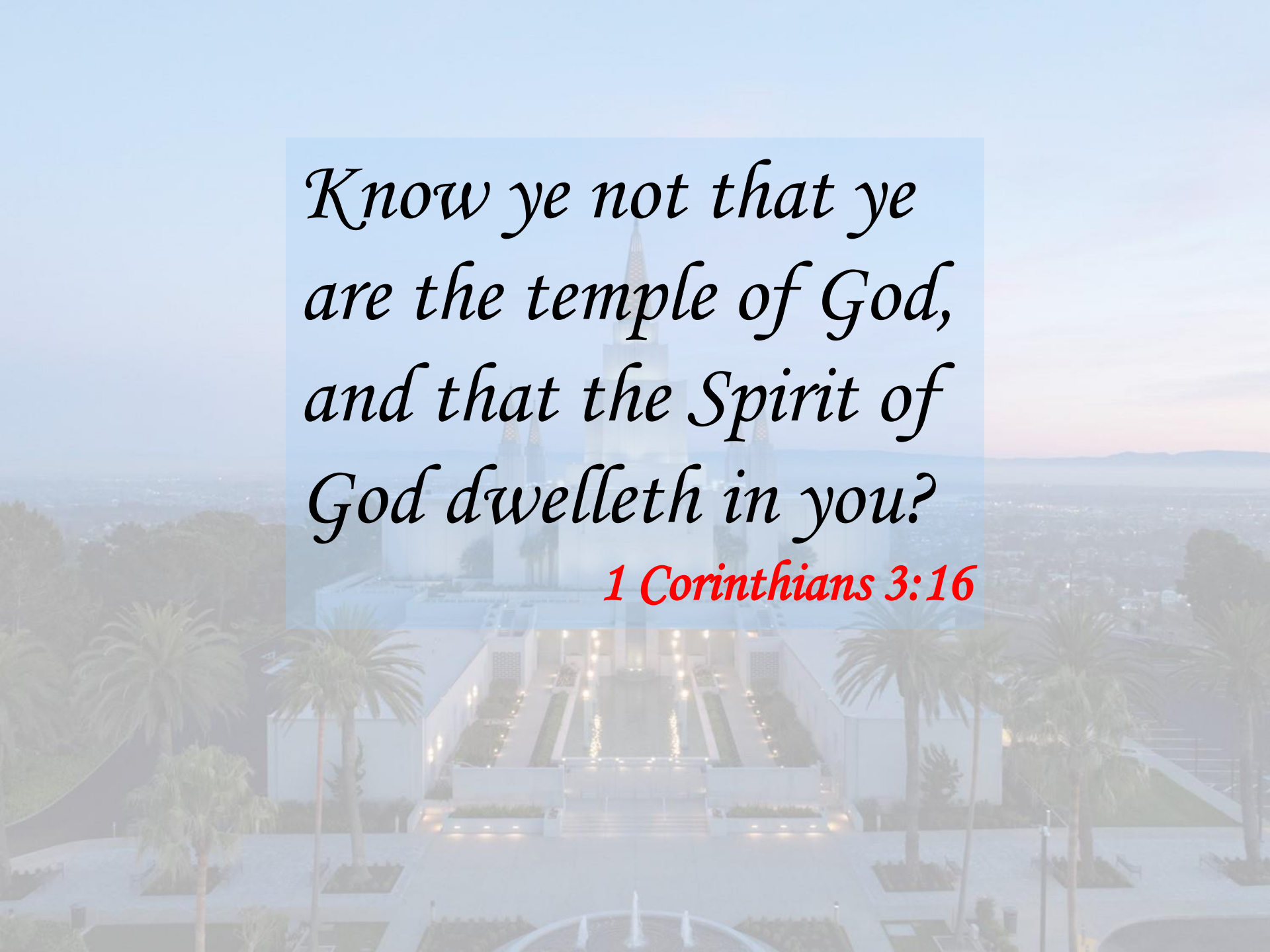


Becoming Holy Temples to God



The background of the slide features a night-time photograph of a large, modern temple building with a prominent central spire. The temple is illuminated with warm lights, and its reflection is visible in a pool of water in the foreground. Several palm trees are scattered around the temple grounds. In the distance, a city skyline is visible under a twilight sky with soft orange and blue hues.

*Know ye not that ye
are the temple of God,
and that the Spirit of
God dwelleth in you?*

1 Corinthians 3:16

Many eminent and faithful students of the revealed latter-day gospel ... have come to the conclusion that the essence of man, his very self, his ego, reaches back into the "beginning" of things, into the dim eternities beyond the comprehension of mortal man. In short ... man is an eternal entity in the past, as in the future.

John A. Widtsoe, Improvement Era, August 1948, 8:482-83

... there is something called intelligence which has always existed. It is the real eternal part of man, which was not created or made. This intelligence combined with the spirit constitutes a spiritual identity or individual. The spirit of man, then, is the combination of the intelligence and the spirit which is an entity begotten of God.

Joseph Fielding Smith, Progress of Man, 11

Intelligence

D&C 93: 29-30



Of one thing we can be sure - our great Celestial parents brought forth our pre-existent spirits, combining intelligence and spirit matter in such a way as to produce the “intelligences” spoken of by Father Abraham.

Sydney B. Sperry, D&C Compendium, 476-477

“Through that birth process, self-existing intelligence was organized into individual spirit beings”

Marion G. Romney, Ensign, Nov. 1978, 4



Intelligence

Spirit Body

Abraham 3:22-23

We came to this earth that we might have a body and present it pure before God in the celestial kingdom. The great principle of happiness consists in having a body. The devil has not a body and this is his punishment.... All beings who have bodies have power over those who have not. The devil has no power over us only as we permit him. The moment we revolt at anything which comes from God, the devil takes power.

Joseph Smith, Jr., TPJS, p 81

Physical Body

Intelligence

Spirit Body

D&C 93:33-35

The spirit that the Lord puts into a tabernacle of flesh is under the dictation of the Lord Almighty; but the spirit and the body are united in order that the spirit may have a tabernacle, and be exalted; the spirit is influenced by the body, and the body by the spirit. In the first place the spirit is pure, and under the special control and influence of the Lord, but the body is of the earth, and is subject to the power of the Devil, and is under the mighty influence of that fallen nature that is of the earth. If the spirit yields to the body, the Devil then has power to overcome the body and spirit of that man, and he loses both.

Discourses of Brigham Young, p. 69-70

... there is a constant warfare between them (body & spirit), still they must remain together, or neither of them will be saved and exalted with the salvation and the exaltation which the Gospel offers.

Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, p. 288

[The statement from Brigham Young] “does not assert that the physical body is inherently evil. Rather, we live in a fallen world. The very elements out of which our bodies were created are by nature fallen and ever subject to the pull of sin, corruption, and death. Thus the Fall of Adam and its consequences effect us most directly through our physical bodies. And yet ... we are dual creatures... we also have a spirit that represents the eternal part of us; we are spirit sons and daughters of God and have inherited divine qualities from Him. The precise nature of the test of mortality, then, can be summarized in the following questions: Will my body rule over my spirit, or will my spirit rule over my body... We are here on the earth to develop godlike qualities and to learn to bridle all of the passions of the flesh.”

David A. Bednar, *Ensign*, September 2001, 14-16

The Purpose of Mortality

- *Gain experiences with a body that we could not achieve as spirits alone*
- *Receive creative powers and be tested as to whether additional creative power will be ours in the life to come*
- *Essential part of the test of mortality is to receive and properly using a physical body*

*David A. Bednar, "Ye are the Temple of God,"
Ensign, September 2001, 14-16*

How We Treat our Temples

- *What we take into* our temples
- *What we put on* our temples
- *What we do to* our temples
- *What we do with* our temples

David A. Bednar, Ensign, September 2001

Defiling the Holy Temple

1 Corinthians 3:17

Romans 3:12, 23

D&C 93:35

Galatians 6:7-8

...I could show you upon scientific principles that man himself is a self-registering machine, his eyes, his ears, his nose, the touch, the taste, and all the various senses of the body, are so many media whereby man lays up for himself a record which perhaps nobody else is acquainted with but himself;...

John Taylor, *Journal of Discourses*, Volume 26, p.31

We are spinning our own fates good or evil, and never to be undone. Every smallest stroke of virtue or of vice leaves its ever so little scar. The drunken Rip Van Winkle, in Jefferson's play, excuses himself for every fresh dereliction by saying, "I won't count this time." Well! He may not count it, and a kind Heaven may not count it; but it is being counted none the less. Down among his nerve-cells and fibers the molecules are counting it, registering and storing it up to be used against him when the next temptation comes. Nothing we ever do is, in strict scientific literalness, wiped out.

David O. McKay , Conference Report, April 1950, 33-34

Revelation 20:12

In a real though figurative sense, the book of life is the record of the acts of men as such records is written in their own bodies. It is the record engraven on the very bones, sinews, and flesh of the mortal body. That is, every thought, word and deed has an affect on the human body; all these leave their marks, marks which can be read by Him who is Eternal as easily as the words in a book can be read.

Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, 97

A Better Tabernacle

Hebrews 8:1-13

Hebrews 9:1-15

Hebrews 10:14-22



The presence of
God

Angelic
guardians

Prayer


Live by light of
Spirit and flesh
and blood of
Christ

(EXODUS 25:31-37)

Holy of Holies



Veil

 altar of
incense



sacred
lampstand

table
of
shew-
bread



Holy Place

(EXODUS 26:33-34)

CELESTIAL

(EXODUS 25:10-22)

(EXODUS 26:31-33)

(EXODUS 30:1-6)

TERRESTRIAL

(EXODUS 25:23-30)

(EXODUS 26:33)

Baptism and
remission of sins



laver

(EXODUS 30:18)

Obedience and
sacrifice



altar of
sacrifice

(EXODUS 27:1-8)

TELESTIAL

Outer Courtyard

(EXODUS 27:9)

Becoming a Holy Temple

2 Corinthians 5:1-5



An intelligent being, in the image of God, possesses every organ, attribute, sense, sympathy, affection that is possessed by God Himself. But these are possessed by man, in his rudimental state, in a subordinate sense of the word. Or, in other words, these attributes are in embryo; and are to be gradually developed. The gift of the Holy Ghost adapts itself to all these organs or attributes. It quickens all the intellectual facilities, increases, enlarges, expands and purifies all the natural passions and affections; and adapts them, by the gift of wisdom, to their lawful use. It inspires, develops, cultivates and matures all the fine-toned sympathies, joys, tastes, kindred feelings and affections of our nature. It inspires virtue, kindness, goodness, tenderness, gentleness and charity. Such is the gift of the Holy Ghost, and such are its operations, when received through the lawful channel—the divine, eternal priesthood.

Parley P. Pratt, *Key to the Science of Theology*, p.100 –102

The Savior asks for our repentance not merely to compensate him for paying our debt to justice, but also as a way of inducing us to undergo the process of development that will make our nature divine, giving us the capacity to live the celestial law. The “natural man” will remain an enemy to God forever—even after paying for his own sins—unless he also “becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a child.” (Mosiah 3:19) ... the Atonement does more than pay for our sins. It is also the agent through which we develop a saintly nature.

Bruce C. Hafen, *The Broken Heart*, p.8

Mosiah 5:2

You can change human nature. No man who has felt in him the Spirit of Christ even for half a minute can deny this truth, the one great truth in a world of little lies. You do change human nature, your own human nature, if you surrender it to Christ. Human nature can be changed here and now. Human nature has been changed in the past. Human nature must be changed on an enormous scale in the future, unless the world is to be drowned in its own blood. Any only Christ can change it.

Mosaiah 27:25-26

The Lord works from the inside out. The world works from the outside in. The world would take people out of the slums. Christ takes the slums out of people, and then they take themselves out of the slums. The world would mold men by changing their environment. The world would shape human behavior, but Christ can change human nature.

Ezra Taft Benson, Conference Report, October 1985,

Becoming a Holy Temple

3 Nephi 18:7
2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Jacob 4:11



Reconciled

The veil is parted allowing me in;
The light of God shows what is within.

This hallowed room within my soul,
Where Godliness dwells and I am whole.

From the world's call I am free
And I see the me I want to be.

On holy ground I ponder long
The path to which I truly belong.

Am I to be a celestial soul?
Or merely dream of a Godly goal?

Then He appears and I can see
To be like Him is what I should be.

But I see reflected in His eyes
What my soul cannot disguise.

The things I've done that marred my soul
I'm less than godly, incomplete- not whole.

There comes an ache into my heart –
He knows, he sees my ugly, part.

I begin to turn my face away-
What can I do, what can I say?

I've tried so hard throughout my life
To follow Him through sin and strife

With head bowed low I humbly plea,
“Please dear Lord, have mercy on me!”

Then I feel his love; I see His face
I feel His arms in warm embrace.

Healing light fills my soul
And once again I'm Godly- I am whole.

The Godly child that lies within
Is now pure and free from sin.

Reconciled to God above
By atoning power and the Savior's love

Receiving the Divine Nature

2 Peter 1:2-4
Philippians 3:8-14, 21



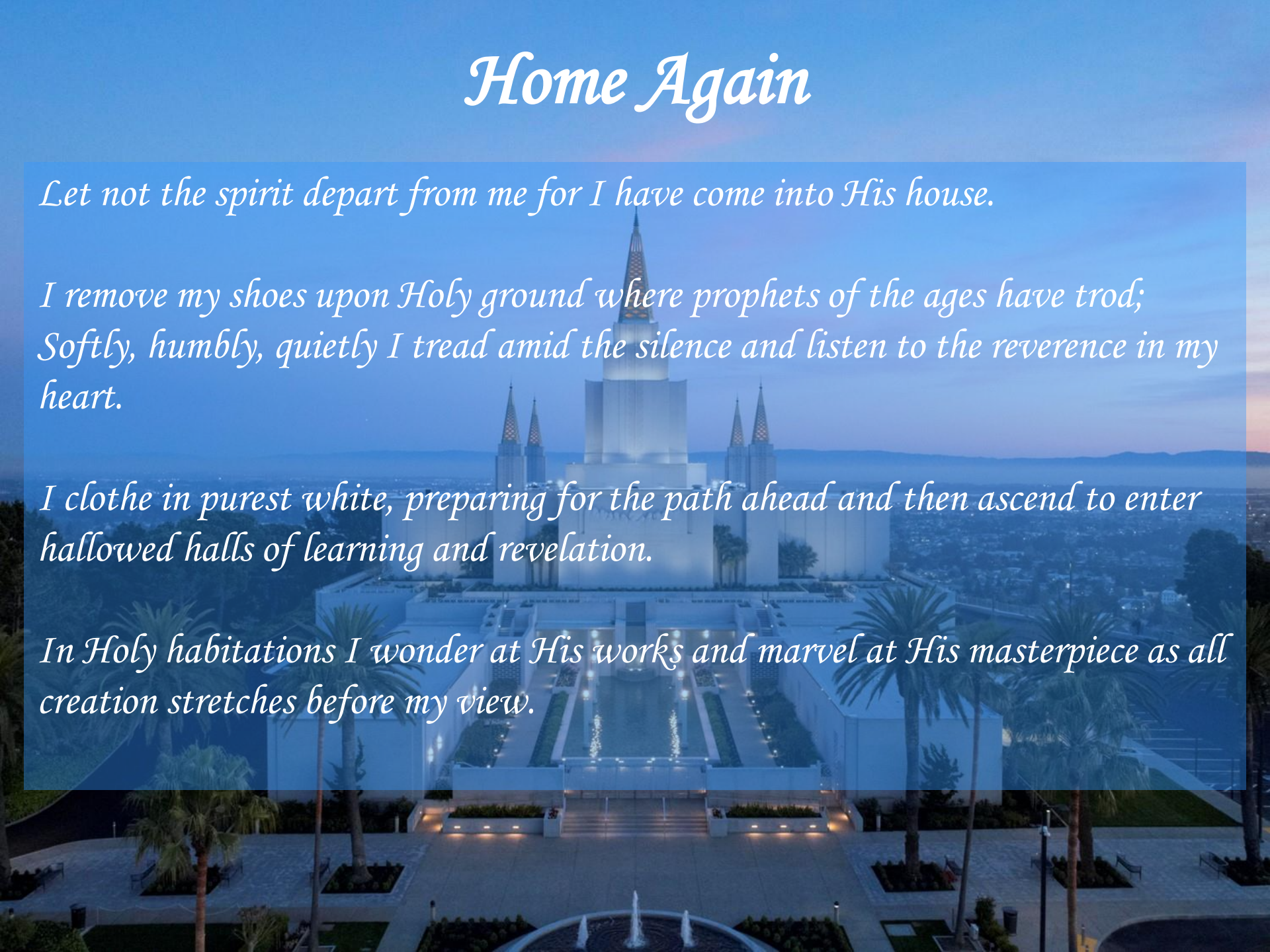
Home Again

Let not the spirit depart from me for I have come into His house.

*I remove my shoes upon Holy ground where prophets of the ages have trod;
Softly, humbly, quietly I tread amid the silence and listen to the reverence in my heart.*

I clothe in purest white, preparing for the path ahead and then ascend to enter hallowed halls of learning and revelation.

In Holy habitations I wonder at His works and marvel at His masterpiece as all creation stretches before my view.



Home Again

Passing through covenants that lift like the rungs of Jacob's ladder, I gain greater understanding of my journey to seek out my family and my own eternal destiny.

Determinedly I commit my all to His work and glory – With uplifted heart and hands, I plead for Him to honor my groanings which cannot be uttered and permit me entrance to His presence.

Gently come the words as priesthood power beckons me to enter; The veil is parted and I am bathed in brilliant light, illuminating the visions of eternity.

With an open and humble heart my spiritual eyes behold that which I have longed to comprehend since my departure.

Within His holy house His spirit remains -- and I am home.