decided to offer up sacrifices not prescribed by the Lord. Their foreign or strange fire offerings cost them their lives.

"These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the anointed priests, whom he ordained to serve as priests. But Nadab and Abihu died before the LORD when they offered strange fire before the LORD in the wilderness of Sinai; and they had no children. So Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests in the lifetime of their father Aaron. (Numbers 3:3,4, NASB95)

Today, the Bride has gone after 'strange fire' types of teaching like:

- A self centered 'health and wealth' doctrine;
- The 'Kingdom Now' teaching of trying to bring the Kingdom of God to earth through the political process;
- A 'social gospel' without the Cross or preaching the Cross without love and social involvement
- A "rapture" that pulls all Christians out of the world before the Great Tribulation
- "At will" trips to heaven and spirit travel

Truth taken out of context or embellished is heresy. The truth of Scripture taken out of context or not balanced with other passages can lead to heresy. Throughout history heresy has come in all forms of 'strange fire' types of teachings that are at the expense of preaching and teaching a balanced, whole Biblical Gospel. 'Strange fire' is a heretical teaching that subverts, distorts or perverts solid Biblical doctrine.

The Tabernacle Tour: Face to Face with God is not a plea for the Bride of Christ, the Church, to merely clean up Her outward appearance and performance. The Tabernacle Tour is also not an attempt to embrace some new doctrine or teaching. The cry of The Tabernacle Tour comes from the heart of God. His cry is for the Bride to fall back in love with the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ. The issue addressed in The Tabernacle Tour is one of the heart...God's heart and ours.

...CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE!!!

Today, heart disease is a major killer. People are dying daily from heart problems. Our lives depend on having healthy hearts. The heart is one of the most important organs and influences our entire body.

"The heart is the organ that pumps blood, with its life-giving oxygen and nutrients, to all tissues of the body. If the pumping action of the heart becomes inefficient, vital organs like the brain and kidneys suffer. And if the heart stops working altogether, death occurs within minutes. Life itself is completely dependent on the efficient operation of the heart."

<http://heartdisease.about.com/od/coronaryarterydisease/a/heartdisease.htm>

"Heart failure occurs when the heart is unable to adequately fill with blood, or is unable to adequately pump enough blood to meet the body's needs. Many types of heart conditions can lead to heart failure, including coronary artery disease, heart valve disease, high blood pressure, congenital heart disease, or cardiac viral infections. Patients with heart failure often suffer from shortness of breath, fatigue, and have difficulty exercising. Their life expectancy is often significantly reduced."

<http://heartdisease.about.com/od/coronaryarterydisease/a/heartfailure.htm>

Heart disease and heart failure are evident in the Body of Christ. It is not with the physical heart of believers but with their spiritual heart. A healthy spiritual heart is vital in our relationship with God. Just as our physical heart pumps blood to every area of the body, the Bride's heart must pump the life of God to keep our spiritual life healthy. In Christ, the life is in His Blood. An insufficient supply of His Blood affects every area of our spiritual lives. The Blood of Christ is the only effective agent to cleanse a person from sin. Failing to teach and preach the truth of the Blood opens the door for people to come to a wrong conclusion on how to know and walk with God. A person can go to church and have all the outward signs of being a Christian but fail to truly be forgiven by God's standard. The heart needs to be washed with the Blood of Christ by faith.

The Bride's heart needs to be cleared of every blockage that inhibits the proper flow of the life giving Blood of God. The Church (i.e. true believers in Christ) must be on guard against the many types of spiritual heart conditions that can lead to "heart" failure. The most dangerous heart failure is when our love grows cold towards God.

The Scriptures describe various types of hearts. There is the Anxious Heart; Bitter Heart; Comforted Heart; Divided Heart; Evil Heart, Faithful Heart, Generous Heart, Healed Heart, Idolatrous Heart, Jealous Heart, Kind Heart....all the way through the alphabet to the Zealous Heart. From A-Z hearts are described in the Bible. (See **SIDE TOUR 2: Heart Exam**)

Some hearts are good and some are bad. Some get turned from God and others get turned towards God. A critical question is what kind of heart do we have, and how can we get our heart changed?

God's heart cry is that we would have a heart and passion for Him. God knows that when our heart changes, our life changes. God is calling His Bride to have a Lion's (or Warrior's) Heart in the world, and a Lamb's (Child's) Heart before Him. The Tabernacle Tour: Face to Face with God is a handbook on how to identify, change and maintain a heart for God.

The Bible also describes God's heart for His people. His travail over the nation of Israel while She went after other gods is expressed throughout the Old Testament. God deeply loves us. He loves us so much that He did not spare His own Son to pay for our sin on the Cross. God desires us to be in love with Him and He will even supply the love if we are willing to receive it. God wants to fill the vacuum in our lives with His love. We can't properly love ourselves, others or God without His love. God's desire for us is to put Him first in our lives and love Him.

The Tabernacle Tour: Face to Face with God is the second example in a "series" of apostolic type teachings the Lord is bringing to the Body of Christ. The term "apostolic" is defined here as a teaching that crosses all denominational and church boundaries and is for the entire Body of Christ's edification. Apostolic teachings are necessary for the "Virgin" (true believers in Christ) to keep Her lamp full of oil and attentive to the call and heart of the Bridegroom in these last days. The Bride needs to be ready for Jesus Christ's 2nd Coming. She needs to be "dressed" in the righteousness of Christ and her heart in passionate love with the Groom (Jesus Christ).

The first example in this "series" of teachings is contained in a book by a Christian warrior, Don Bell. His book, Knighthood of Christian Warriors, is a Clarion Call from the Book of Revelation to the Body of Christ and those outside the Body of Christ to wake up from slumber and be ready for the coming spiritual battle. The Church has been lulled to sleep by the "rapture" doctrine and will not be prepared for tribulation battle in Her current state. Those outside the Church must be warned and given opportunity to repent and believe in God. God is calling for people with a Warrior's Heart to engage along with The Lion of Judah against Satan's dark kingdom.

A second teaching is contained herein. The Tabernacle Tour: Face to Face with God is a template or blueprint on how to gain and maintain a Lion's Heart against the enemy while keeping a Lamb's Heart before the Father.

A third teaching follows The Tabernacle Tour: Face to Face with God and is being taught by men like Joe Mwaniki of Nairobi, Kenya. The teaching, Open Heaven, teaches how the Body of Christ can experience an Open Heaven in order to obtain divine health, protection and provision. For God's will to be done and His Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven requires an Open Heaven. Signs and wonders follow an Open Heaven for the purpose of confirming and displaying the Kingdom of Light.

"For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will." (Hebrews 2:2-4, NASB95)

Not everyone in the Body of Christ will hear these cries and not everyone will be made ready. Only five of the ten virgins (50%) in Jesus' parable had enough oil to see them through to the end. The end is near and the Bride is in danger. While it is called "Today" may we hear the Father's heart cry to come and be changed and prepared for the onslaught of battle. Our hearts can only be changed as we come into His Presence and remain 'face to face' with Him.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!

"May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make His **FACE** shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord lift up His **COUNTENANCE** upon you
And give you peace"

(Numbers 6:24-26, NASB95)

This Tour Handbook contains several Side Tours in the **SIDE TOURS** section. The **SIDE TOURS** give added insight into various points of interest in relationship to The Tabernacle Tour and our walk in Christ.

All Bible references are from:

New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update. LaHabra, CA : The Lockman Foundation, 1995

BOLD passages and words in the Biblical texts are added by the author for emphasis purposes only.

2. PHYSICIAN'S WARNING!!

The contents of this Handbook may be hazardous to the spiritual condition of your current heart and lifestyle. When anyone comes 'face to face' with God in His Presence, their heart is changed forever. The Great Physician performs such intricate and thorough surgery on a heart that it will never be the same. Going on this Tour may be hazardous to a cold or lukewarm heart. The Tour is intended to be a great benefit to those who want a heart after God.

WARNING

Just as a physical exam may be suggested to go on a strenuous trip, a spiritual exam is required to go on The Tabernacle Tour. A person can pass this test when they have come to know God through repentance from sin and faith towards God.

"Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?" (2 Corinthians 13:5, NASB95)

God will examine and test our minds and hearts to see if we are in the faith.

"Examine me, O Lord, and try me; Test my mind and my heart." (Psalm 26:2, NASB95)

The Tour of The Tabernacle requires passing the "spiritual exam" and gaining the Doctor's (God's) approval. The Doctor must give His approval before you can enter The Tabernacle and actually become a dwelling place or "tabernacle" of His. "Blood" work is required as part of the testing. The Blood of Christ must have been applied to your heart and life before entry is allowed. If there is a successful completion of this test, a free pass as a gift of grace is granted. As a person accepts the finished work of Christ for their sin; believes in their heart that Jesus was raised from the dead; and, confesses Jesus as Lord passes the test and will be allowed to go on the Tabernacle Tour.

"But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"—that is, the **word of faith which we are preaching**, that if you **confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord**, and believe in **your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved**; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, "**Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed.**" (Romans 10:8-11, NASB95)

You will not be disappointed as you invest your time, energy and heart in seeking God's face. God encourages us to receive His gift of a Tour pass. Not everyone will want to receive Him. Many are called but few are chosen. God's call is for those that are willing to listen and respond to His invitation.

"Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "Today **if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts** as when they provoked Me, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, Where your fathers tried Me by testing Me, And saw My works for forty years. "Therefore I was angry with this generation, And said, 'They always go astray in their heart, And they did not know My ways'; As I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.' "" (Hebrews 3:7-11, NASB95)

3. PERSONAL HEART EXAM

I was born in 1950. I was born again around 1960. I was baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit in 1970. During the last 40 years of wandering with the Lord, I have had great successes and great failures. My personal time with God has been consistent and inconsistent at times over the years. My heart's cry has been to know Him and the power of His resurrection in living a Christian life.

In my younger years several books outside the Bible were instrumental in shaping my heart for God. Norman Grubb's books Reece Howell, The Intercessor and C. T. Studd, Cricketeer and Pioneer; Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor's Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret; and My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers are among them. Others include books on Goforth, Isabel Kuhn and works by A. W. Tozer, Francis Shaeffer, Watchman Nee, Don Richardson and others.

I was introduced to George Muller through reading of him in a couple biographies. Although the biographies told about what George Mueller accomplished in his life, his autobiography made the biggest impact on me, (Autobiography of George Muller by George Muller, 1984 Whitaker House). Muller was known for taking care of orphans. He sought provisions for the orphans by talking only to God. He never made the needs of the ministry known to others so it could be demonstrated that God was able to provide everything by prayer and faith in Him without the help of other people. The credit and the glory were reserved for God alone. George Muller's autobiography explained why and how he had the spiritual strength for what he did.

The passage in George Mueller's autobiography that made the deepest impact on my life regarded how he nourished his own soul in the Lord. For a complete description of how he nourished his soul in the Lord, please see **SIDE TOUR 3: Soul Nourishment First**. His prayer life was directed by the Spirit of God as he walked and prayed through the New Testament.

I have practiced George Muller's suggestion in nourishing my own soul. Walking and allowing God to direct my prayer life, as I pray through the New Testament, has opened heaven to me and is nourishing and transforming my relationship with Jesus Christ.

During the Spring of 2010, I began to contemplate more deeply the current state of the Church and our love for God. I have been disturbed by the lack of real love for God in my own life. The Bible warns believers of our hearts' tendency to grow cold in loving God in the last days (and actually all through Church history). The cares and riches of this life choke the love for God out of our hearts. The present unsettled world's situation is causing people to turn inward and hearts are cooling off.

"Because lawlessness is increased, most people's **love will grow cold.**" (Matthew 24:12, NASB95)

In thinking through the issue of loving God, I was reminded of the following passage in the Book of Revelation to the Church in Ephesus:

"But I have this against you, that you have **left your first love.**" (Revelation 2:4, NASB95)

Paul, the apostle, spent a lot of time with the Church in Ephesus. He left his faithful associate, Timothy, in Ephesus to help teach and equip the Church. The Book of Ephesians shows that they had been taught many important truths including:

Believers are...

- Blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places (Chapter 1)
- Seated with Christ (Chapter 1)
- To walk in a manner worthy of the Lord (Chapter 3)
- To keep correct priorities (Chapter 5)
- To know that marriage is a picture of Christ and the Church (Chapter 5)
- Should stand firm in spiritual warfare (Chapter 6)

Timothy was left in Ephesus to teach against false teaching and reinforce the truths that had been previously communicated to that Church.

“As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith. But the **goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith**. For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion, wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions.” (1 Timothy 1:3-7, NASB95)

Notice that the goal of the instruction to the Church was love. This love was to be from a pure heart, good conscience and a sincere faith. Love is a function of our spirit. A good conscience is in the arena of our soul. Faith is demonstrated through our outward actions in relationship to God and others. The goal is for our hearts to be filled with God’s love and a love for God. The Ephesians had been taught sound Biblical doctrine but by the time the Book of Revelation was written they had left their first love.

“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)

Why were the Ephesians accused of losing their “first love” in the Book of Revelation? How did they lose their “first love”? How can a Church that had been taught powerful truths possibly lose their “first love”? What happened to their faith, hope and, most importantly, their love? In reflecting on what the Spirit was saying to the Church at Ephesus, I considered my own heart and my own love for God. What does it mean to keep your “first love” for God alive and vibrant?

These questions led me to consider what our “first love” is actually. Could our “first love” mean the time we initially meet someone and fall in love? Our concept of love comes in all sorts of shapes and sizes. If our “first love” for God is when we first met Jesus in salvation, we may not be able to remember or identify with it today. The first encounter with Jesus in salvation awakens our hearts to God but is not very deep. When I first met my wife my love for her was immature and needed to grow. We were just discovering what love really involved. I can remember some aspects of our love, but it definitely needed to grow deeper. The same is true of our love for God. I know my love for God has grown and matured over the years. Our “first love” for God must be more than the initial excitement of meeting Jesus for the first time at salvation.

Did God want the Ephesians to go back and act like they did when they were first saved? That initial love would be just beginning and not very deep. God exhorts us not to be children or immature in loving Him but wise and growing. Our “first love” needs to grow in maturity towards God.

“As a result, **we are no longer to be children**, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the

truth in love, **we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.**" (Ephesians 4:14-16, NASB95)

"Brethren, **do not be children in your thinking**; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature." (1 Corinthians 14:20, NASB95)

"When **I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child**; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then **face to face**; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:11-13, NASB95)

"First love" is a call for us to return to God and love Him first. Our love for God must take first place in our hearts. Our hearts get filled with other "loves" that crowd out our love for God. We get preoccupied with the priorities of our own lives and our walk with God takes second place to other things like careers, hobbies and even our families. God wants to be first place in our hearts and lives. "First" really means first. "First" means to put something or someone at the top of the list.

While praying my way through the New Testament, I found the Lord speaking to me about the issue of my own "first love" for God in II Peter 1:

"Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the nowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. **Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.** For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, **you will never stumble**; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you." (2 Peter 1:2-11, NASB95)

This passage lists seven things that a New Testament believer should pursue. The pursuit will result in never stumbling in a walk with God. "Never" is a great word. It means "by no means; on no account; not at all; in no way". In other words, a believer's "first love" for God will never, by no means, on no account, not at all stumble when these seven truths are diligently pursued and applied in love. The seven things in II Peter 1 are based on God's promises and will cause us to stand in the day of trouble; keep us in a right relationship with God; and allow us to be in the center of God's will for our lives. The entrance to the Kingdom of God is abundantly supplied to us. Our love for God will never stumble or grow cold by practicing these qualities by the power of the Holy Spirit. Diligently applying these truths is an exhortation for the entire Body of Christ to keep "first things first".

As I meditated on the truths of II Peter 1, I was reminded by the Lord that we are His temple, the sanctuary or dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. In the past I have failed to see the connection between my body as a temple of God and the other temples described in the Bible. All the temples in the Bible are based on a

particular pattern or blueprint given by God. This original blueprint for all the temples was the meeting place given to Moses on Mt. Sinai. That blueprint meeting place was called The Tabernacle.

The Tabernacle portrays a revelation of Jesus Christ and a picture of the believer as a dwelling place (or tabernacle) of God. All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for the believer because it speaks and points us to Jesus Christ. The Tabernacle illustrates the qualities that need to be applied in the lives of the New Testament believer as the temple of the Holy Spirit.

This Tabernacle Tour is not intended to be a comprehensive study of The Tabernacle. Various points of interest and application will be shared by the Tour Guide to stimulate us to study God's Word further. The primary purpose of The Tabernacle Tour is to help us get our hearts changed and filled with love for God by associating vital truths in II Peter 1 with The Tabernacle. God promises that if these truths are diligently applied in a person's life, they will never stumble in their walk with God. This Handbook is intended to be a "how-to" book to put the truths of The Tabernacle into practical use in our own personal lives. We need to know how we really are the "tabernacle" or dwelling place or temple of the Holy Spirit.

There is no doubt in my mind that God is able to do above and beyond what we ask or think as we read, hear and obey His Word. We will walk and not be weary. We will run and not faint. We will mount up on wings of eagles as we wait upon the Lord and see Jesus and ourselves in The Tabernacle.

"Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings as eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary." (Isaiah 40:31 NASB95)

May the Spirit of God lead each of us into deeper Tabernacle truths. Why? So that each of our hearts can be transformed in our relationship with God. As we apply these truths in our lives, we will be able to love God more and more with pure and upright hearts. Walking into The Tabernacle brings us into the very Presence of God. It is here, in His presence, that we can be 'face to face' with Him.

4. THE HUMAN BLUEPRINT

Made In God's Image

The Bible says human beings are made in God's image.

"Then God said, "Let Us make man in **Our image, according to Our likeness**; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:26-27, NASB95)

Is the 'image' spoken of here a physical likeness to God? In other words, do we look like God? If the "image" of God is a physical resemblance to Him, then we should all look alike. When you look at any two human beings you will see physical differences. The color, size and shape of each of us are different. We come from different nations, tribes and tongues, and we all look different. God has made us wonderfully different. The "image" we are created in is not a physical resemblance to God.

What does it mean, then, to be made in the "image" of God? Since the image of God is not how we look in our outward appearance, we need to look at how we are made on the inside. Our inside is made up of the unseen person of our soul and spirit. The "image" that God is referring to is our complete being as a human. A human being is a marvelous creation of God and reflects Him in our design.

"For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for **I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works**, And my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them." (Psalm 139:13-16, NASB95)

Our bodies are fearfully and wonderfully made. Our soul which is our mind, will and emotions, has also been made wonderfully by God. A complete human being is made up of three parts: spirit, soul and body. Having a body is pretty obvious. When we look into the mirror we see our body. The inner person of our soul and spirit are less obvious and observable but are just as real as our bodies. The Bible is the only instrument that can give real clear insight and discernment into our soul and spirit.

"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)

We are not complete without being made spiritually alive. We are born dead spiritually and incomplete until we get into a right relationship with God. When sin entered the world through Adam, all people were subsequently born spiritually separated or dead to God. We are not spiritually alive until we personally meet the One who has made us and He dwells in our spirit. Until we are 'born again' spiritually, we are incomplete in the most sacred part of our lives which is our spirit. God makes us alive in our spirit when He comes to dwell in us.

"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)

"When you were **dead in your transgressions** and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He **made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,**" (Colossians 2:13, NASB95)

The Godhead

God is three Persons, yet one. The Father is God; the Son, Jesus Christ, is God and the Holy Spirit is God. God is three persons yet only one God. It is hard, no impossible, to get our minds around this truth. Walter Martin in The Kingdom of the Cults says that understanding the nature and composition of God is not "irrational" but "non-rational". In other words, our minds are incapable of understanding God being One but in three Persons.

Jesus Christ makes God understandable. We understand God by looking at Jesus. Jesus came to earth to show us God and make a way for us to have a relationship with Him. Jesus submitted Himself to the Father in His death on the Cross and then He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in those who believe in Him. As God is three in one, we are similarly made three in one. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are God, yet they are One. Just like God is three in one, we are made in His image by being made spirit, soul and body yet we are one person. In this sense we are made in the 'three in one' likeness or image of God.

Please note: We are not complete in God's eyes until we have come into a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ. When sin entered the world through Adam and Eve's failure, every person who has been born since then is incomplete and separated from God. A person is spiritually dead until they are made alive by Jesus Christ. Until that happens in a person's life, they remain incomplete and spiritually dead. The spirit is dead, the soul is held captive by Satan and the body is subject to the destructive forces of the world.

The Scriptures show us how God revealed Himself. He revealed Himself through the person of Jesus Christ. Although fully God, Jesus briefly humbled Himself to become a man to show us who God is and how we can come to know Him:

"Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works." (John 14:10, NASB95)

"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." (Philippians 2:5-8, NASB95)

Studying Jesus gives us insight into the nature of God and our own nature. Jesus is our pattern for living in relationship with God and by Him we understand the nature of our own true 'image'. When we are in a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ, we are made in His likeness and we are made complete in our spirit, soul and body. Although we are made complete in Christ, we have not seen the complete redemption of all things. There is a battle raging between God's design and purposes and sin, the world and the devil. We are a work in progress and we need to be patient with the work God is doing in us and others.

Salvation affects us in different stages. When we are born again by receiving the substitutionary work that Jesus did for us on the Cross, we are made alive in our spirit. In our spirit we are saved (past tense). Our sins are forgiven and we are in a right relationship with God. Our soul (mind, will and emotions) is in the process of being saved (present tense). Our minds need to be continually brought into subjection to God. Our choices need to be led by the Holy Spirit and not our own desires. Our emotions need to be brought into compliance with God and not be the director of our behavior. Our bodies will be saved (future tense). As we walk with the Lord He can demonstrate His supernatural health and healing in our bodies. We will not be

outside the presence of sin until we die or Jesus returns. When we see Him we will be changed in an instant and given new bodies. The result is that we are saved in our spirit; we are being saved in our souls; and, we will be saved in our bodies when we see Jesus.

Temples of the Holy Spirit

The Bible calls the physical body of a believer the “temple” of the Holy Spirit. A Biblical “temple” is a dwelling place, meeting place or sanctuary of God:

"Or do you not know that your body is a **temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God **in your body.**" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20, NASB95)

The Bible also calls the corporate Body of Christ the “temple of the Holy Spirit”. We as individual Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and corporately we make up the Body of Christ which is indwelt and led by the Holy Spirit.

"Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 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 Corinthians 3:16-17, NASB95) (“you”:plural)

There are many “temples” in the Bible. (**SIDE TOUR 4: Biblical Temples**). The template or blueprint for all the temples in Scripture was given to Moses on Mt Sinai after God delivered His people from Egypt. The Tabernacle or Tent of Meeting was specifically designed by God. God gave Moses the blueprint for the Tabernacle and instructed Moses to build it exactly according to His plans. All subsequent “temples” in Scripture are based on the Tabernacle’s blueprint. The Tabernacle was God’s blueprint for meeting and dwelling with His people.

The Old Testament Tabernacle is also the blueprint for a person who has come into a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ. That person becomes a “temple (or tabernacle) of the Holy Spirit”. The Old Testament Tabernacle gives us insight into how we are made as the temple of the Holy Spirit. God reveals insight into who He is and who we are in the design of The Tabernacle.

The Old Testament is a shadow that looked toward the reality we have in Jesus Christ. The shadow gives us revelation into our life in Christ. The Old Testament’s purpose is to point us to the Messiah, Jesus Christ. God laid the foundation for how He would interact with His people in the Old Testament through His Law. The reality of His purposes would be realized in Jesus Christ. The works He did in the Old Testament all point to the One who was to come and bring salvation.

"Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; **who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things**, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, “See,” He says, “that you make all things according to **the pattern** which was shown you on the mountain.”” (Hebrews 8:4-5, NASB95)

Spiritual Dwelling Places

Followers of Christ are being built up as a spiritual dwelling place or ‘tabernacle’ of the Holy Spirit. God is doing a supernatural work in the lives of His people to be a living dwelling place for Himself. The old temples were made with earthly materials where His new temple is made out of people as ‘living stones’.

" And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, **you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**" (1 Peter 2:4-5, NASB95)

The Tabernacle in the Old Testament is the pattern and gives the protocol for approaching God. It gives us instruction on how we can get 'face to face' with God. As we are 'face to face' with God He changes our heart and we fall deeper in love with Him. God's Word wonderfully communicates to us God's protocol for coming into relationship with Him. The Bible is the complete source for our approach to and walk with God.

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NASB95)

God met His people in The Tabernacle. His desire is still to meet with us and talk to us and be our God. He does that in His dwelling place, The Tabernacle.

"The other lamb you shall offer at twilight, and shall offer with it the same grain offering and the same drink offering as in the morning, for a soothing aroma, an offering by fire to the Lord. "It shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the doorway of the tent of meeting before the Lord, **where I will meet with you, to speak to you there.** "I will meet there with the sons of Israel, and it shall be consecrated by My glory. "I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar; I will also consecrate Aaron and his sons to minister as priests to Me. **"I will dwell among the sons of Israel and will be their God.** "They shall know that I am the Lord their God who brought them out of the land of Egypt, that **I might dwell among them; I am the Lord their God.**" (Exodus 29:41-46, NASB95)

In the New Testament a born again believer and follower of Jesus Christ is indwelt by the living God. Jesus said that if we abide in Him, He would abide in us. We become His Tabernacle.

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." (John 15:4-5, NASB95)