

How to enter into God's presence... Hebrews 9:1-11

In the Garden of Eden worship was very simple...

...it was walking with God in the cool of the day (Gen. 3:8)

At Mt. Sinai God wanted to meet with His people

- He longed for the days in the Garden of Eden...
...when He could walk with His people in the cool of the day
- But the people did not go up to the mountain into God's presence...
...they were afraid because of the fire (Deut. 5:5)

Detailed instructions about the Tabernacle (Exodus 25-27; 35-39)

- Why?
- if God's people were NOT willing to enter into God's presence...
...then God would provide a provisional plan

But with the New Covenant through Jesus...

...God again invites us to enter into his presence just like in the garden

The only Old Covenant place where a person could experience the presence of God...

...had a sign that said "Keep Out" and "Authorized Personnel Only"

1 Now in that first covenant between God and Israel, there were regulations for worship and a sacred tent here on earth. 2 There were two rooms in this tent. In the first room were a lampstand, a table, and loaves of holy bread on the table. This was called the Holy Place. 3 Then there was a curtain, and behind the curtain was the second room called the Most Holy Place. 4 In that room were a gold incense altar and a wooden chest called the Ark of the Covenant, which was covered with gold on all sides. Inside the Ark were a gold jar containing some manna, Aaron's staff that sprouted leaves, and the stone tablets of the covenant with the Ten Commandments written on them. 5 The glorious cherubim were above the Ark. Their wings were stretched out over the Ark's cover, the place of atonement. But we cannot explain all of these things now. 6 When these things were all in place, the priests went in and out of the first room regularly as they performed their religious duties. 7 But only the high priest goes into the Most Holy Place, and only once a year, and always with blood, which he offers to God to cover his own sins and the sins the people have committed in ignorance. 8 By these regulations the Holy Spirit revealed that the Most Holy Place was not open to the people as long as the first room and the entire system it represents were still in use. 9 This is an illustration pointing to the present time. For the gifts and sacrifices that the priests offer are not able to cleanse the consciences of the people who bring them. 10 For that old system deals only with food and drink and ritual washing -- external regulations that are in effect only until their limitations can be corrected. 11 So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that great, perfect sanctuary in heaven, not made by human hands and not part of this created world (Hebrews 9:1-11 – NLT).

God's desire is to restore the same relationship with us...

...that God had with Adam and Even in the garden

We no longer need to go through Old Covenant rituals...

...to enter into God's presence

What keeps us bound to the Old Covenant in worship?

- We lose the awe of the Holy
- We lose the fear of the Lord
- We focus on ourselves... and others
- The cares of the world press us down
- Fear of being found out
- God's judgment...

What will cause us to worship God as He alone is worthy to be worshipped?

- Be prepared
- Repentance
- Expectation
- Adoration
- Thanksgiving
- Humility