

Life Group Study

Steve Gambill - The Tabernacle Prayer

Recap:

In his preach, Steve talked about the Tabernacle of prayer - referring to Exodus 25:1-9, where God instructs Moses to: 'Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from everyone whose heart prompts them to give....."Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.'

As an example, Steve asks us to visualise the tabernacle as an approach to prayer, as every detail of the tabernacle had spiritual meaning and spiritual significance. In his preach, he teaches the basic principles of how the Israelites would approach prayer, with the revelation that we are today living beyond the 'outer courts' and have all access to the presence of God through Jesus.



Aspects of the Tabernacle

Aspect 1- The Outer Courts

The outer courts of the Israelite Tabernacle were surrounded by 7.5 feet of linen wall. The only entrance was through the gate. Without this, they wouldn't have access to the temple courts.

Scripture:

John 10:9 (NIV)

I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.

Discuss:

We are only able to be in the presence of God because of what Jesus has done for us. Jesus refers to himself as "the gate", meaning that you and I have the right to enter into the very presence of God himself. We should use that privilege in an intentional way, not accidentally.

Question:

- 1) What attitude do you think we should bring when we approach prayer?
- 2) How can we choose to be more intentional about spending time in God's presence in our day to day lives?

Principles of Prayer

Scripture:

Psalm 100:4 (NLT)

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.

Psalm 22:3 (NHEB)

But you are holy, you who inhabit the praises of Israel.

Discuss:

Psalm 100 speaks of two ways we can enter the temple courts: thanksgiving and praise. This gives us two biblical principles of prayer we can input into our attitudes towards prayer and our daily lives.

1) Thanksgiving

- Start your day with intentional gratitude. Even when we are in a place where it is difficult to be thankful, we can choose to be intentionally grateful to God.
- Before you pray for what you need, thank God for what you already have. Rather than focusing on what you don't have, and the challenge that you're facing, focus on what you do have.

2) Praise

- God inhabits the praises of his people, so when we praise we have a new revelation of God's presence and power in our lives.
- It can sometimes feel difficult to praise when our circumstance in life is difficult; but there is power in the sacrifice of praise. When we surrender our circumstance to God and praise him anyway, we experience the presence of God at a deeper level.

Action Point:

- Write down a list of three things you're thankful for on a regular basis. Living a life of thanksgiving has a massive impact on your prayer life!

Aspect 2: The Holy Place

Steve explained that before Jesus, the Israelites could not enter the Holy place. Only the priests could go to the bronze wash basin to wash themselves before they enter the presence of God (The Holy of Holies, see diagram on page 1).

It was impossible for them to go into the presence of God without first cleansing themselves. Steve explained we all have areas of our conscience that we can surrender before God. We are now free to enter His presence.

Scripture:

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Discuss:

We can sometimes remind ourselves more of our insecurities and shortcomings, than of what God's word says about us. As Christians today we have the right to enter the Holy Place because of the sacrifice of Jesus.

The enemy reminds us of our past mistakes, but we can always respond with the word of God.

- We are part of the God's Royal Family. We don't need to be passive and respond to circumstances.
- We are clean because of what Jesus has done. Our weaknesses are made up for by who Jesus Christ is.

Questions:

- What daily habits can you form to build your prayer life?
- Are there any circumstances or situations in life that require you to take your God given authority in prayer?

Prayer:

Areas we should pray over include:

- Intentionality and increase in our praise, and thanksgiving for all that we have in our lives.
- The ability to see ourselves as God sees us, and to stand firm in the truth of God's word when facing adversity.