

INTRODUCTION

*“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit...”
(1 Corinthians 14:1, NIV, emphasis added)*

- God has called us to eagerly desire (from the Greek word *zēloō*, meaning to pursue with zeal) the spiritual gifts He gives, but this call is in the context of walking in His love (*agape*) as defined in 1 Corinthians 13.
- God wants us to be informed and understand the gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:1). Learn more from previous sessions’ notes which are available at evidentlife.org/eagerlydesire

God, who is the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:17), is calling us to draw near to Him (Jam. 4:8), and to enter into His holy presence through Christ Jesus with thanksgiving and praise (Ps. 100; 118:19-23). He has given us the pattern of the Tabernacle to better understand our identity in Him (1 Pet. 2:4-5), and what it looks like to draw near to Him in this New Covenant in Christ Jesus (Heb. 8:5-6, Ex. 25:9).

I. ENTERING THE OUTER COURT – JUDGEMENT OF SIN

- A. After entering through the elaborately decorated single Gate on the East of the Tabernacle, one would find themselves in the Outer Court, surrounded by a wall of fine linen curtains all around which were attached to bronze pillars by silver hooks. Almost everything else in the Outer Court was made of or overlaid with bronze (Ex. 26:11, 37; 27:1-19; 30:17-18).**
- B. Bronze is biblically symbolic of judgement. We see this in the bronze serpent when Israel complained against God and Moses in the wilderness (Num. 21:4-9), Samson being carried away by the Philistines in bronze shackles (Jud. 16:20-22), Goliath confronting Saul’s army decked in bronze armor and weaponry (1 Sam. 17:4-6), and various other examples throughout the Scriptures pertaining to judgement of sin, disobedience, and rebellion towards God (Job 20:23-24; Jer. 6:28; Micah 4:11-13; Rev. 2:18-23).**

¹⁸ And if in spite of this you will not listen to me, then I will discipline you again sevenfold for your sins, ¹⁹ and I will break the pride of your power, and I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. (Leviticus 26:18-19, emphasis added)

¹⁵ “But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you...And the heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth under you shall be iron. (Deuteronomy. 28:15, 23, emphasis added)

- C. Sin is no joke to God. He is a righteous judge who will not just “wink” at sin but will execute righteous judgement.**

II. THE BRONZE ALTAR AND OFFERINGS

A. The first thing you would come to upon entering the Outer Court was the Bronze Altar where sacrifices were made before the LORD. Various types of sacrifices were given upon this altar of either an animal or grain (Leviticus 1-7). Only the best was to be given.

- i. Burnt offerings** – An offering of a male livestock (bull, sheep, goat, turtledove, or pigeon) given for atonement for the person bringing it. Its blood would be poured out and the entire animal burned as an offering on the altar. (Lev. 1)
- ii. Grain offerings** – An offering of unleavened grain brought with oil, frankincense, and always seasoned with salt. A memorial portion was burned on the altar with the frankincense before the LORD, but the remainder was given the priests as their food portion that they must eat in a holy place. (Lev. 2)
- iii. Peace offerings** – An offering of a male or female of livestock. The blood was poured out, and the fat and other parts of the animal were burned on the altar. The rest was eaten by the worshipper if they were clean on the same day it was offered (or the first and next day for some specific offerings). Anything left over was burned.
- iv. Sin/Guilt offerings** – An offering of livestock given for either corporate or individual sin committed unintentionally, but then realized. Animal offered depends on whether it is for corporate or individual offering, or for a priest, leader, or common person. Blood was put on the horns of the altar or thrown on the sides of the altar, and fat offered like that of the peace offerings. The rest of the animal was taken outside of the camp and burned. Individuals realizing their guilt would need to confess their sin and bring the best offering they were able to, and then would be forgiven after the priest had made atonement with the sacrifice. Restitution was to be given to any neighbor who was wronged. (Lev. 4-6)

B. There can be no forgiveness without sacrifice for sin (Heb. 9:22). The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23), and blood is required to atone for sin. There can also be no forgiveness without repentance. Worshippers had to acknowledge their sin and repent in order to receive the atonement and forgiveness. God has given us his Son, the Lamb of God as an offering for our sin once and for all, that those who repent and receive His sacrifice can be forgiven and made clean (free from the chains of sin) in an eternal New Covenant!

¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (Heb. 9:13-14, emphasis added)

⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:7-9, emphasis added)

III. REPENTANCE AND THE SACRIFICE OF TRUE WORSHIP

- A. In Christ, we are in a New Covenant with God. He isn't looking for outward religious works from us; the blood of animals or any other outward thing we could give him to try and make up for our sin. God is looking for a truly repentant heart that will receive His sacrifice and walk in righteousness through right relationship with Him.

¹⁶ For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (Psalm 51:16-17, emphasis added)

For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. (Hosea 6:6, emphasis added)

- B. Our sin has been paid for and there is no longer any sacrifice to be given for sin, but are called to repent and receive freedom to bring our life in worship and sacrifice to God.

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2, emphasis added)

¹⁹ The woman said to him...²⁰ "Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship."²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:19-24, emphasis added)

- C. In the beginning of 2013, Pastor Eric shared a prophetic word from the Lord for Evident Life Church during the service. This word lines up with the Scriptures, and the model of the Tabernacle that we're diving into in this study.

*"I sense God wanting to release a grace for higher praise that will break chains and bring a spirit of freedom over this church to a degree that we have not yet experienced. This freedom will, in turn, open up the door for deeper worship and intimacy with the Lord. It will also release a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the spiritual gifts He offers the Church"
- Pastor Eric Jones, January 2013*

