

And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear call, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1st Corinthians 14:8 NLV

First Love Ministries, Inc.

Prayer Study #219

ARE YOU A CARRIER OF THE PRESENCE?

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

1st Corinthians 3:16

THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Ark of the Covenant: The Symbol of the Presence of God

1. **Origin:** *And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it. And they shall make an ark of shittim wood....Exodus 25:8-10*
2. **Purpose:** To symbolize Christ, Jehovah of the Old Testament and Jesus or Yeshua of the New, and to serve as a throne of Glory for the Presence of the Lord on earth
 - a. **Outside Symbols**
 1. **Shittim Wood:** Jesus' humanness
 2. **Gold:** Jesus' divinity
 3. **The Gold Mercy Seat:** This represents the work of Jesus on the cross. He covers our sin with His blood and the Law with His mercy, making it possible for those who put their faith in Jesus to be reconciled to God.
 4. **The Cherubim:** These are guardian angels who guard the holiness of God in Christ Jesus.
 5. **The blood sprinkled on the Mercy Seat:** The Blood of Jesus is the only thing that allows us to be in the Presence of God.
 6. **The cloud above the Mercy Seat:** This represents Christ, through the Holy Spirit, speaking to us. This cloud often appeared when the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies once a year on the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur.
 - b. **Inside Symbols**
 1. **The Ten Commandments written on Stone by God and the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible written by Moses:** This symbolizes Jesus' sinless life. With the law of God in His heart, He lived in perfect obedience to the Father.
 2. **Pot of Manna:** Jesus is the Bread of Life and the Incarnate Word.

3. **Aaron's rod that budded:** Aaron's rod represents the resurrection of Christ.

4. Brief History

- a. It was placed in the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle in the Wilderness except when the 1 ½ million Israelites were moving across the wilderness. Then it was carried, by Levitical priests, a certain distance ahead of the people as the priests followed the cloud by day and fire by night as the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years.
- b. The Ark was carried across the Jordan into the Promised Land, Canaan, from Shittim (on the wilderness side) to Gilgal (on the Promised Land side).
- c. The Ark was instrumental in the Israelites' victory at Jericho (Joshua 6).
- d. During the 400 years of the Judges the Ark was housed in the Holy of Holies at the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle was at the religious center of the Jews, Shiloh (Judges 18:31 and 1st Samuel 1:3).
- e. During the last part of Judges, the nation became apostate, and the decision was made to carry the Ark as a good luck charm into battle (1st Samuel 4:1-4). This enraged the Lord so much that He allowed the Philistines to defeat Israel and to capture the Ark (1st Samuel 4:5-11).
- f. The Philistines carried the Ark to the Temple of Dagon in Ashdod, but they discovered the next morning that the statue of Dagon was on the floor as if bowing to the Ark. The following day the same thing happened, but Dagan's head and hands had broken off. Then the men of Ashdod started having tumors break out on their bodies and this same thing happened everywhere they sent the Ark, so after 7 months they loaded a cart with gold offerings and sent the Ark off drawn by two cows (1st Samuel 5 and 6).
- g. The cows took the Ark back to Israel, but many died because they looked in the Ark (1st Samuel 6).
- h. The Ark ended up with a man named Abinadab, whose son Eleazar was sanctified and given the responsibility to keep the Ark. It stayed here for 20 years.
- i. David's priority was to bring the Ark back to Jerusalem, but during his first try, the Lord struck one of David's men, who was not a Levite, dead, for touching the Ark so David

left the Ark in care of a man named Obed-edom for 3 months, who was blessed so much that David decided to try again to bring the Ark back.

- j. David finally brings the Ark back to Jerusalem (1st Chronicles 15:25-29).
- k. The Ark was put in the Holy of Holies of the Temple that Solomon built.
- l. The Ark was last mentioned in the Old Testament in 2nd Chronicles 36:16 when the boy king, King Josiah, brought revival to Israel. Twenty-two years after he died, Judah fell to the Babylonians (586 BC), and no one knows what happened to the Ark.
- m. In absence of the Ark, the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement and sprinkle the blood on a portion of the bedrock that the Ark had rested on. This bedrock was called the *foundation stone*.

THE NEW TESTAMENT

Jesus: The Manifest Presence of God

Jesus, the incarnate Word, was the Manifest Presence of the Lord on the earth when He walked among men.

Therefore, the LORD himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel [God with us] (Isaiah 7:14).

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.; Which was born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.. And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us,

(and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth. John 1:1-14

THE CHURCH AGE

The Body of Christ: Carriers of the Presence

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the believers are to be carriers of the Presence. From the ascension of Jesus into Heaven until He returns, those called out ones are to tabernacle His presence on the earth today. However, very few Christians enter in to a Holy of Holies relationship with Jesus and thus do not manifest the presence of the Lord.

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh. Hebrews 10:19-20

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 1st Corinthians 3:16

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. 2nd Corinthians 4:7

However, we possess this precious treasure [the divine Light of the Gospel, i.e. JESUS] in [frail, human] vessels of earth, that the grandeur and exceeding greatness of the power may be shown to be from God and not from ourselves. 2nd Corinthians 4:7 AMP

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them [demonic spirits], because greater is He [Jesus] that is in you, than he [Satan] that is in the world. 1st John 4:4

Now when they saw the boldness and unfettered eloquence of Peter and John and perceived that they were unlearned and untrained in the schools [common men with no educational advantages], they marveled; and they recognized that they had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13 AMP).

Outer Court-JESUS IS THE WAY-Place of Salvation-Crossing the Red Sea-Born Again Experience-30 Fold Christian-Motivated by His Deeds

Inner Court or Holy Place-JESUS IS THE TRUTH-Place of Discipleship-Crossing the Jordan-Baptism in the Holy Spirit-60 Fold Christian-Motivated by His Ways

Holy of Holies-JESUS IS THE LIFE-Total Surrender-Place of Worship-Crossing the Veil split in two when Jesus died on the Cross-Baptism of Fire-100 Fold Christian –Motivated by His Presence

HOW TO BE CARRIERS OF THE PRESENCE AND HAVE A HOLY OF HOLIES RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

1. **Die:** *But we have this sentence of death in ourselves that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God, which raiseth the dead. 2nd Corinthians 1:9*

And our brothers defeated him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb's death and by the message they preached. They did not love their lives so much that they were afraid of death. Revelation 12:11 NCV

Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4-21

2. **Love as He loves:** *By this shall all know that you are My disciples, if you love one another [if you keep on showing love among yourselves]. John 13:35 AMP*

3. **Walk in Holiness:** *Then Jacob said unto his household and to all that were with him, Put away the foreign gods that are among you and be clean and change your garments. Genesis 35:2*

4. **Be willing to be Baptized with Fire:** I believe this is an experience, often a process, by which the Lord ignites believers who are willing to totally surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Just as the Baptism in the Holy Spirit comes after salvation, the Baptism of Fire comes after the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. The purpose of this fire is two fold: First, it refines the believer. Secondly, it activates a single minded passion for the Lord and work of the ministry.

John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Luke 3:16 Who maketh His angels spirits, His ministers a flaming fire. Psalm 104:4 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble, every man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it,

because it shall be revealed by fire, and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss, but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire. 1st Corinthians 3:11-15

FOR THE SAKE OF THE CALL

Steven Curtis Chapman

Nobody stood and applauded them
So they knew from the start
This road would not lead to fame
All they knew for sure was Jesus had called to them
He said, Come, follow me, and they came
With reckless abandon they came

Empty nets lying there at the water's edge
Told a story that few could believe and none could explain
How some crazy fishermen agreed to go where Jesus led
With no thought for what they would gain
For Jesus had called them by name and they answered

We will abandon it all for the sake of the call
No other reason at all but the sake of the call
Wholly devoted to live and to die for the sake of the call

No turning back for the water cannot help but flow
Once we hear the Savior's call, we'll follow
Wherever He leads
Because of the love He has shown
Because He has called us to go, we will answer

We will abandon it all for the sake of the call
No other reason at all but the sake of the call
Wholly devoted to live and to die

Not for the sake of a creed or a cause
Not for a dream or a promise
Simply because it is Jesus who calls
And if we believe, we'll obey

We will abandon it all for the sake of the call
No other reason at all but the sake of the call
Wholly devoted to live and to die for the sake of the call