

I Am the Temple of God but Does He Want to Live in Me?

by Edgar Reich

We are the temple of God, and he wants to have a relationship with us, but sin is an abomination to him and hurts us, and we can ask Jesus to clean our temple and make us holy.

Duration: 1:10:11

Scripture: Matthew 5:14-16, John 8:12, John 14:23, Romans 12:1-2, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, 2 Corinthians 6:16, Ephesians 4:30, 1 John 4:4

Topics: "Holy Spirit", "Sanctification"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of recognizing that as believers, we are the temple of God, and God desires to dwell within us. It highlights the need to cleanse ourselves from sin, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and boldly share our faith, trusting in God's power to work through us. The sermon also stresses the significance of rejecting fear and relying on God's strength to be a light in the world, sharing the truth of Jesus Christ with others.

Transcript

Oh, oh. Seeking you as a precious jewel. Lord, I'm given love by thee.

Jesus, Lamb of God. Jesus, Lamb of God. Taking my sin, my cross, my shame, rising again, I bless your name.

You are my hope when I fall down. Jesus, that is your name. And Jesus, Lamb of God, is your name.

Jesus, that is your name. And Jesus, Lamb of God, is your name. I get blessed so many times.

Stand up to sing. Not sing for you, but to sing with you. When I hear you sing, God, it's just as wonderful to know you.

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. Oh, precious is the flow that makes me white as snow.

Nothing but the blood of Jesus. For my cleansing is mighty. Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh, precious is the flow that makes me white as snow. Nothing but the blood of Jesus. No other fount I know.

Nothing but the blood of Jesus. I'll just sing a verse, a chorus. I'll keep pausing there.

God sent his Son. They called him Jesus. He made do the deal and forgave.

He lived and grew, my Savior lived. Because he lives, I can face tomorrow. Because he lives, all fear is gone.

Because I know he holds the future. And I deserve the living. Just because he lives.

Father, we are here again, this evening, in desperation to see your face. We hunger and thirst for you already. Hearts, our souls cry out for the living God.

Lord God, meet us now, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen. Amen.

Prayer here. Lord, we pray, the spirit of the living God, be poured out upon the servant, your servant, that answered from on high. Lord, the sword of the spirit be let loose, Lord, to cut and to pierce, to heal, to bind not, Lord, for your mighty name, for your glory, we pray, in Jesus' name, amen.

Thank you so much, Father Don, and again, it is a joy and an honor to welcome you tonight, and we also want to welcome all those that are joining us via technical devices. We welcome you, and may the Lord just be with you and mightily, mightily encourage all of us to his blessed word. I'd also like to thank Brother Greg Gordon and the Sermon Index for hosting this gathering and for Brother Don Longworth for his hard work and for his vision for the Bible.

We want to thank Pastor Steve and the board for allowing us to have this beautiful facility, and we want to also thank Sister Jackie and Brother Manuel for their kindness towards me and hosting me, and then Brother Thomas, thank you so much for that beautiful worship. Thank you. Bless us.

Most of all, we want to thank our Lord Jesus Christ for it is his service, it is his leadership that we long for, and that he might touch each one of our hearts. The message tonight is, I am the temple of God, but does he want to live in me? Does he want to live in me? When we think of the temple, and going back into some of the old writings, we think of a building of stone, we think of a marvelous rendition of the early temple of God, which was given to us in renditions and pictures of the temple in Jerusalem, and that temple was destroyed in 70 AD. Now the Christian faith in the New Testament says that after we have accepted Christ as our Savior, we become the temple of the Most High God, and he dwells in us, he wants to dwell in us, and I'd like you to refer to 2 Corinthians chapter 6 verse 16, 2 Corinthians chapter 6 verse 16, and there it says, and what agreement has the temple of God with idols, for you are the temple of the living God.

You are the temple of the living God. It's incredible, us, specks of dust, those of you who say, well I'm nothing, but I want to tell you, you're also the temple of the living God, and we are the children of the Most High God, and I want to encourage you tonight, that you are the temple of the living God, and then it says here, for you are the temple of the living God, as God has said, I will dwell in them, and walk among them, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Now there's great significance to this temple inside of us, and it's also a place where we can run to.

You see, we're not alone, we often feel alone, we feel forgotten, we feel that there's no one that loves us, but God said, no I love you incredibly, Jesus is saying, I love you incredibly, I'm there for you, I'm right inside of you if you want to believe it, I am there to help you to live this Christian life, and in turn, I do expect that you look to me, it's not an unconditional offer that he's there for us, it is a requirement that you look to him, and we have an example of that, a Chinese government official was persecuting Christians terribly in China, a Christian who was incarcerated by this official told him a life story, he said, there was once a pig underneath an apricot tree, the pig found wonderful ripe apricots on the ground, and had a wonderful time feasting on those apricots,

when he was finished, he wanted more, the pig wanted more, couldn't find anymore, and started to rip up the ground to find more, the pig devastated the ground, and could not find any more apricots, the pig did not understand that that good fruit was from above, that pig did not understand that hell comes from above, and down from the father, and the Chinese government official was reflecting on this, and he thought about this reason to look for higher hell, and later on he became a Christian, the name of Christ was never mentioned to him, he became a Christian, and stopped persecuting Christians, and then he declared his faith to others, and as he did so, he became persecuted himself, now this story also has a meaning and application for us as Christians in North America, we have been

blinded by the fears of the world, by money, by possessions, by entertainment, and by unbelief, we worry and fret, and we look at the circumstances of our lives, and we try to improve them on the ground, we look for ripe apricots on the ground, we look for solutions on the ground, we tear up the ground, and we say I can do it, and we neglect to look up above, where does all hell come from, it comes from above, down from the father, and so may I ask you, how do you rely on higher hell, when you have difficulties, when you have problems, when the money is running out, when there's no food, when there's opposition in the family, when husband and wife don't get along, when your boss at work no longer relates to you the way he would like to, where do you go, what do you do, do you go for

higher hell, or do you rip up the ground and try to find good food on the ground, it is for us to look up, and in Jeremiah 17 verse 5 it says, thus says the Lord, curse it, curse it, curse it is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord, so if we depend on our own strength, we surely become disappointed, we then listen to the devil, and the devil comes and whispers into our ears and says, you see, God is not helping you, then you turn to other things in life to feel better, who or what is in control of you to make you feel better, is it television, is it pleasure, is it the internet, is it money, is it power, is it recognition, is it love, is it lust, is it the self, you see, higher hell comes from above and down from the Father, and then

may I ask, may I ask you, and many of you are Christians, and that is wonderful, may I ask, who are you, who are you, do you know who you are, do you believe the scripture that we just read, do you truly believe that, do you act on that, do you understand it, what is your purpose in life, when I was a young man I wanted to be a president of a company by the age of 30, and I didn't make that goal, I wanted to be in charge of people, and I had grown up as a refugee in abject poverty, I had worms growing in me, and when I went to the bathroom worms came out, now later on God allowed me to experience the other side of it, and God allowed me to run a major corporation in Europe, and I also taught business at the University of Toronto, I only mention this for comparative sake, because my task

is like done to me for the excellency of knowing the Lord Jesus Christ, he is God, he is Lord, and he has given us the sense of what we seek for, we seek for happiness, we seek for joy, we seek fulfillment, and

we think we can find it on the ground, we think we can find it in apricots on the ground, and so we stir up the ground, we rip up the ground, I want happiness, I want fulfillment, but beloved it comes from above, it comes down from the Father, praise God, and so joy and peace had escaped me, money had become my God, and pleasure, and I could not find a future nor a hope, and I needed higher hell, I was steeped in sin, I was on my way to hell, I wanted good food, but I couldn't find it, and then later on I realized too that God not only is there for higher hell, but that higher hell

is within me, because I am the temple of the most high God, praise God, I am the temple of God, now in 2 Peter chapter 2 verses 21 and 22, in 2 Peter chapter 2 verses 21 and 22, we see the church in America, in North America, a large part of the church now, and in 2 Peter chapter 2 verses 21 to 22 it says, for it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than having known it to turn from the holy commandment and deliver it to them, but it has happened to them according to the true proverb, a dog returns to its own vomit and a sow having washed to her wallowing in mire, you see the church now commits open sin in many denominations into the church and tells all people it's okay, God will pull up with it, it's okay you are under grace, you are automatically

forgiven, there is no hell, God would not do that, lies, they're lies, lies from the devil, they're lies from Satan, they're lies from the world beloved, God has given you a sure foundation in his word, he has given you a sure foundation, read your bible, read what it says, read how Jesus himself holds hell, don't believe false prophets, don't believe false teachers, remain in the word of God and remain strong, and so when Christians say sin is okay, the whole world listens to that and thinks maybe they're right, there was a Ray Comfort video called Noah from California and there are all kinds of people who say I'm born again, but I watched porn, it's okay, you know, it's no problem, it's okay, stealing line, it's okay, don't worry about it, it's okay, lies from Satan beloved, lies from

Satan, it's not okay, and so we have to look at God and see how he not only provides higher hell, but he has also put into us the temple of the most high God, and so who am I as a Christian, what does it mean to you to be called the temple of God, do you think it's special, do you think that there are extraordinary things attached to that, so let us look at the scripture a little bit closer and let us understand the temple of the most high God, in the Old Testament there was a tent tabernacle built in the desert by the children of Israel, and God gave very specific instructions to have that temple built, and may I ask you, why did God want to have a temple built with his people in the desert, why did he want to have that temple built, the answer is in Exodus chapter 25 verse 8, in Exodus

chapter 25 verse 8, and there it says, and let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell with them, and so God wants to dwell with us, he wants to have a relationship with us, he wants to help us, he wants to be with us, and then when we read in Exodus Leviticus and Numbers there are chapters upon chapters of instructions from God for that temple, do you think that God cared for his temple, you see there was an initial outline of what the temple was to look like, then there was a collection of the materials for the temple, and by the way they collected 2,193 pounds of gold because God said many of the things overlaid with gold or made them directly from gold, he empowered people to build the temple and to make the various implements, he gave rules concerning the building of the temple, he

gave rules concerning the operation of the temple, and he instructed 8,600 Elites to operate that temple, do you think God cared for that temple, then there was a dedication of the priest, then there were rules for the priest, then there were rules concerning sin sacrifice, peace offerings, thanks offerings, and many many more details, and God was very very precise about this temple of his, and later on we read how the

people then went ahead and they built this temple in accordance with the rule of God, and so if you want to go back with me in time a little bit, and look at this temple tabernacle in the desert a little bit closer, there was a great big outline for the temple called a courtyard, and the courtyard had curtains all around it on the outside, there was a great courtyard and

then there was to be a two room sanctuary inside the courtyard, one was called the Holy Room, and then the other was called the Holy of Holies, and God wanted to come dwell with his people and he said I'm going to dwell in the Holy of Holies, and so in Exodus chapter 25 verses 8 and 9, we have verse 8, but we will also read verse 9 now, Exodus 25, 8 and 9, and let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them according to all that I show you, that is the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all of its furnishings just so you shall make it, and then in Hebrews chapter 9 verse 3 it says that behind the second veil the part of the tabernacle is called the holiest of all, and that is where God wanted to dwell with an ark of God, and an ark of God was to be built, it was a

sacred wooden chest overlaid with gold, and in Exodus chapter 25 verses 10 we read have the people made an ark of acacia wood, a sacred chest, 45 inches long, 27 inches wide, and 27 inches high, overlaid inside and outside with pure gold and one loading of gold all around it, and then put on top of this ark of God two angels, two golden angels with their wings stretched out towards each other, and then beneath their wings was to be a seat, a seat, a mercy seat for God, and God said I will speak from this mercy seat to Moses, and in Exodus chapter 25 verse 22 God said there I will meet with you and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the testimony about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of

Israel.

Now inside the ark of God, do you remember what was inside the ark of God? You find that in Hebrews chapter 9 verse 4, in Hebrews chapter 9 verse 4, initially there were the stone tablets, the second set that God had made of the commandments, and here in Hebrews chapter 9 verse 4 it says, which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold wherein was the golden pot that had manna and Aaron's lot that bought it and the tables of the covenant.

So there were three items inside the ark of God, there was a pot of manna which was heavenly food that had come from heaven and they collected some of it, put it into a golden pot, put it inside of the ark, and then there was also a rod of Aaron that bought it without being attached to a tree.

And so they had kept these things inside the ark of God. And then there was a curtain and a door to the holy of the holiest. A high priest could only enter the holy of holiest once a year beloved, and he went there and he could not enter without making a sacrifice of an animal for himself to be freed from sin, and he could not enter the holiest of holiest with blood, and the blood represented death, it showed God that a sacrifice had taken place because without blood there is no remission of sin, says the word of God.

And then in the front room of the two rooms there was an altar of incense where they burned incense, then there was a golden lampstand, and then there was a table for showbread, and the table was also overlaid with gold, and they would put loaves of bread into this room. Now in front of this two room sanctuary was a wash basin, and the priests had to wash their hands and their feet or else they would die. And in Exodus chapter 30 verse 21 it says they must always wash their hands and feet or they will die.

This is a permanent law for Aaron and his descendants to be observed from generation to generation. Do you think God cared for his altar? Do you think that all of the instructions he gave had a great meaning to God? Anyone that came near that sanctuary was sinned, and without that sacrifice was to die. And two of Aaron's sons brought false fire, they didn't follow the rules of God, they brought false fire into that temple and they died, beloved.

Then there was an altar for burnt offerings where sacrifices to God would be burnt, and these were animals that had to die because God had said in the Garden of Eden, if you sin there is death. And so in order to fulfill the commandment of God and to cover the sins of the people, God instituted this altar of burnt offerings, of sin offerings, of thanks offerings, where animals had to die, little baby, cute little baby lambs. If you sin a lamb had to die, or a goat had to die, or for the priest it was a young bull.

Now when we think about these sin offerings and about animals being killed for sin and for transgressions, do you think it's important for God to have a clean temple? Do you think he would expect for his temple to remain free of the same sins of commission and omission? Would anyone recall how many bulls were sacrificed and how many sheep were sacrificed when the first temple was dedicated by Solomon? And the answer you find in 2 Chronicles chapter 7 verse 5. And King Solomon offered a sacrifice of 22,000 bulls at that dedication and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God. Now did God agree with that? Was he pleased with that? In 2 Chronicles chapter 7 verse 1 it says, When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offerings and the sacrifices.

And the glory of God filled his temple. Praise God. The old temple is gone.

There is a new temple. Does this new temple have any meaning in you? Do you think God wants a clean temple? Do you think God is in that temple? Is Jesus in that temple? Is the Holy Spirit in that temple? How serious is sin? God wanted an animal sacrificed and beloved each animal that was sacrificed in the Old Testament represented the sacrifice of the only begotten Son of God, of the Lord Jesus Christ. He died that no longer these sin sacrifices needed to be made and became our intermediary between us and God and a new agreement between God and man.

How wonderful. And so as we go to Christ, as we ask him to clean the temple, and Jesus went when he was on earth in Jerusalem, he went into the temple and cleansed the temple. If there is any sin with you, any addictive sins, any problems, you can ask Jesus to clean your temple again.

You can do that tonight. You can have that temple, that new temple operating in you the way God intends. But sin is so serious.

So what was the meaning of the old temple? It was the presence of God. It was his holiness. It was his love for mankind.

He said, I want to dwell with you. I want to have a relationship with you. I'm glad because you are my creation.

But I don't want you to sin. The reason for that is it's an abomination to God, sin, and at the same time you're getting hurt. You listen to the lies of Satan and you say, oh well, you know, it isn't so bad.

I go to the bar and drink and all right, well, I had a good time drinking. And then I go to my car and I sit in my car and I drive home and I kill someone. God, how could you let this happen? I'm a Christian.

Is God at fault? He warns us, don't do these kind of things. If you get hooked on pornography and pornography is in your temple of God, do you think God wants to live in you and God wants to be there with pornography? God forbid. God forbid.

Do you think he puts up with lying and cheating? With gossip? With putting down others like you're supposed to love? What does God say about that in his holy temple, which you are? What does he say to you? Does he remind you? Is he with you? Is he in you? You see, God's justice required blood for the original sin and blood shed indicates death, which is the requirement of God's judgment pronounced in the Garden of Eden. In the holiest of centuries, God exercised his rule through his commandments and the old covenant between God and man. The old tabernacle foreshadowed the new temple and the new agreement between God and man.

So now we come to the temple of God. In the New Testament, what does that temple look like? And the Apostle Paul spoke with the very carnal church. He spoke with the Corinthian church and he reminded them that through faith in Christ, through the Son of God, when they made this decision to follow Christ, to give their lives to Christ, to have their sins forgiven, that they had become the temple of God.

And so here's another passage about being a temple of God. And in 1 Corinthians 3, verses 16-17, it says, Do you not know that you are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you? And then there comes a warning in verse 17. So first, he says, don't you know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? And then verse 17, if anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him.

For the temple of God is holy, beloved. Which temple you are, you're holy. So why would you allow sin into your holy temple? You don't need to do it anymore because God will help you if you ask Him.

Jesus will help you. And first it says we are the temple of God and then comes the solemn warning. If we live in sin and defile the temple, don't bring false fire into the temple.

God will not stand for it. Don't bring sin into the sanctuary of God. He will not stand for it.

Then in 1 Corinthians 6, verses 18-20, there the apostle Paul also warns of sexual immorality. And he says in 1 Corinthians 6, verses 18-20, flee, flee, that means run away from sexual immorality. There's another verse that says flee youthful lust.

Well, I'm a strong Christian, Lord. I can deal with it. No, no, no.

Don't let pride get in your way. Don't be disobedient to God. Flee, it says here.

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price.

Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. Do you have an altar of lust? What happens is, if you have an altar of lust, then you're going to have to put on there some babies to sacrifice. And that's what our nation is doing, is sacrificing, and we have sacrificed in North America, about 60 million babies, and put them on the altar of lust.

The sister just told me, and she said, I can't sleep at night. And God has given her a passion for children that are being killed. And she says, they cry out to me all night long, I cannot sleep.

They cry out as they're being murdered in the bodies of their mothers. I don't know what to do. They cry out all the time.

When we read that children were sacrificed to God more than in the Old Testament, we say, oh, that's terrible. That's terrible. But we have our own altars of lust in North America tonight.

So then Paul explained it again, and we had read 2 Corinthians 6, verse 16. But it is not just the spirit of God. God dwells in us through his spirit.

And here again it says, what agreement has the temple of God with idols? Now did Jesus ever say anything about that in his word? And if you refer to John chapter 14, verse 23, Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. And Jesus said, the Father and I, we're going to come to you. We want to make our home with you.

We want to live in you. Praise God, we have higher hell. And is Jesus with us? And in 1 John chapter 4, it says, You are of God, little children, and have forever.

Because he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. And this talks about Jesus, the one who is in the world and evil is Satan. The one who is in us is Christ himself.

Praise God. And we all know in Relations chapter 2, verse 20, where the apostle Paul said, I am crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live.

But Christ lives in me. I have higher hell right within me. If I want to believe it.

If I want to ask him for help. So the New Testament temple is inside of us. So let us look at this New Testament temple from the perspective of the Old Testament temple.

And there was an entrance to this courtyard, to the temple. And now we are told in John chapter 3, verse 16, For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. And that is how we gain the entrance.

The entrance to that temple inside of us. And Jesus answered, Most assuredly I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. And then there is a warning in John chapter 3, verse 36.

He who believes in the Son has everlasting life. And he who does not believe the Son shall not see life. But the wrath of God abides on him.

Now when you enter the temple area, the New Temple, right after the entrance there is still an altar. And you say, why is there an altar? The altar is to remind us of the sacrifice that Christ has made for us. But there is a second reason about it.

That altar still has fire in it. And then in Romans chapter 12, verses 1 and 2, it tells us, I have received you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice. Which is your being holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Now a living sacrifice is just that. A living sacrifice means you are still alive, but you are also a sacrifice. And you come to a holy altar, and you lie down on that holy altar and let yourself be burned.

Burned of the old self. Burned of any sins. And it gets very hot on that altar.

And you say, no, I don't want to be on here, I'm going to get off. That's not a living sacrifice. You see, we ought to be on that altar.

And that a sweet savor rises to God of this burnt sacrifice. A sweet aroma. A sweet aroma of our commitment to God.

A sweet aroma where we cry out to Him. And where we say, Father, I'm all yours. I belong to you.

I belong to you, Father. And so we give up all, and we let it be burned for His glory and for His honor. And that is a sweet smelling aroma that will come from you.

And that sweet smelling aroma will also be heard and felt in your community. It will be felt by your fellow workers. It will be felt by your neighbors.

It will be felt by family members. And that sweet aroma is either to eternal life or to death. Because as you give a testimony, as you share what God has done for you, it will convict some, but you will also be rejected by others.

And so there is this altar as soon as we come in. And then the next thing that we see within our holy temple is the water basin. And the water basin is represented by Matthew 3, verse 11.

And there it says, I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. But he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals are not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

And so the water basin there represents the water of baptism. It represents water to wash for repentance. It represents the living waters of the Holy Spirit to overflow from you and to make a difference with others.

And now we enter the sanctuary with the two rooms. And in the first room there is a lampstand. Who is that lampstand? Who is that lampstand? And let us take a look at John chapter 8, verse 12.

John chapter 8, verse 12. Then Jesus spoke to them again saying, I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.

And so the lampstand inside of you is Christ himself. And then he said, let my light shine through you. Let it shine through the world.

And in Matthew chapter 5, verse 14 to 16, it says, you, you, you are the light of the world. Christ is supposed to shine from us. Christ is to be seen and heard from us.

And in Matthew 5, verses 14 to 16, Jesus said, you are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden, nor do they light a lamp and put it underneath a basket. But on a lampstand, and it gives light to all.

Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works. And then who is the showbread? Who is the showbread in this first room? Well, in John chapter 6, verses 33 to 35, it says, for the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Then they said to him, Lord, give us this bread always.

And Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. He who comes to me shall never hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst. So Christ is in you, beloved.

Christ is in you in this new temple. And then we now come to the altar of incense. And we know from the book of Revelation that even as the prayers are said by the saints, they rise together with the smoke of the incense to arrive at God.

And so then we come to the entrance of the Holy of Holies, where God dwells. In the old temple, a priest could only enter once a year. And then an amazing thing happened when Christ died on the cross.

And I believe most of you know about this. But the curtain was torn. The curtain was torn that divided the Holy of Holies.

And free access was given to man from God to the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ. And you know that curtain was torn from the upper part downwards. Man would have ripped it from the bottom up to the top.

And it was ripped by God in two to say, now I have access to thee. Do you think that temple of God is special to God that is within you? Do you think he has special purposes for that temple inside of you? Now does God want to live in this temple inside of you? God thinks and detests sin. Are you a house of prayer? Or a den of thieves? Are you a house of prayer? Does God want to live inside of you? God thinks and detests sin.

And Ephesians chapter 4 verse 30 says, And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. And so when grieving occurs, grieving always includes tears. And we read in the Old Testament that God wept over the nation of Israel.

We read in the New Testament that Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem. Because many would die, many would reject Christ. And then they died.

But beloved, we are the temple of God. And so we need to ask God anew to be cleansed from sin. To be filled with the Holy Spirit.

And to believe that we are filled by Him. And that we now can act in accordance with higher help. So we can shine.

We can shine. We can oppose sin with the help of God inside of us. With higher help.

We no longer are on our own. Because we are the temple of the Most High God. And so now we have this wonderful knowledge.

But will you believe it? Will you act on it? You see, God says, I am with you. You can tempt greater things than myself did. And he said, a missionary once said, tempt great things for God.

Expect great things from God. But let us start small. Let us start small.

So after I realized that I had all this higher help, I thought, well, I better share my faith. But I was very hesitant. I was full of fear.

Then one night, and this was shortly after I was saved, I had a dream at night that I was to take a Bible to a Japanese businessman. A Japanese businessman lived in Japan. We had a joint venture with Hitachi.

And so the question was, would I share a Bible with President Hamamoto? I changed his name to respect him, but he was a Japanese president. And so as this dream came to bring him a Bible, I said, no, God, I can't do that. I'm going to risk my job.

This man is into Shintoism. He's into whatever Buddhism has. I cannot share my faith with him.

But God wouldn't listen. He wouldn't let me sleep. And so for several nights, I could not sleep.

And finally, I got so overtired, I said, Lord, I give in. I give in. I give in.

And I wrote to the American Bible Society and ordered a Bible in Japanese. And then we would have a board meeting with some Hitachi board members, and I would represent the American company. And I said, Lord, I have to bring presents for the other board members, but I won't bring the Bible.

No, you know, take socks, ice, whatever. And so we had them all wrapped up, and my secretary also wrapped up this Bible. And then I pleaded with God, and I said, now, Lord, you have to understand, I'm risking my job for you.

And I'm not sure whether I like that, and I'm not sure whether this will be accepted by them. And if our president from our corporation finds out that I have done this, I will be fired. What am I to do, Lord? So as I was flying to Japan, I reasoned with God, and I said, now, God, there is an alternative.

Now, please consider that carefully. And I said, Father, this Mr. Hamamoto, he doesn't need to open up his Bible in front of all of the board members. So let the other board members open up their presents, and then he should keep his present until he's alone so that I won't be embarrassed, you know, and I won't perhaps be fired.

So you have to be reasonable, God. And I, you know, the whole air flight to Japan is nine hours from California. I argued with God that he had to be reasonable.

So I got to the board meeting, and I passed out all of the presents, and everybody went and took off the gift paper. And the first one to take off and rip off the paper was Mr. Hamamoto, a Japanese of daily reserve. And so that's what he did.

He said, a Bible, a Bible, a Bible. And then everyone became very quiet. The Japanese board members were detached.

They didn't comment. I didn't comment. We had to go into a meeting, and I had to fly right afterwards to Australia.

So I couldn't ask him what happened, you know, and I said to him, Mr. Hamamoto, I will be back, and I'd like you to tell me your story. And then three months later, I went for another board meeting, and Mr. Hamamoto took me in one of his bullet trains to visit Kyoto, and on the way to Kyoto, I asked him what happened, Mr. Hamamoto. And Mr. Hamamoto told me this story.

He said that he has a tea garden in Tokyo with a Japanese lantern. And he said one day he was walking in his garden, and as he looked at his lantern, all of a sudden he noticed a tiny little cross on the very

bottom of this lantern, this stone lantern. And he said, what is this all about? We're not Christians, you know.

Where did this cross come from? And so he started to investigate his history, and he was able to go back to the 16th century, and he found that in the 16th century there were some family members who were some of the very first Christians in Japan, and they had been killed. They became martyrs. But of course other family members survived, and he found this out about them, and he was greatly disturbed about that.

And then one day he was walking through his garden. It was a beautiful sunny day like we have today, and then he pointed with his finger to the sun, and he said, Christian God, I don't know you. I don't know whether you're real, whether I should believe in you.

But if you're real, send me a sign. Send me a sign that I know that you're real. Send me a sign.

And then a few days later, a businessman comes from America and presents the living word of God. Just in obedience, but a very reluctant Christian, fearful of men. And so God intervened that this man, and he had the Bible open on his office desk with all passages marked that were important to him.

And so I reasoned with God, and I said, Well, God, why is it so important that we testify, that we share our faith? Why is it so important? Well, the reason is Christianity is going to die if there are no new babies. There must be new growth, new babies. And the sheep beget sheep.

It's not the shepherd who begets the sheep, it's the sheep beget sheep. You love it? And so I said, Okay, Lord, I'm going to try. I'm going to work on this.

I'm going to have faith. You've put a temple inside of me. Please give me courage.

Please give me courage not to fear men, not to fear my work-related issues, not to fear loss of life, not to fear being put down. Please help me, Lord. So I was two days from death in the hospital, and God decided I should live.

There's a place for that, and so we are able to share with you, to become a servant of His. But a night nurse came, and the night nurse came to my bed, and I thanked her. It's nice that you came to take care of me.

May I ask you, do you believe in anything? And she said to me, Oh, yes, I believe in gods. G-O-D-S. And I said, Okay, well, that's wonderful that you believe.

Always try and give a compliment if you can. And so I said, It's wonderful that you believe. May I ask who you believe in? And she said, Well, I believe in Buddha.

I believe in Islam. I believe in Christianity. I believe in Hinduism.

I believe in Hare Krishna. Everybody has something good. And I was praying, and I said, Lord, cleanse me, Lord.

Lord, fill me with your Holy Spirit. I don't know what to say. And, you know, I just cried out quickly myself.

I say, Cleanse me, Lord. Fill me, Lord, with your Holy Spirit. And help me to give you words to say, because I don't know what to say.

And then you have to believe that you feel, and that God will help you to do that. And so words came out of my mouth, and I said to her, Well, that's wonderful that you have this belief in the goodness of these gods, but can you tell me which one of these gods is telling you the truth? How do you know which one is telling you the truth? And she said, I don't know. I said, If there was a real God, wouldn't a real God tell you what is truth? And she says, Yes, you're right.

If there's a real God, he ought to tell us what is truth. And I said to her, Now, there was once a river in Israel called the River Jordan, and a man was in that river being baptized. Have you ever heard this story? She said, No, I have never heard this.

And I said to her, Now, this man was being baptized, and then God opened up heaven, and he spoke by a voice from heaven. And he said, This is my beloved Son, in whom my blood bleeds. And I asked her, Was it Buddha in the river? And she said, No, I don't know.

I said, Was it Muhammad in the river? No, I don't know. Was it Eru Krishna or another Hindu God in the river? No, I don't know. And I said, Was it Jesus Christ? And she said, I don't know.

And so then, then I said to her, This true God, he opened up heaven, and he pointed to this man being baptized, and his name is Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God. He is the truth, the way, and the life, and he will make us to get to heaven if we repent and pray to him. And so she got so excited, and we talked for a little while.

She read some tracts, and then she ran away from me, and she ran downstairs, and she bought a little angel in the gift shop, and she came back with the angel, and she said, I want this angel to protect you, and I want you to tell others. And she said, Why haven't you told this story? People must know, people must understand that there is a true God. And so then she left me, and she quit her job, and she was so overcome by the Holy Spirit, she didn't come back all night, and I never saw her.

I was there for two more weeks, and so I never saw her again, so I don't know what God did. And then just to repeat, attend great things for God, expect great things from God, and start with your testimony. Start with your testimony.

Reject fear in the temple of God, because God said, You only fear me. Don't fear man. You have the temple of God inside of you.

You have Christ inside of you. You have the Holy Spirit inside of you. Now the third testimony is from the streets of Brooklyn.

I also, at the odd time, I don't do it often enough, I go out and we witness and we share Christ. And as we were in Brooklyn, we were giving out tracts and talking with people, and I saw on a side street, I saw a group of young men lined up against the wall, and there was an older man sitting down on the ground. He was the chief, and that was a gang.

It was very clear it was a gang, and the Holy Spirit said, Well, go on over, talk to them. And so I did, and I walked over to this leader, he was sitting on the ground, and I said, can we have a talk for a moment? And he said, Sure, go ahead. And so I told him I'm a Christian, and I just wanted him to know that there is a

heaven, there is a future and a hope, and that God loved him.

And I told him that Christ had died for our sins, and that if we accepted Christ, that there would be forgiveness of sin, and that God would open up heaven for us, but we also would have to make a commitment to follow Christ. And he said to me, I haven't got the slightest clue what you're talking about. My prayer went up again to heaven.

Lord, cleanse me. Lord, cleanse me. Fill me with the Holy Spirit.

Help me what to say, that I know what to say to him now. I have no idea what to say. And then help me to open up my mouth.

And the thought immediately came, tell him about the court. He knows about the court. So I said to him, do you know about a court of law? And he said, yes, I do.

And I said, you know, in a court of law, you have a judge, yes? And I said, let's assume that judge is God. And let's assume there's a Crown Attorney who accuses you. Do you understand that? He said, yes.

And I said, well, that would be Satan, because he is the accuser of the brethren. And I said, and then imagine that I have to go before that court, and the accuser is going to miss all of my sins.

Video: <https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/Ug1d9Msncgk.mp4>

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