

Identifying as God's Temple

Have you ever wondered what it truly means to be a Christian? Beyond just believing in Jesus, there's a profound reality about who you are and how you're meant to live. Understanding your identity as God's temple changes everything about how you approach life, challenges, and your relationship with God.

What Does It Mean to Be God's Temple?

Under the Old Testament, people had to go through priests to connect with God. Only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies once a year to make atonement for sins. But under the new covenant, everything changed.

You and I are now priests unto our God. We have direct access to the Holy of Holies anytime we want. In fact, we've become the Holy of Holies ourselves.

Just as the Old Testament temple had three compartments - the outer court, inner court, and Holy of Holies - you are a triune being with a body (outer court), soul (inner court), and spirit (Holy of Holies). The Bible tells us that under the new covenant, we are one spirit with the Lord. The Holy Spirit now lives in your spirit, making your spirit the Holy of Holies.

How Should This Change How You Treat Your Body?

When Jesus walked into the temple and saw corrupt merchandising, He made a whip and drove out the thieves and robbers. He declared, "My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you've made it a den of thieves." Immediately after cleansing the temple, He healed all the sick who came to Him.

This wasn't coincidental. Jesus was demonstrating that infirmity and sickness can't stay in the temple of the Holy Spirit. He was angry about the corruption in God's house, and you should be angry about sickness, infirmity, and anything going on in your body that doesn't belong there.

The Bible says it was zeal for God's house that consumed Jesus. Now He hands us the whip of His word and gives us authority to guard this house, to reverence this holy place.

Why Does This Matter More Than Just Feeling Better?

This isn't just about wanting to feel better - it's about zeal for His house. This is God's property. When something attacks your body, it's attacking God's house. You're not just fighting for yourself; you're fighting for the honor of God's dwelling place.

Romans 12:1 tells us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our reasonable service. Your body belongs to Him. You take it only where He wants it to go and have it doing only things that are pleasing to Him.

How Do You Live Beyond Natural Limitations?

The Bible instructs us not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds so we can prove what is the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God. We don't want to be just naturally minded - we want to be spiritually minded.

Everything in the natural world is contingent upon what's happening in the spirit. The battle isn't really with flesh and blood - it starts in the spirit. Everything that happens in the natural is the result of things happening in the spirit.

What Does It Mean to Be Perfect?

When Jesus told the rich young ruler, "If you want to be perfect, go sell what you have and give to the poor," He was addressing the deeper issue in the man's heart. Perfection isn't about sinlessness in our own strength - it's about allowing God to search us out and deal with the root issues that keep us from His best.

Jesus said we should be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect. This perfection comes through loving not just those who love us, but even our enemies. It's about seeing beyond the natural and responding from a place of spiritual understanding.

How Do You Go Deeper in Your Faith?

Many Christians remain ignorant of spiritual things, living only according to what they can see and feel. But we're called to live from a much deeper, higher place - a spiritual place where we draw our strength from the Lord Himself.

When facing challenges, don't just accept surface-level answers. Ask "why" until you get understanding. Seek truth more than gold or silver. James 1:5 promises that if any of you lacks wisdom, ask of God who gives to all liberally without reproach.

Sometimes we don't realize we need searching until we're in a painful place. But these trials become opportunities to go deeper and get answers. Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience, and patience has its perfect work so you may be perfect and complete.

What Happens When You Really Understand God's Word?

The truth shall make you free. It's not you making yourself free by quoting scripture - the truth itself does the work. The truth is like medicine that's going to do the job. When you really understand what God has said about you, when you move from hoping it will happen to knowing it has already happened, everything changes.

Jesus said His words are spirit and life. When you line yourself up with the word of God, you've lined yourself up with the Spirit. If you're walking in line with the word of God, you know you're walking pleasing to God.

Life Application

This week, challenge yourself to live as the temple of the Holy Spirit that you are. When facing any challenge - whether physical, emotional, or spiritual - don't just react according to what you see in the natural. Instead, ask "why" questions and seek God for deeper understanding.

Start each day by acknowledging that your body is God's house and that His Spirit lives in you. When symptoms, fears, or negative thoughts try to take residence in God's temple, take out the whip of God's word and declare what He says about you.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Am I living as someone who truly believes I'm the temple of the Holy Spirit?
- What areas of my life am I still approaching from a purely natural perspective instead of a spiritual one?
- When challenges arise, do I immediately seek God's perspective, or do I just react emotionally?
- How much time do I spend seeking deeper understanding of God's word versus just surface-level reading?
- What "why" questions have I been avoiding that I need to bring before God?

Remember, you're not just a natural person responding to natural things. You're connected to Almighty God, and your potential is limitless. Live from that reality this week.

Quotes

1. "As priests under the New Covenant you can connect with God directly."
2. "Your spirit is the Holy of Holies where the Spirit of God dwells."
3. "Our bodies are the outer court portion of God's temple."
4. "You need to get angry at sickness, infirmity, and anything going on in your body that doesn't belong there."

5. "It was zeal for God's house that moved Jesus to make a whip and drive the thieves of sickness, disease, and infirmity out."
6. "Getting healed is not all about feeling better — it's about zeal for Him. This is God's property."
7. "Your body belongs to Him. It belongs to Him completely — and you present it to Him as worship."
8. "You are not your own. You have been bought with a price."
9. "Everything that manifests in the natural is the result of what's happening in the spirit."
10. "When you line yourself up with the Word of God, you've lined yourself up with the Spirit — with the Holy Spirit."
11. "People say, 'Well, nobody's perfect.' Speak for yourself. Don't drag everyone else into your mess."
12. "We're not called to live as mere natural people, reacting only to natural circumstances."
13. "Your life is to be a living sacrifice that brings worship to God."
14. "The depth of our love is to flow from the depth of His love within us."
15. "We need to become good thinkers. We need to be good at asking the right questions."
16. "Why are you living with so many unanswered questions? Go get the answers. Dig for them."
17. "If you have a problem, it's because you have a problem."
18. "If you're having a problem with them, it's because there's a problem in you."
19. "'The truth shall make you free' — and that's not limited to healing. It applies to every area of life. The truth works."
20. "The truth does the job. Everybody say it: 'The truth is working in me now.'"

Verses

1. 1 Peter 2:24
2. Romans 12:1
3. Romans 12:2
4. Matthew 6:48
5. Matthew 6:43-48
6. 1 Corinthians 13
7. 1 Corinthians 12:1
8. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7
9. 2 Corinthians 4
10. Romans 5:5
11. James 1:5
12. James 1:2-4
13. Matthew 19:16-23
14. John 6
15. John 8:32

Summary

As believers, we are God's temple with the Holy Spirit dwelling in our spirit, making us the Holy of Holies. This profound identity should change how we treat our bodies and approach life's challenges. Just as Jesus cleansed the temple with righteous anger, we should guard our bodies as God's holy dwelling place. We're called to live beyond natural limitations by being spiritually minded rather than naturally minded. When facing difficulties, we should seek deeper understanding through God's word rather than accepting surface-level answers. Understanding our true identity as God's temple empowers us to live from a spiritual perspective, knowing that our potential is limitless when connected to Almighty God.