

Dear Friend,

Before the fall of man, Adam and Eve literally walked and talked with God in the cool of the day. They enjoyed living in His very presence. Sin separated man from God and the joy of living daily in His presence ended.

Jesus taught us about His mission to seek and to save the lost when He told us the parable of the Prodigal Son. During that son's life of sin, the Father still loved him, but the truth was, "This my son is dead." (The wages of sin are death.) Only when the son repented and said, "I will return to my father's house" did the journey to salvation begin. When the son did return, he was restored to full fellowship again and the Father could say,

**Luke 15:24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.**

That is the mission of Christ and Christ's church: to seek and to save the lost. Jesus was illustrating the mission, but in that example, He did not illustrate the price that had to be paid in order for the lost to return to the Father's house. In truth, the lost son had no way to return to the Father's house. He truly was dead (spiritually) and had no ability on his own to make himself alive again. Jesus was illustrating the mission, but not the penalty that had to be paid to make a way of return. A way had to be made for lost sinners to be able to return to the Father's house or said another way ... back into the literal presence of the Father.

The way back into God's presence is wonderfully illustrated in the type and shadow of the Old Testament tabernacle. First on the journey, the repentant sinner entered the outer court where he offered a blood sacrifice on the brazen altar. He then washed himself in the laver that stood near it. This is a type and shadow of the offering of the lamb of God who washed away our sins in His own blood.

**Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,**

Then he would enter the Holy Place. This was a tent that was entered through a veil. There were no windows in this tent. No natural light could enter there. This was a place where you no longer walked by the light of the natural world, but by the light of the golden candlestick. This speaks of the "light of life" Jesus spoke of:

**John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

In this room also was the shewbread, which speaks of Jesus being our bread of life. Jesus is our life, and as we partake of Him, His life becomes our life.

**John 6:53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.**

This was where incense was burned, and the aroma went up to God constantly day and night. This speaks of our continuous worship and unceasing prayers.

This is all wonderful, but still the returning son is not yet in the literal presence of the Father. There was still another room where the literal presence of God dwells. It was called the Holy of Holies. There was a thick curtain that hid God from men's sight and nobody but the high priest could enter there. Even then, only once per

