

# THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE: A LESSON ON THE LIVING TEMPLE, THE BELIEVER IN WHOM GOD'S SPIRIT DWELLS

## 1 KINGS 06: 11–20

### *Introduction*

When we think of a church, a temple, a synagogue or a mosque, we usually think of a building — brick and mortar. But not God. As important as the buildings of our church or worship centre are, the primary interest of God is the *living temple*. The *living temple* is the believer's body in which God's Spirit dwells. The *indwelling presence* of the Holy Spirit is one of the great teachings of God's Holy Word. Once a person is saved by faith in the LORD Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God enters the life of the new believer. The body of the believer actually becomes the temple of God's Holy Spirit. Imagine the very Spirit of God Himself dwelling, abiding, living and being present within the body of the believer. A phenomenal, awesome truth! God's Spirit abides within us in order to guide us as we walk day by day, teaching and empowering us to conquer and overcome throughout life. The Spirit of God grows us into the image of Christ, conforming us to His very character. And the fruit of His character — of His Spirit — includes these wonderful qualities:

=> love	=> patience	=> faithfulness
=> joy	=> gentleness	=> meekness
=> peace	=> goodness	=> self-control

No greater gift could ever be received than the Spirit of God dwelling within our bodies. God's Spirit within us is the guarantee, the seal of our salvation. God's Spirit gives us the hope and power to live a full and victorious life. He empowers us to conquer all the temptations and trials of this world, even death itself. He then gives us the power to live eternally in the presence of God.

Because of what the Spirit of God gives to the believer — because of the wonderful fruit He bears in the life of the believer — we see why the primary interest of God is not bricks and mortar but instead the living temple. For it is the living temple, the body of the believer, in whom God's very own Spirit dwells.

**John 14:16-17** “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”

**Rom 8:9** You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

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**1 Cor 3:16** *Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?*

**1 Cor 6:19-20** *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own. You were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.*

**2 Cor 1:22** *Set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*

**2 Tim 1:14** *Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you — guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.*

**1 John 2:27** *As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit just as it has taught you, remain in him.*

**Ezek 36:27** *And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.*

The primary interest of God is not brick and mortar: it is the living temple. God is seeking people who will give their lives to Him so He can infill them with the presence and power of His precious Spirit. This is: *The Building of the Temple: A Lesson on the Living Temple, the Believer in Whom God's Spirit Dwells*, 1 Kings 6:1-38.

- I. The date when construction of the temple began — 480 years after the Exodus: stresses the importance of God's temple, the body of the believer, 1 Cor 6:19-20 (v. 1).
- II. The outer structure of the temple: stresses the importance of a solid, spiritual foundation (vv. 2-10).
- III. The conditional promises of God concerning the temple: stresses that the temple or church building is not sufficient by itself; obedience is necessary (vv. 11-13).
- IV. The interior of the temple: stresses the importance of communion with God (vv. 14-36).
- V. The time spent in completing the temple: a lesson on being steadfast, on persevering and completing the task given by God (vv. 37-38).

### **I. *1 Kings 06:11–13 Conditional Promises of God Concerning the Temple: The Temple Building is not Sufficient; Obedience is Necessary***

There were the conditional promises of God given to Solomon, promises concerning the temple. At some point during the construction of the temple, the LORD apparently sent a prophet to Solomon with a striking message: the temple was not sufficient for worship by itself; obedience was also necessary. As important as building the temple was, it alone was not enough, not in God's eyes: Solomon must obey God's Word, keeping the commandments of God. If he obeyed God, then the LORD promised to do two great things:

- => The LORD would use Solomon to fulfil the promises He had given to David, that David would have a lasting dynasty and that his son Solomon would build the temple.
- => The LORD Himself would live among the Israelites, grant His presence and guidance, never leaving nor abandoning them (v. 13).

Apart from obedience, Solomon would never receive the promises made by God. And apart from obedience, the temple would have no meaning or significance for God's people. For the temple by itself was not sufficient to secure God's approval and acceptance. Obedience was necessary for pure worship.

**Thought 1.** The lesson for us is just as striking as it was to Solomon. A church building is not enough, not sufficient by itself, not in the LORD's eyes. Obedience is necessary. Keeping the commandments of God, approaching God with a clean, pure heart is what makes us acceptable to Him. A worshipper entering the church with a sinful, wicked heart is not acceptable, not until he repents and turns to the LORD, forsaking his sin. No matter how ornate or beautiful a church is, the worshipper is acceptable to God only if he comes with a pure heart and clean life, only if he is willing to obey the LORD and to keep His commandments. This is the clear teaching of God's Holy Word:

**Mat 7:21-23** *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you. Away from me, you evil doers!"*

**Mat 12:50** *"For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."*

**Luke 8:21** *He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."*

**John 14:23** *Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."*

**John 15:10** *"If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love."*

**Rev 22:14** *Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.*

**Deut 5:29** *Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!*

**Deut 26:16** *The LORD your God commands you this day to follow these decrees and laws; carefully observe them with all your heart and with all your soul.*

**1 Kng 3:14** *"And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life."*

*1 Sam 15:22 But Samuel replied: “Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.*

## **II. 1 Kings 06:14–20 The Interior of the Temple: Stresses the Importance of Communion with God**

Once the exterior of the temple had been completed, the workers began to focus upon the interior. Note how the focus of the interior is upon the inner sanctuary or Most Holy Place. This stresses the importance of communion or fellowship with God.

1. The walls were lined with cedar panelling stretching all the way from the floor to the ceiling, and the floor was covered with fir or pine (v. 15). Both woods were very valuable in the ancient world, just as cedar panelling is today.
2. The inner sanctuary or the Most Holy Place was partitioned off with cedar boards (vv. 16-20). The Most Holy Place was partitioned off at the rear of the temple and was thirty feet deep. It was panelled with cedar from floor to ceiling (v. 16). This left sixty feet for the main hall, which was twice the size of the Most Holy Place. The interior of the main hall was covered with cedar as well as the Most Holy Place, and all woodwork of the temple was delicately carved, with no stone whatsoever exposed for the worshipper to see (v. 18).

The purpose of the Most Holy Place was to house the Ark of the Covenant, which was a symbol of the very presence of God Himself (v. 19; Exo 25:21-22; Jos 3:13; 1 Sam 4:4; 2 Sam 6:2; 1 Kng 8:10-11).

The dimensions of the Most Holy Place were thirty feet long, thirty feet wide, and thirty feet high — a perfect cube (v. 20). The interior covering was overlaid with pure gold, as well as the altar of incense.

3. In fact, the entire interior was covered with pure gold (vv. 21-22). This included the chains that protected the entrance to the Most Holy Place.

**Thought 1.** The sanctuary symbolized the very presence of God Himself, the place where the worshipper was to meet God, commune and fellowship with Him. Above all else, the one thing God wants from us is communion and fellowship with Him. God created us primarily for fellowship. He wanted communion with a creature who had a free will, who could choose either to fellowship or not to fellowship with God.

- The LORD wants us drawing near Him with broken hearts, contrite spirits, calling upon Him from the depths of our being.
- The LORD wants us seeking Him in prayer, asking Him to meet our needs and to help us through the problems, difficulties and trials of life.
- The LORD wants us praising Him and giving thanks when He meets our needs and supplies whatever provisions we lack.

- The LORD wants to walk with us through the good times as well as the bad. God never wants us to walk alone facing the seductive temptations of this world and the difficult, distressing trials that so often confront us.
- The LORD wants to be right by our side, taking care of us and looking after us, sustaining us. God wants to infuse power within our hearts and minds, power to conquer, triumph and overcome any and all enemies who oppose us or hate us or assault us. God wants to walk with us, empowering us to live victoriously as we walk day by day throughout life.

Communion with God, fellowship with God, drawing close to God — this is the desire of the LORD’s heart. Listen to what He says about communion and fellowship with Him:

**Mat 18:20** *“For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”*

**Mat 28:19-20** *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

**Luke 24:15** *As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them.*

**Luke 24:32** *They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”*

**John 15:5** *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”*

**John. 15:7** *“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.”*

**John. 15:10** *“If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love.”*

**John 17:23** *“I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know; that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”*

**1 Cor 1:9** *God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.*

**Ga1 2:20.** *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

**Eph 3:17-19** *So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

**Col 1:27** *To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

**Heb 7: 19** *(For the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.*

**Heb 10:22** *Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.*

**James 4:8** *Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

**1 John 1:3** *We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.*

**1 John 3:24** *Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*

**Rev 3:20** *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.*

**Gen 28:15** *I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.*

**Exo 33:14** *The LORD replied, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."*

**Psa 16:8** *I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.*

**Psa 34:18** *The LORD is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

**Psa 73:28** *But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.*

**Psa 145:18** *The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.*

**Isa 43:2** *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.*

**Jer 23:23** *"Am I only a God nearby," declares the LORD, "and not a God far away?"* ■