

## The Tabernacle and Prayer


When God gave Moses the instructions for the Tabernacle, they were precise. Every detail: every measurement, material, and design, was given according to a divine pattern. Nothing was left to human interpretation. The Tabernacle was not just a structure; it was a blueprint of God's dwelling among His people.

*“And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.” – Exodus 25:40*

But the Tabernacle was not built by human wisdom alone. God filled a man named Bezalel with His Spirit, equipping him with the wisdom, understanding, and skill to bring God's pattern into reality.

*“See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship...” – Exodus 31:2-5*

This same Spirit that empowered Bezalel to build the dwelling place of God has now been given to us through Christ. Just as the Spirit translated the heavenly blueprint into an earthly reality, we are now called to bring forth God's purposes in our lives.

On the day of Pentecost, the very same exact calendar day  that marked the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai, the Spirit of God was poured out upon the first followers of Christ. No longer was His dwelling limited to a physical structure; He made His home within His people.

*“I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes...” – Ezekiel 36:27*

The Hebrew word for statutes (חֻקִּים – *chuqqot*) does not just refer to laws; it also speaks of appointed times, decrees, and divine measurements. Just as the Tabernacle had exact specifications, so too does God have a detailed and perfect plan for each of our lives. Every moment, every step, every purpose is designed by Him. We are not aimless; we are His workmanship, created for a destiny already prepared in Christ.

*“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” – Ephesians 2:10*

Though we often call it the Tabernacle, in Hebrew the root word is shakan (שָׁכַן), meaning to  *dwell* . The Tabernacle was more than a structure; it was the place where God chose to dwell among His people. It was the Tent of Meeting; the place where man encountered God.

*“And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. ... So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.” – Exodus 33:9-11*

The connection between the Tabernacle and prayer is undeniable. The Tabernacle was the center of Israel’s worship, a place where sacrifices and intercessions were made before the Lord. Prayer, then, is not just an action; it is a *dwelling* in God’s presence. It is where heaven and earth meet, where God speaks and man listens.

Prayer is not just about speaking words and then leaving. It is about abiding. It is about remaining in His presence, living in constant communion with Him.

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

This is what it means to abide in Him. The word *shakan* also carries meanings of remaining, continuing, and inhabiting. We are not called to visit God’s presence; we are called to  *dwell* in it. Just as the Tabernacle was God’s home among Israel, so now He calls us to make Him our dwelling place.

*“I will abide in Your tabernacle forever; I will trust in the shelter of Your wings.” – Psalm 61:4*

*“You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” – Psalm 16:11*

The earthly Tabernacle was only a shadow of something greater. When Jesus came, He fulfilled everything, He is the True Tabernacle.

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt (shakan) among us...” – John 1:14*

Jesus Himself became the place where God and man met. He was the dwelling of God on earth, and through Him, we now have full access to the Father.

**We Are Now His Dwelling Place.**

*“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells (shakan) in you?” – 1 Corinthians 3:16*

No longer does God dwell in tents or temples. We are His living Tabernacle, His house of prayer, His place of abiding.

**We Are Called to Walk in His Pattern.**

Just as Moses followed the heavenly blueprint, we too are called to walk in the pattern God has set for us. The Spirit empowers us to fulfill His will; not by our own strength, but by His wisdom and guidance.

*“Now may the God of peace... make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” – Hebrews 13:20-21*