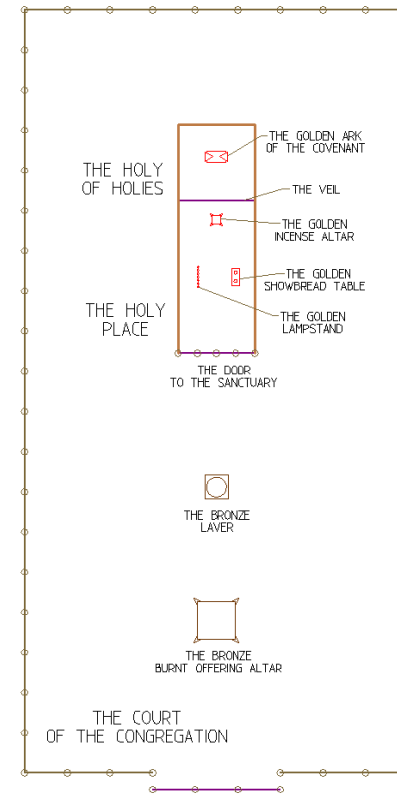


WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN



This tract was written by JOHN POTTER
The drawings are by HEATHER CHAPMAN



THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS
(Ref. Exodus Chapters 25 to 40)

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN

“What? Don’t you know that your body is the Temple of the Holy Ghost? (I Cor.6:19).

THE TEMPLE PATTERN

The Biblical revelation of a temple is the Tabernacle in the Wilderness (see the Book of Exodus, Chapters 25-40). The main features of this tabernacle are shown in the picture on the cover and the diagram opposite.

The tabernacle had many intricate features but its main features were:

AN OUTER COURT and a TENT in which there were two compartments:

A HOLY PLACE and
A HOLY OF HOLIES

The Tabernacle of Moses was not built for people to ‘go to church’ – there were far too many people in the wilderness trek to fit into the tabernacle. No, the tabernacle was made **for God to dwell amongst His people**. As soon as the tabernacle was completed God’s *Shekinah* Glory filled the Most Holy Place (Exodus 40:34-35). Solomon’s Temple was built to the same pattern; at its dedication the priests could not stand to minister because of the presence of the Lord (I Kings 8:10-11). The connection between Solomon’s temple and us is that there were 120 trumpeters at the dedication of Solomon’s temple and 120 ‘human trumpets’ in the upper room at Pentecost AD 30 (Acts 1:15). When the day of Pentecost was fully come the 120 believers were **all filled with the Holy Ghost** and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance’.

The human ‘temple’ is an upside down version of the tabernacle shown in the diagram above. The Court speaks of **the human body**. Inside the court were a Bronze Alter, a Laver full of water and a bottle of oil. To enter the Holy Place a priest had to sacrifice an animal at the altar, wash himself and anoint himself with oil. We are prepared for the Lord’s service in the Holy Place via;

- The once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus
- The washing of regeneration (Titus 3:5)
- The anointing of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Place speaks of **our soul life** – the place where we think and have emotions. There are three operations within the Holy Place: the **lampstand**, speaking of enlightenment from the Lord; the table of **showbread** speaking of ongoing spiritual sustenance, and the **altar of incense** speaking of our prayer life (see below).

The Holy of Holies speaks of **our spirit** region. The spirit of a human is in the belly region (Gk. *koilia*) region: ‘out of our belly will flow rivers of living water’ (read John 7:37-38). The human spirit is not active in its own right – it is **a place** reserved for the Holy Spirit of God to take up residence.

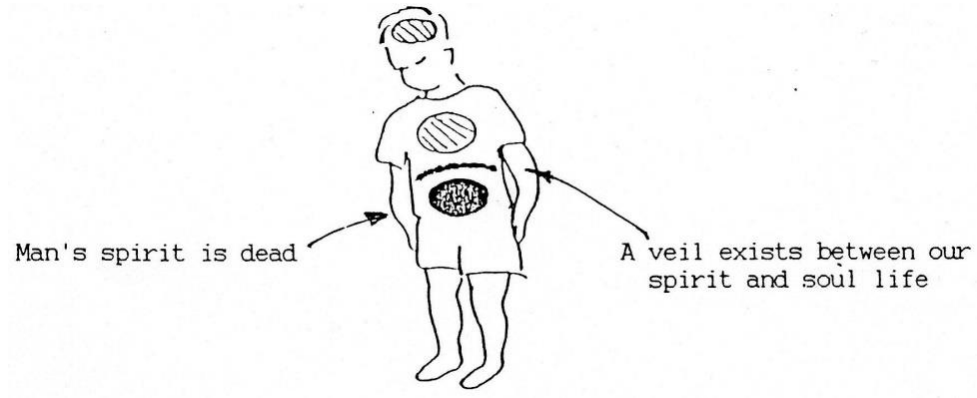
From this pattern we see that humans can exist in any one of **three conditions**.

- A Temple where the Spirit is not present (John 3:3, Rom.8:9)
- A Temple that has the Spirit resident but the veil is still in place.
- A Temple in which the Spirit has broken through the veil.

It is important for us that we discern what is going on within us, where we are in God’s purposes. And in attempting to assist others the first thing we need to know is which state they are in.

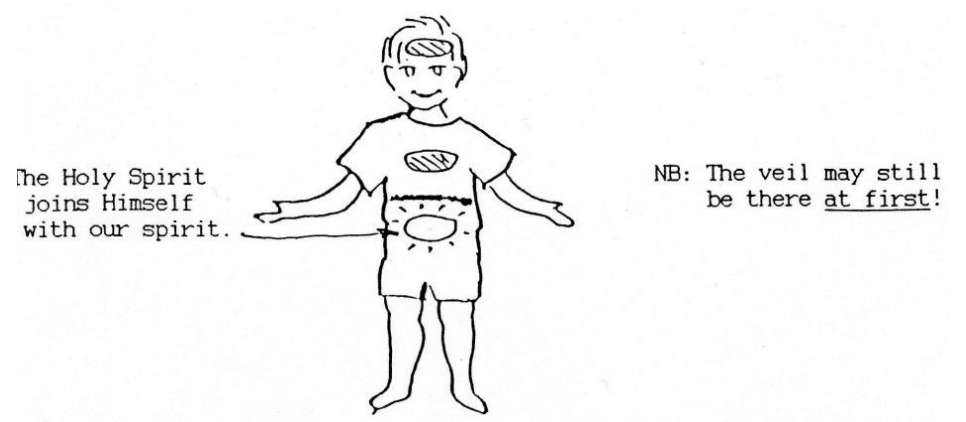
TYPE 1: SOME PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT STRUCTURE BUT THE SPIRIT IS NOT PRESENT.

Jesus said: in order to SEE the Kingdom of God we need to be BORN AGAIN (John 3:3). People who are not born again cannot 'see' the Kingdom and cannot be expected to do so. They cannot believe there is a God – they remain secular humanists/atheists.



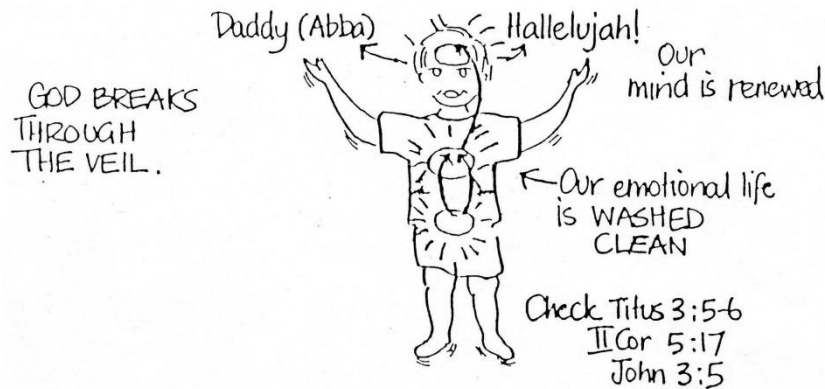
TYPE 2: SOME PEOPLE ARE BORN AGAIN - THE SPIRIT IS RESIDENT - BUT THE VEIL IS STILL IN PLACE

Such people do not have a direct relationship with the Lord; they can SEE the Kingdom but have not ENTERED into it experientially. They need to be re-born of water (the laver) and the Holy Spirit (oil) – John 3:5. Many Christian people live in this condition.



TYPE 3: SOME PEOPLE ARE OPEN TO RECEIVE GOD'S COUNSEL

When the Holy Spirit is RECEIVED through the veil, i.e. **welcomed**, into the 'Holy Place', i.e. the **soul**, we find ourselves having intimate communications with the Lord, 'spiritual instructions' – words of wisdom and knowledge, supernatural faith, etc. (ICor.12:7-11).



A spirit filled person enjoys the provisions of the **NEW COVENANT** (see Jeremiah 31:33-34 and Hebrews 8:10-12) which declares:

“This is the covenant that **I will** make with the house of Israel after those days says the Lord; **I will** put my laws into their minds and write them on their hearts; and **I will** be to them a God, and **they shall be** to me a people; and they **shall not** teach every man his neighbor and every man his brother, saying ‘know the Lord’, for **they shall all know me** from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more”.

Jesus statement of the new Covenant is found in Matthew 16: 18-20. He said it this way: “Upon this rock (direct revelation from God) I will build my *ecclesia* (assembly) and the gates of hell will not prevail against it! And I

will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound, having already been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed, having already been loosed in heaven. Then he charged His disciples to tell no man that He was the Christ! – Jesus stuck to the New Covenant rules!

The apostle Paul called the keys of the kingdom spirituals or grace gifts, given to ALL believers to advance God's kingdom on earth – see I Corinthians 12:7-11. wisdom, knowledge, faith, etc. (I Cor.12:7-11). This experience is not just for mature Christians – ALL of us can know it (I Cor.12:7, 11, Hebrews 8:10-12).

As we live in the Lord's presence and follow His instructions we advance His Kingdom and find Him sufficient for all of our personal needs.

Our MINDS are renewed
Our EMOTIONS are washed clean
We enter into a healthy PRAISE LIFE

To be 'really human' is to be in an intimate relation with the Master of the Universe and to walk with Him moment by moment, day by day.

BUT! WE MUST NOT TAKE THE LORD FOR GRANTED. WE NEED TO GO ON BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT: We need to keep on seeking His presence in our soul life, fanning up the flame that is within us; ‘...speaking to ourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord’ (Ephesians 5:18-21); finding the Lord's will for our lives, living in His victory rather than following our own desires and plans which lead nowhere.

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