

# The Tabernacle Pattern and the Believer as the Temple of the Holy Spirit

*A typological teaching*

Scripture clearly says the believer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, in **1 Corinthians 6 verses 19 to 20**. Scripture also says the people of God together are being built into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit, in **Ephesians 2 verses 21 to 22**. What Scripture does not do is give a direct verse that says, the tabernacle's furniture equals exact body parts. So **the alignment is best understood as a pattern of access, cleansing, consecration, communion, and indwelling presence.**

The tabernacle shows how God brings a person from the outside into deeper fellowship with His presence. Under the New Covenant, that pattern is fulfilled in Christ and worked out in the believer.

## The overall pattern

The tabernacle moved from the Outer Court, to the Holy Place, to the Most Holy Place.

This mirrors the movement from the outward life, to the inward life, to the deepest place of communion with God.

Many teachers summarize it this way:

The Outer Court corresponds to the believer's outward life and visible walk. The Holy Place corresponds to the inner life, often understood as mind, will, and affections (emotions) – the soul.

The Most Holy Place corresponds to the deepest place of communion, where God's presence rules.

This is not meant to divide a person into rigid compartments. It is showing that God wants to govern the whole person, from the outer life to the deepest inner life.

## The Gate, the only way in

The tabernacle had one entrance. This points to access through God's appointed way.

Under the New Covenant, that is fulfilled in Christ. **John 14 verse 6 and John 10 verse 9** show that entry is through Him. No one enters the presence of God by self-effort, self-righteousness, or another altar.

So the pattern begins with this truth: access starts by coming through God's way, not man's way.

## The Outer Court, the outward life brought under God

The Outer Court is where the person first encounters sacrifice and cleansing.

### The Bronze Altar

This is the place of sacrifice. It points to atonement, surrender, and death to the flesh.

For the believer, this aligns with repentance, the cross, and consecration. **Romans 12 verse 1** calls the believer to present the body as a living sacrifice. **Galatians 2 verse 20** shows life through union with Christ's death and resurrection.

This means the body, as the temple of the Holy Spirit, is not for self-rule. It is yielded.

### The Laver

This is the place of washing before ministry.

For the believer, this aligns with cleansing, sanctification, and the washing of the Word. **Ephesians 5 verse 26** and **Hebrews 10 verse 22** point to cleansing and a purified approach before God.

So in the outward life, the believer is called to two things: sacrifice and cleansing. The body is no longer common. It is consecrated.

### The Holy Place, the inner life ordered before God

The Holy Place contained the lampstand, the table of showbread, and the altar of incense. This is where the inner life is sustained and aligned.

#### The Lampstand

The lampstand gave light in the sanctuary.

This aligns with the illumination of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit enlightens understanding, reveals truth, and keeps the inner life from darkness. **1 Corinthians 2 verses 12 to 14** and **John 16 verse 13** show the Spirit guiding into truth.

So the believer's inner life must be lit by God, not by mere intellect.

#### The Table of Showbread

This speaks of covenant fellowship and provision before the Lord.

For the believer, this aligns with spiritual nourishment, abiding in the Word, and communion with God. **Matthew 4 verse 4** shows that man lives by every word from God. **John 6 verse 35** reveals Christ as the true bread.

So the inner life is not sustained by emotion alone. It is fed by divine provision.

#### The Altar of Incense

This represents prayer, worship, and intercession rising before God. **Psalms 141 verse 2** and **Revelation 8 verses 3 to 4** connect incense with prayer.

For the believer, this aligns with a life of worship, prayer, and continual fellowship. The inward life of the temple is meant to be fragrant, not silent.

So the Holy Place shows an inner life that is illuminated, fed, and prayerful.

### The Veil, the barrier removed

The veil separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.

Under the Old Covenant, this showed restricted access. Under the New Covenant, Christ opened the way. **Hebrews 10 verses 19 to 20** says the way into the Holiest was opened through His flesh.

This is a major shift.

Under the New Covenant, the believer is not kept at a distance from God's presence. Through Christ, access is opened. The presence of God is no longer behind a barrier for the redeemed.

## **The Most Holy Place, the deepest place of communion and indwelling**

The Most Holy Place contained the Ark of the Covenant, the place associated with God's manifested presence.

This aligns with the deepest reality of the believer's life: God dwelling within by His Spirit. This is why **1 Corinthians 6 verse 19** is so powerful. The believer is not merely standing near holy things. The believer has become a dwelling place.

### **The Ark of the Covenant**

The ark represented the throne reality of God among His people.

Typologically, this points to the place where God's rule is established within. Under the New Covenant, God writes His law on the heart, as seen in **Jeremiah 31 verse 33** and **Hebrews 8 verse 10**.

So the deepest part of the believer's life is meant to be governed by God's presence, God's word, and God's mercy.

### **The Mercy Seat**

The mercy seat was the place of blood-sprinkled atonement and divine meeting.

For the believer, this aligns with access to grace through the finished work of Christ. **Hebrews 4 verse 16** and **Hebrews 9 verses 11 to 14** show that access to God is now through a better sacrifice.

So the deepest place is not ruled by condemnation for those in Christ. It is ruled by mercy, covenant, and presence.

## **What this means for the body as temple**

The body as temple means the believer is not meant to live like the Outer Court is enough. God is not after mere outward religion. He is after a fully consecrated life where:

The body is surrendered, the life is cleansed, the mind is illuminated, the heart is fed by His Word, prayer is active, the veil is no longer treated as if it still stands, and the deepest place belongs to God.

In simple terms, the tabernacle layout teaches that God wants every layer of life aligned to His presence.

## **The strongest alignment**

If this is stated in one sentence, it would be this:

The tabernacle pattern shows the believer's journey from sacrifice and cleansing, to illumination and communion, to indwelling presence and covenant rule, and that is how the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit should be understood.

## **One important correction**

Under the New Covenant, the goal is not to keep living as though God is far away in the Most Holy Place while the believer remains outside. Because of Christ, the veil has been torn. **Matthew 27 verse 51** and **Hebrews 10 verses 19 to 22** make that clear.

So the believer does not merely approach the presence. The believer carries the presence.

**That is why other altars are so serious. If the body is God's temple, then every rival trust, every hidden idol, and every competing refuge is an attempt to host another altar in a place that belongs to God alone.**