

Part 7. Prayer

Lesson 1: The Mystery and Purpose of Prayer

Lesson Summary

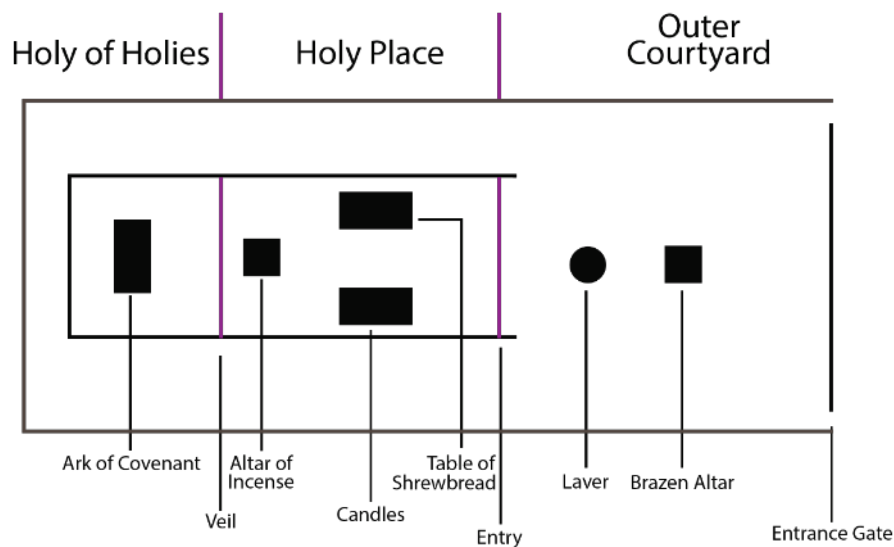
Prayer is a divine gift, bridging humanity with God's sovereignty (Matt. 6:10; Luke 22:42). It expresses dependence, aligns our hearts with His will, and serves as one of the means by which God accomplishes His purposes (Exod. 32:11; James 5:16).

Though God is sovereign, He responds to prayer—making it both powerful and profoundly mysterious (Phil. 4:6–7). Prayer draws us into God's manifest presence and glory, revealed in creation (Ps. 19:1), miracles, worship, and supremely in Christ (Heb. 1:3; John 1:14).

The Old Testament Tabernacle beautifully foreshadowed this reality: God dwelling with His people, pointing forward to Christ and ultimately to believers as His temple (Exod. 40:34–35; 1 Cor. 3:16).

The “Tabernacle Prayer” serves as a model for deeper intimacy—moving from thanksgiving in the outer court to communion in the Holy of Holies (Ps. 100:4; Heb. 4:16).

Prayer is not bending God's will to ours, but being transformed so that our hearts reflect His will and radiate His glory.



Key Takeaways

- **Prayer acknowledges God's sovereignty** and expresses dependence on Him (Matt. 6:10; Luke 22:42).
- **God responds to prayer**, using it as part of His sovereign purposes (Exod. 32:11; James 5:16).
- **Prayer aligns us** with His will, deepening trust and obedience (Phil. 4:6–7).
- **Manifest glory**: God reveals His presence through creation, miracles, worship, Christ, and in believers (Ps. 19:1; Heb. 1:3; 1 Cor. 3:16).
- **The Tabernacle foreshadowed Christ**, pointing to God's dwelling with His people (Exod. 40:34–35; John 1:14).

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- **Tabernacle Prayer model:** Thanksgiving (outer court), cleansing (laver), Word & intercession (Holy Place), intimacy (Holy of Holies) (Ps. 100:4; Heb. 4:16).
- **Final reflection:** Prayer is access to God's presence by Christ's finished work, transforming us into His likeness (Heb. 4:16).

Questions & Answers

1. **Q:** How does prayer reflect God's sovereignty?
A: It acknowledges His authority while participating in His purposes (Matt. 6:10; Luke 22:42).
2. **Q:** Why is prayer described as a mystery?
A: Because though God is sovereign and unchanging, He responds to the prayers of His people (James 5:16).
3. **Q:** What is God's manifest glory?
A: The visible and tangible expression of His presence, revealed in creation, miracles, Christ, and His people (Ps. 19:1; Heb. 1:3).
4. **Q:** How did the Old Testament Tabernacle foreshadow Christ?
A: It was God's dwelling place pointing to Jesus, who "tabernacled" among us (Exod. 40:34–35; John 1:14).
5. **Q:** What does it mean that believers are now the new tabernacle?
A: God's Spirit now dwells in believers, making them His temple (1 Cor. 3:16).
6. **Q:** What is the purpose of the Tabernacle Prayer model?
A: To guide us from thanksgiving and cleansing to intimacy and communion with God (Ps. 100:4; Heb. 4:16).
7. **Q:** What is the ultimate goal of prayer?
A: Not to change God's will but to be transformed to reflect His heart and glory (Phil. 4:6–7).

"Prayer is not bending God's will to ours but entering His presence, aligning with His purposes, and being transformed by His glory."