

*DAY 3*

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Hello Victory Fam, I hope you are experiencing new realms of glory in the Father's love. Let's dive into today's devotion.

What comes to my mind when I think about making ourselves a living sanctuary is the indwelling of the Spirit of God. Part of the mystery of the Gospel is that the Father would fill His creation with His very own Spirit, because of the work of the cross that the Lord Jesus accomplished for us. We, being earthly vessels; have become partakers of the Divine nature (2 Peter 1:4). The same Spirit that raised Christ from the grave lives in you and me (Romans 8:11). Praise God! What an honor that is! When we declare, "Make me a living sanctuary," we are coming into agreement with what the Father has ordained for those who believe in His Son. We become the sanctuary for Him.

Let's look at Ephesians 2:19-22 in the New Living Translation.

<sup>19</sup> So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.

<sup>20</sup> Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.

<sup>21</sup> We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.

<sup>22</sup> Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

This portion of scripture is so powerful. It shows we have been brought near, made into the family of God and have become citizens of the eternal Kingdom. It also shows one of the most precious and powerful truths that can ever exist; we are becoming a holy temple for the Lord, being made part of this dwelling where God lives by His Spirit.

I believe an important aspect of being a living sanctuary for the Lord is the stewardship of His residence in us individually and corporately. We do this by living a life of thankfulness and holiness through faith in what the Lord has already done for us.

Let me use an illustration. If we were going to have some guests stay at our home, we would prepare our home for their stay. We would make their room as comfortable as possible for them. We would stock their favorite food, sweep and mop all the floors and wipe down everything that can be wiped down for them to walk into a house that is clean and in order. We would want them to walk in and smell a beautiful fragrance of cleanliness and hospitality. We would want them to feel the warmth of love and welcome.

How much more should we have this mind when it comes to our Father living in us by His Spirit?

1 Corinthians 6:19 says that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. I want my temple to be holy. I want to honor the Lord with my body. That is why I declare Romans 6:11 over myself, that my body is dead to sin and alive to God through Christ. That is why I come into agreement with Romans 6:19 and I present the members of my body as slaves of righteousness for holiness. 1 Corinthians 6:19 (NKJV) says, "he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him."

Submitting ourselves to be a living sanctuary doesn't just include resisting the sins of the body like sexual immorality or drunkenness or drug use, but that of the heart too. It means we resist self-righteousness, being critical, having inward resentment and unforgiveness toward someone, showing partiality because of a lack of understanding, being stubborn and prideful. It could be cursing, whether that is using profanity or speaking death over people. We cannot just clean the living room of our house and stuff all the junk into the back room so that no one will see, because the Lord sees. He walks through the house, into every room, and nothing is hidden from Him.

Being a good steward of the Spirit of God in us is allowing the Lord to make Himself at home in us. What I mean by allowing is, we submit to His Word and His Voice. We give Him full access. We do not quench the Holy Spirit by hardening our hearts to His voice when He reveals an area that needs to be brought under the Lordship of the Lord Jesus.

We do this when we spend time with Him in prayer and reading His Word. When we have a healthy diet of His Word it becomes alive in us, and we become living testaments of the very words of our Father. The only way we can discern a lie is to know the truth, and we know the truth is what sets us free.

When we pray, we communicate with Him. Many relationships fail because of a lack of communication. When there is a lack of communication there will be a lack of trust. When there is a lack of communication there is a lack of understanding. When we pray, we are establishing trust because He is faithful. When we pray, He releases confidence that will bring understanding through His Word. The more we spend time with Him, the more we become sensitive to His presence and His Voice. When we do this, we get to know Him more and more.

I can testify the more time I spend with Him, the more I am changed by Him. When the Lord puts His finger on something in my life, it's not to make me feel bad, it is to make me a living sanctuary. He has free reign in my house, and my house is His house. This is how the Lord really wants us to worship Him.

As we do this individually it will release a purity when we come together corporately to worship Him, because collectively we are pushing past the "me focused" attitude and honoring the presence of God in each other and in our midst.

This creates the occasion for the Lord to come down and dwell among His people, it releases the glory of God that will transform a society. The corporate anointing is only as strong as the purity of the intention of the individuals in the room worshipping the Lord. It's the understanding that we are His dwelling place, and He is first place. This is the most important point of becoming a living sanctuary for Him; He is first place in our individual lives and when we come together. Amen

I am praying for you all as we go deeper into the fast, and I will see you tonight at prayer.