52 Days of Building a Second Wall with the Word and Wisdom

**Sanctify us with Your Truth**

Day 42 – June 24, 2013

We have begun our 7th week of building the second wall. **Our Scripture reading for this week is Psalm 119: 129-152.** King David’s heart is beautifully revealed in these scriptures. He knows God’s Word is pure, yet he confesses that he is a sinner.

**Psalm 119:140** “Your word is very pure, therefore Your servant loves it.”

**Psalm 119:136** “My eyes shed streams of water, because they do not keep Your law.”

Today we are going to continue our study of the tabernacle. We will spend one more day in the Outer Court, looking at the **Brass Laver**. This is a large shiny brass basin filled with water for the priests to wash off the filth of the day, before they entered into the Holy Place to minister to God. Remember the outer courts are a very dusty and messy place; people and animals kicking up the dust, smoke and ashes falling from the sacrifices… Not to mention the conditions they encountered outside the tabernacle walls.

We live in a dirty and dark world and every day we are exposed to so much filth. **God wants us to be holy, pure, and consecrated; yet still live in this fallen world**. Jesus knew this would be a problem, and that is why He prayed and continues to pray for us.

**John17:11-18 “**I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are… I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. **Sanctify them in the truth**; Your word is truth. **As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.”**

**God’s plan for His holy people living in an unholy world is sanctification.** Webster’s defines **sanctification** - to cleanse from corruption, to purify from sin, to make holy by detaching the affections from the world and its defilements. **Sanctification is patterned in the Brass Laver in the Tabernacle.**

The Brass Laver was to be used only for the **cleansing and purification of the priests** who would be going through the Veil into the Holy Place to minister before God. They needed to clean their hands of the blood of the sacrifices and their feet from the dust of the ground. They were to wash off the defilement from their hands and feet before entering the inner tabernacle to serve and worship God. This cleansing was very important to God.

**Exodus 30:20 “**When they enter the tent of meeting, they shall wash with water, so that they will not die; or when they approach the altar to minister, by offering up in smoke a fire sacrifice to the LORD. **“**

We must know that we are priests before the Lord and we too are to symbolically use the Brass Laver before entering into God’s presence to minister to Him. We too are covered in the filth of this world. As we walk each day we are covered with the dust of the ground, the dust we kick up (our sins) and the dust others kick up (those who sin against us). We must be spiritually and physically clean before entering God’s presence.

**The bronze altar was for our justification; the brass laver was for our Sanctification.** Sanctification is the **daily process of ongoing repentance and forgiveness, asking the Holy Spirit to wash us from our sins and the offenses of others.** When we encounter things that want to defile us, we must ask the Holy Spirit to erase these things from our mind.

The New Testament speaks of another kind of washing, **the symbolic washing of baptism.** Baptism is the outward sign of our decision to put to death the old sin nature and to put on the new man who is being renewed day by day.

**Mark 1:4-5 “**John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea was going out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.”

John baptized with water, but Jesus **baptized with the Holy Spirit.**

**Matthew 3:11**"As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**”**

The Holy Spirit is given to each of us when we ask Jesus to be our Savior and Lord. He resides inside of us, teaching us about God and leading us in what is right. But the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is different. It is to empower us for His service.

**Acts 8: 14-17 “**Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.”

The Holy Spirit is given to us for many purposes. He is to be our Helper to show us the truth, **to be our teacher**.

**John 14:16-17, 26**“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you… But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things**, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

The Holy Spirit **helps us when we pray**. There are so many times when we do not know what to pray. He will give us the words we need to pray either through whispering in our ear or by praying through us in our prayer language.

**Romans 8:26-27** “In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we **do not know how to pray as we should**, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

The Holy Spirit gives us the power to operate fully in the Spiritual gifts He has given us and to speak God’s truth boldly to all. Next time you are sharing the Gospel with someone, ask the Holy Spirit to give you the words to speak with great confidence and boldness.

**Acts 4:31 “**And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to **speak the word of God with boldness**.”

The Holy Spirit **sanctifies us and cleanses us**, preparing us for service in Christ, through giving us instructions in how we are to walk and please God.

**1 Thessalonians 4:7 “**For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.”

**Sanctification is holiness, being set apart from sin for divine service**. It is evidenced by a behavior that displays we are separated from the world. The Holy Spirit is the one who enables us to live this kind of life.

**Sanctification is an on-going process in our lives**. It begins at salvation, when we enter through the one gate, asking Jesus Christ into our hearts. Only by the atoning work of Jesus’ blood on the cross (altar), we are recognized as holy in God’s eyes. Each day we must come to Him and ask to be sanctified. This involves repenting of our sins and asking for God’s forgiveness. **As we daily separate ourselves from sin by calling upon the Holy Spirit to cleanse our minds and bodies from the filth of the world, He will continue the sanctification process.**

**2 Timothy 2:19-21 “**…The Lord knows those who are His, and **everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.** Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. **Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.”**

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

**Our memory verse for this week is Psalm 119:130.**

The Brass Laver is briefly described in just a few verses in Exodus. **Please read Exodus 30:18-21, Exodus 38:8, and Exodus 40:30.**

The laver was made of highly polished brass. **Why do you think God chose that metal for the laver?**

Every article in the Tabernacle was given a precise size, except the laver. No dimensions were ever given for it. **Why do you think God did not give a size for the laver?**