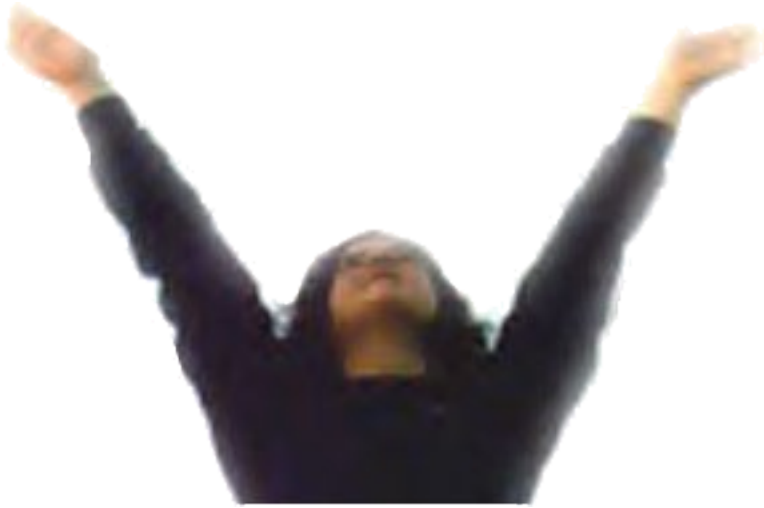


*Lessons in
Worship*

*by
Cindy Wallace*



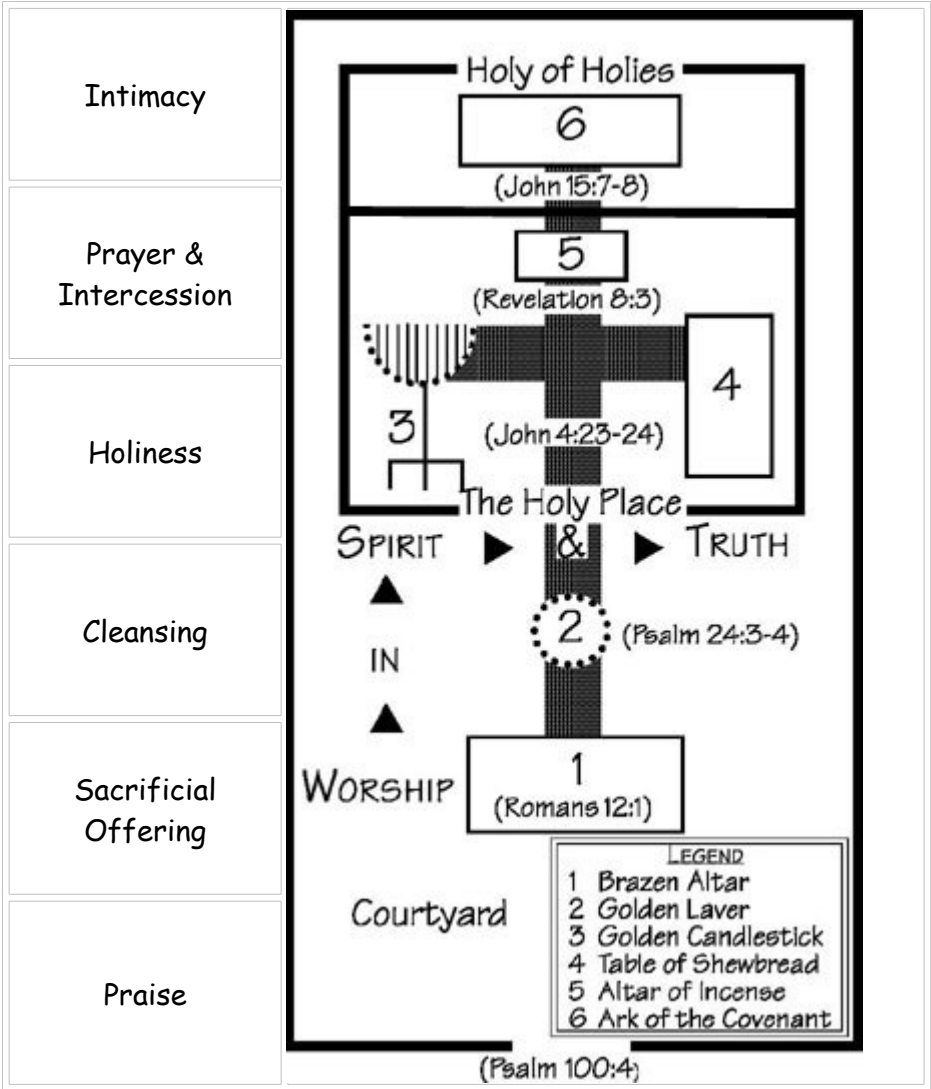
Women Who Worship...

- have grateful hearts and gracious speech.
- have surrendered their total being to their loving, heavenly Father.
- are clean in conduct and pure in heart.
- are led by the Spirit.
- are women of the Word.
- commune with God and intercede on behalf of others.
- bask in the glory of the Eternal God.

Worship with your entire being...*Spirit, Soul, Body...*

- engage your mind to think upon the beauty of Christ.
- submit your will to God by responding in obedience to anything He asks of you.
- express emotion that is born out of an engaged mind and a submitted will.

Using the tabernacle as a pattern for worship, we seek a greater understanding of our walk with the Lord, and a deeper level of intimacy with Him, both personally and corporately. Our goal is to create an environment which cultivates an awareness of the effects of true worship on ourselves, the body of Christ and the communities in which we live.



Praise

Thanksgiving and praise go hand in hand. Thanksgiving is inward gratitude. Praise is an outward expression. Pride and gratitude don't have place in the same heart. Our attitude must be one of gratitude, and we must verbally express it for our gratitude to become praise. *Enter His gates with thanksgiving, His courts with praise.* (Psalm 100:1) Thanksgiving is the first step to praise. *In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* (1 Thessalonians 5:18) Thanksgiving is the foundation of our worship life. The character of God is the reason we celebrate.

Let's walk through **Hebrews 13:15 (HCSB)** together:

Through Him [Jesus]...Jesus is to be the actual channel by which we offer praise (Col. 1:17; Rom. 11:36; Heb. 1:3)

let us continually...without ceasing, or wavering, this is to be a pattern of life (Psalm 34:1 – *I will praise the Lord at all times; His praise will always be on my lips.*)

offer up to God...it is something we give to God freely, not under compulsion

a sacrifice...it costs us something to praise God, and it begins with our pride, because praising anyone is impossible with an attitude of pride

of praise...what is praise? Let's continue and we'll find out.

that is: the fruit of our lips...verbal expression

that confess...to agree with, to concede, to profess, to celebrate

His name...When Moses asked God to show him His glory, God told Moses He would cause all His goodness to pass before him and that He would proclaim the name Yahweh before him. Listen to how God describes His name in Exodus 34:6-7. *Yahweh—Yahweh is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in faithful love and truth, maintaining faithful love to a thousand [generations], forgiving wrongdoing, rebellion, and sin. But He will not leave [the guilty] unpunished, bringing the consequences of the fathers' wrongdoing on the children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation.*

1. Praise the outward expression of inward gratitude for who God is as revealed to us in Christ Jesus, and what He has done for us through the person and work of Christ Jesus.
2. Praise is an offering to God.
3. Praise is a continual way of life.

Psalm 107

The Lord's Acts of Faithful Love

Psalm 33:4

"...All His work is done in faithfulness"

vv.8, 15,21,31 – "Let them give thanks to the Lord for His lovingkindness [who He is], and for His wonderful acts [what He has done] to the sons of men!"

He redeems from the foe • He gathers from distant lands • He rescues from distress • He leads to an inhabitable city • He satisfies & fills with good things • He saves from distress • He brings out of darkness • He breaks chains apart • He breaks down gates of bronze • He cuts through bars of iron • He saves from distress • He sends His Word & heals • He rescues from the pit • He speaks & raises a tempest • He brings out of distress • He stills the storm • He guides to harbor • He turns rivers into deserts • He turns springs into thirsty ground • He turns fruitful land into salty wasteland • He turns desert into pools of water • He turns dry land into springs • He causes the hungry to settle • He blesses • He pours contempt on nobles • He makes nobles wander in wastelands • He lifts the needy out of suffering • He makes families like flocks

v.43 – "Who is wise? Let him give heed to these things; and consider the lovingkindnesses of the Lord."

GRATITUDE CHECK

1. Have I been mindful to think upon what the Lord has done for me?
2. Have I filled my mind and my heart with Scripture that reflects a heart of gratitude for the Lord?
3. Have I brought praise to the Lord by expressing my gratitude, first to Him and then to others about Him?
4. Have I been a picture of His grace by doing for others as He has done for me?
5. Have I set an example of gratitude by thanking others in my life that God has used to bless me?

Sacrificial Offering

- **The Brazen Altar is a type of the cross of Christ.**

Christ offered Himself unblemished to God, then entered the Most Holy Place (the Holy of Holies) with His own blood to do away with sin. Gentiles were foreigners to the covenant of the promise, without hope and without God. But Jesus Christ has destroyed the barrier by abolishing in His flesh the commandments and regulations of the law. He has made peace and is now reconciling both Jew and Gentile to God through the cross by grace which is imparted by faith. Through Jesus, God's beloved Son, we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins. We have been rescued from the domain of darkness and brought into His Kingdom. We can now be presented holy in God's sight, without blemish and free from accusation because He has forgiven us all our sins. Jesus, the Lamb of God, was slain and with His blood purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise! To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, forever and ever! Amen!

- **The Brazen Altar is a type of the cross we must take up daily to follow Christ.**

If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. (Luke 9:23)

Put to death whatever in you is worldly. (Colossians 3:5)

Some of the things which must be offered to God on the altar if we are to take up our cross [an instrument of death] and follow Christ:

Affections or Desires for...

- Relationships
- Money or possessions
- Acknowledgement or credit for something

Attitudes of...

- Guilt, resentment, or anger over the past
- An unforgiving heart
- Fear concerning the future

I will not offer to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing. (2 Samuel 24:24)

THE OFFERINGS BROUGHT TO THE TABERNACLE*

In Communion with God

(Sweet Savor Offerings)

Burnt Offering—Consecration

Voluntarily devoting all to God, through purifying fire. Lev. 1:3-17; 6:8-13

Grain Offering—Service

Thanking God and offering their lives for His service. Lev. 2:1-16; 6:14-23

Peace Offering—Fellowship

Participating in the blessings of fellowship with God. Lev. 3:1-17; 7:11-34

For Communion with God

Sin Offering—

Redemption for the sinner he is

Being forgiven of being a sinner (breaks the power of sin) Lev. 4:1-5:13; 6:24-30

Trespass Offering—

Redemption for the sin he commits

Being forgiven for sins committed (breaks the penalty of sin) Lev. 5:14-6:7; 7:1-10

**from LEVITICUS: A Self-Study Guide by Irving L. Jensen
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Cleansing

The book of James tells us, *Pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father is this...to keep oneself unstained by the world.* How do we keep ourselves unstained by the world? The Psalmist asked the same question in Psalm 119:9, *How can a young man keep his way pure?* The answer follows in the same verse, **By keeping Your word.** Jesus said (John 15:3), *You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.* Ephesians 5 tells us that He is making us holy by cleansing us [the church] *in the washing of water by the word.* Just as water must be applied to the body to remove the dirt and impurities we come in contact with everyday, we must apply the Word to our lives and live in line with God's commands in order to be found *without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but holy and blameless.* (Ephesians 5:27) Psalm 119:1 declares *How happy are those whose way is blameless...that passages goes on to describe what it means to be blameless...who live according to the law of the Lord...who keep His decrees and seek Him with all their heart...they do nothing wrong; they follow His ways.* A life that is cleansed and holy will not happen apart from the application of the Word of God to our lives. Every day we live, God takes us deeper and deeper into an understanding of what it means to follow His commands. We must obey if we are to be holy and blameless.

The moment God reveals an impurity in your heart is the moment it becomes sin. Once God reveals the sin, you have one of two choices: either to acknowledge the sin or deny it. If you acknowledge a sin in your heart, your only options are to confess and repent or live in willful disobedience. Many times, in an attempt to keep from making that choice, the choice is made to deny the sin. When a person chooses to deny the existence of a sin that God has revealed, a layer of callous begins to build up that not only makes it easier to sin, but harder to hear God's voice. As a result, it may take years and many heart aches for God to penetrate the calluses that have built up. You cannot approach a holy God, even with songs of praise, with sin in your heart. Praise that is not united with a pure heart is nothing more than flattery. And flattery is characteristic of an adulteress (Proverbs 2:16). Psalms 5:9 describes those who flatter in this way, *There is nothing reliable in what they say; destruction is within them; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongues.*

Sometimes there are impurities in our heart which we do not recognize. Proverbs 16:2 *All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, but the Lord weighs the motives.* Don't be afraid to ask God to reveal to you your motives for all you do. It will probably be painful, but as they say, "No pain, no gain!" It's the refining process God takes us through that makes us fit to walk with Him. And we are admonished to walk in a manner worthy of our calling. In fact, Paul even more strongly admonishes us in Romans 13:14 to *Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make no plans to satisfy the fleshly desires.*** The Psalmist goes even further when he declares, *I will not set anything godless before my eyes.* (Psalm 101:3) Many times we think it's alright to do things in our homes we

wouldn't do in public--our choice of movies, for instance. But the Psalmist in the previous verse also says, *I will live with integrity of heart in my house.* As has been said, character is really determined by what we are in private. David conveyed his understanding of God's heart when he said, *Surely You desire integrity in the inner self, and You teach me wisdom deep within.* Our prayer should be like his, *Purify me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.* (Psalm 51:6-7)

Read these verses from Romans 12 & 13 (HCSB), asking God to bring conviction of any sin for which you need cleansing.

Love must be without hypocrisy.

Detest evil; cling to what is good.

Show family affection to one another with brotherly love.

Outdo one another in showing honor.

Do not lack diligence; be fervent in spirit; serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer.

Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

Be in agreement with one another.

Do not be proud; instead, associate with the humble.

Do not be wise in your own estimation.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil.

Try to do what is honorable in everyone's eyes.

If possible, on your part, live at peace with everyone.

*Do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for His wrath. For it is written: **Vengeance belongs to Me; I will repay,** says the Lord.*

If your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him something to drink. For in so doing you will be heaping fiery coals on his head.

Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.

Submit to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist are instituted by God. So then, the one who resists the authority is opposing God's command, and those who oppose it will bring judgment on themselves...Therefore, you must submit, not only because of wrath, but also because of your conscience.

Pay your obligations to everyone: taxes to those you owe taxes, tolls to those you owe tolls, respect to those you owe respect, and honor to those you owe honor.

Do not owe anyone anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law...Love does no wrong to a neighbor. Love, therefore, is the fulfillment of the law.

Let us walk with decency, as in the daylight; not in carousing and drunkenness; not in sexual impurity and promiscuity; not in quarreling and jealousy.

Holiness

Walking in Spirit and Truth

Psalm 119:1-3 *How happy are those whose way is blameless, who live according to the law of the Lord! Happy are those who keep His decrees and seek Him with all their heart. They do nothing wrong; they follow His ways.*

To live a holy life is to live a blameless life. But is it really possible in today's society to keep ourselves unspotted by the world and walk blamelessly? According to God's Word, it is. Let's examine each phrase in the verse above.

How happy are those whose way is blameless... how can we live a blameless life? Keep going...

Who live according to the law of the Lord.[the law of the Spirit NOT the law of sin and death]...how do we live according to the law of the Lord?

*Happy are those who keep His decrees...*how do we keep His decrees?

And seek Him with all their heart.

The result: *They do nothing wrong, they follow His ways.* A blameless life!

So, the first step to a holy life is to seek God with all our hearts. Our journey so far has taken us through a time of soul-searching as we discovered that all we are--our total being--must be surrendered fully to His sovereign care. Every part of our being--mind, will and emotions--must not only be surrendered to Him, but as a part of that surrender must be seeking Him--His will, His desire, His pleasure. And according to Hebrews 11:6, it is clear that what pleases Him is faith. Scripture says faith comes by hearing, and hearing by God's Word. (Romans 10:17) And this is what our walk is to be--the Holy Spirit guiding us in the truth of God's Word, giving us understanding so that we may apply it to our lives. This is the walk of faith--walking in Spirit and Truth. This is the place of true worship that Jesus talked about (John 4)--Spirit and Truth--a holy life, a life that is blameless, a life that seeks God with all we are and responds in obedience to Him.

When that happens we will be keeping His decrees. When we keep His decrees we live according to the law of the Lord. When we live according to the law of the Lord our way will be blameless. And when our way is blameless, how happy we will be!

Outline Psalm 119 as follows (note that only a few examples are listed):

Recitation of God's Character

- v.4-You have commanded that Your precepts be diligently kept.
- v.21-You rebuke the proud, the accursed who wander from Your commands.
- v.26-You listened to me.
- v.32-You broaden my understanding.
- v.39-Your judgments are good.
- v.49-You have given me hope through your Word.
- v.50-Your promise has given me life.
- v.64-The earth is filled with Your faithful love.
- v.65-You have treated Your servant well.

Response to God's Commands

- (Notice the resolve with which the Psalmist speaks.)
- v.7-I will praise You with a sincere heart.
- v.8-I will keep Your statutes.
- v.10-I have sought You with all my heart.
- v.11-I have treasured Your Word in my heart.
- v.13-With my lips I proclaim all the judgments from Your mouth.
- v.14-I rejoice in the way revealed by Your decrees as much as in all riches.
- v.15-I meditate on Your precepts and think about Your ways.
- v.16-I will delight in Your statutes. I will not forget Your Word.
- v.19-I am a stranger on earth

Requests for God's Consideration

- (Notice the Psalmist's requests have nothing to do worldly possessions.)
- v.8-Never abandon me.
- v.10-Don't let me wander from Your commands.
- v.12-Teach me Your statutes.
- v.17-Deal generously with Your servant so that I might live.
- v.18-Open my eyes so that I may see wonderful things in Your law.
- v.19-Do not hide Your commands from me.
- v.22-Take insult and contempt away from me.
- v.25-Give me life through Your Word.
- v.26-Teach me Your statutes.
- v.27-Help me understand the meaning of Your precepts.
- v.28-Strengthen me through Your Word.
- v.29-Keep me from the way of deceit.

Prayer & Intercession

Every problem/burden is an invitation to worship.

Problem = a perplexing question, situation, or person.

Burden = load, care, responsibility, a heavy obligation, expense, encumbrance

The problem/burden may concern yourself or someone you love.

salvation • strength to endure • wisdom in decision-making • broken relationship • physical Needs • health issue • money issue • work issue • home issue • church issue • dream or heart's desire

ACTIVITY: Write down what you consider to be the biggest problem/burden in your life then walk through each step constantly bringing that problem/burden before the Lord.

•THANKSGIVING

Psalms 119:71 – It was good for me to be afflicted so that I could learn Your statutes.

•OFFERING

Psalms 50:14-15 – *Sacrifice a thank offering to God, and pay your vows to the Most High. Call on Me in a day of trouble; I will rescue you and you will honor Me.*

•CLEANSING (BY THE WASHING OF THE WORD)

John 15:7-8 – *If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be My disciples.*

•ABIDING (WALKING IN SPIRIT & TRUTH)

John 15:12 – *When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak whatever He hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, because He will take from what is Mine and declare it to you. Everything the Father has is Mine. This is why I told you that He takes from what is Mine and will declare it to you.*

1 Corinthians 2:9-13 – *What no eye has seen and no ear has heard, and what has never come into a man's heart, is what God has prepared for those who love Him. Now God has revealed them to us by the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the concerns of a man except the spirit of the man that is in Him? In the same way, no one knows the concerns of God except*

the Spirit of God. Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, in order to know what has been freely given to us by God. We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual things to spiritual people.

• **INTERCEDING** (ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD)

Hebrews 4:15 – *...let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time.*

I John 5:14 – *Now this is the confidence we have before Him: whenever we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked Him for.*

Revelation 8:3-4 – *Another angel, with a gold incense burner, came and stood at the altar. He was given a large amount of incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the gold altar in front of the throne. The smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up in the presence of God from the angel's hand.*

Philippians 4: 6-7 – *Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

ACTIVITY: Make a list of things for which you “worry.” Then turn them into a request to God. The result will be God's peace guarding your heart and your mind.

Bible Promises

(Notes from a lesson taught by Pastor Tom Elliff)

- **Problem** - a need or problem arises in your life.
- **Decision** - I choose to believe and turn to God for an answer.
- **Revelation** - God reveals His will to me by His Spirit through His Word.
- **Discernment** - I discern God's will by living in the fullness of the Spirit and through a consistent study of the Word of God.
- **Thankfulness** - I need to take God at His Word by thanking Him.
- **Fulfillment** - God fulfills His Word.

The purpose of reading the Bible is to meet Jesus, NOT to find a Bible promise.

Intimacy

Do you get it? Have you seen the whole picture of what it means to be a true worshiper? A true worshiper is one who fears God by walking in all His ways—the way of thanksgiving & praise, the way of complete surrender & cleansing, the way of holiness. A true worshiper is one who has learned through the journey to love God. A true worshiper is one who makes it all the way through the tabernacle to the Holy of Holies where the most intimate relationship with the Father is found.

So I ask you, where are you on the journey? Does your life overflow with praise to our magnificent God? Do you pray for God's anointing on your life? Do you pray about more than just your physical needs? Don't ever think it's self-centered to pray for yourself, when you're praying about deep spiritual needs. Actually, the opposite is true. It's self-centered to NOT pray for God to conform you to His image. Because, if you're not to the place that you can pray for God to take hold of your life and tear it up piece by piece if necessary to make you like Him, you still have "self" at the center of your heart. And the heart is the issue.

You know the way into the Holy of Holies when you can look directly into the face of God and say, *I desire nothing on earth but You.* (Psalm 73:25) The word "desire" means to "incline to" or "bend to." That means He will be the only motivating force in your heart—nothing but Jesus. If you catch a glimpse of this truth, you will understand that the root of all spiritual struggles is not being able to say, *I desire nothing on earth but You.*

But getting to that place requires waiting and crying out to God. It requires working through the hard issues of your life, and persevering in that work until it's completed. It requires *truth in the innermost being.* It's painful. It's excruciating. It's exhausting. But, it's exhilarating. It's refreshing. It's satisfying. Have you ever just waited on God?

God is about conquering your heart. No matter where you are in the process, don't give up. Call on His name, striving to take hold of Him and know Him (Isaiah 64:7; Hosea 6:3) Break up your untilled ground and seek Him until He comes and sends righteousness on you like the rain. (Hosea 10:12) Then your heart will cry out with the Psalmist:

How lovely is Your dwelling place, Lord of Hosts. I long and yearn for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh cry out for the living God...I have asked one thing from the Lord; it is what I desire: to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, gazing on the beauty of the Lord and seeking Him in His temple...In His temple all cry, "Glory!" (Psalm 84:1,2; 27:4; 29:9b)

Deuteronomy 10:12

And now...what does the Lord your God ask of you except to fear the Lord your god by walking in all His ways, to love Him, and to worship the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul?

Examine all the activities of your life in light of the only things God asks of you.

- To fear Him (by walking in all His ways) - **The Courtyard**
- To love Him - **The Holy Place**
- To worship Him (with all your heart and all your soul) - **The Holy of Holies**