I. The Holy Of Holies

A. The spirit: worship, fellowship, revelation
   All activities of the Spirit have meaning only in relation to God Himself.

B. The Ark = Christ revealed to the Spirit—The ark contained three items (See Heb. 9:4):
   1. The two tables of stone, representing God’s eternal, unchanging, righteous law.
      a. Ps. 40:7–8—This law was in Christ’s heart, and was perfectly fulfilled by Him.
      b. Deut. 10:1–5—After Israel first broke the ten commandments, the second pair of tables was placed inside the ark, forever covered by the mercy seat.
      c. Heb. 8:10–11—Under the new covenant, through Christ, God’s laws are written in the believer’s heart, thus controlling his life.
   2. The golden pot of manna
      a. John 6:48–51—Christ is the true manna from heaven.
      b. John 6:57—Through union with Christ, the believer feeds continually upon this “hidden manna” (see Rev. 2:17).
   3. Aaron’s rod that budded
      a. Num. 17:1–10—Aaron’s rod supernaturally brought forth buds, blossoms, and almonds.
      b. This represents supernatural revelation, received direct from God, conferring divine attestation and authority.

C. The three items in the ark thus signify the following:
   1. Worship: approach to God with reverent acknowledgement of God’s eternal law.
   2. Fellowship: union with Christ, sharing His life.
   3. Revelation: comes forth out of worship and fellowship, confers divine attestation and authority.
I. The Mercy Seat = Christ’s Atonement And Its Results
   A. Rom. 3:24–25—Christ’s atonement and shed blood cover the broken law, and provide a place for God to dwell, to reign, and to reveal Himself.
   B. Heb. 4:16—This is the “throne of grace”
      1. The cherubim, of “beaten” gold, are of divine creation, not of divine nature.
      2. Their bowed bodies and outstretched wings represent worship.
      3. Their faces toward each other represent fellowship, centered in Christ.
      4. They thus provide the place for the revelation of God’s presence, the shekinah glory (see Ex. 25:20–22).
   C. Zech. 6:11–13—A prophetic picture of Christ (the “Branch”) sharing the throne with the Father as Priest and King.
      1. Rev. 19:12—The crowns (diadems) declare His Kingship.
      2. Is. 53:1–2—His humanity, growing as a plant out of dry ground.
      1. The mercy seat portrays the throne. Here Christ sits in glory, as Priest and King, and Builder of God’s temple.
2. The five building ministries are exercised in the Holy Place. The ministries of priest and king are exercised in the Holy of Holies. Through union with Christ, believers share in all these ministries.

E. Rom. 5:17—Believers reign now in life with Christ.
1. 1 Cor. 3:9–10—We are also laborers with God in God’s building.
2. 1 Peter 2:9—We are a royal (kingly) priesthood.
3. Rev. 1:5; 5:10—We are both kings and priests (compare Ex. 19:6).
4. 2 Tim. 2:11–12—To live we must die; to reign we must suffer (compare 1 Pet. 4:1–2, 15–16).
5. Heb. 5:8–9—This is the way that Jesus opened up for us.
6. Phil. 3:10—The “fellowship of suffering” goes with the “power of resurrection.”

F. Lev. 23:4–44—Pattern of the Seven Feasts: The Day of Atonement leads on to the Feast of Tabernacles (compare Ex. 23:14–17; 1 Cor. 5:7).

G. Application: The life within the Ark (our inner development of character) must come before the life upon the throne (our exercise of kingly authority).

Four Great Blessings
Of The New Covenant
4027

I. New Testament Application
A. Heb. 10:19–25—Through the death, resurrection and ascension of Christ, and through His continuing ministry as Priest and King, the New Testament now makes available the following:
1. Four great blessings of the new covenant:
   a. The Holy of Holies opened up
   b. Boldness in the blood of Jesus
   c. A new and living way of access
   d. A great High Priest
2. Four chief requirements of the true worshiper:
   a. A true heart
   b. Fullness of faith
   c. A heart sprinkled from an evil conscience
   d. A body washed with pure water

II. Four Great Blessings
A. The Holy of Holies opened up = direct access into the immediate presence of God. The barrier to this access was man’s sinful, fleshly nature.
1. Rom. 8:3—On the cross God condemned our sin in the flesh of Jesus (Rom. 7:19–21, 22–25).
2. Heb. 10:20—Through the death of Jesus the veil of flesh was torn apart.
3. Matt. 27:50–51—Symbolically, the literal veil was rent from top to bottom.
B. Boldness in the blood = objective, God-given right of access through the blood of Jesus sprinkled in the Holy of Holies (Heb. 10:19).
1. Lev. 16:11–15—On the day of atonement the high priest sprinkled the blood of the sacrifice upon, and in front of, the mercy seat (Heb. 9:14).
2. Heb. 6:19–20—Jesus has now entered into the Holy of Holies as our forerunner and High Priest.
3. Heb. 9:11–12, 23–24—There He has sprinkled His own blood (Heb.12:22–23).
4. Heb. 12:24—This blood now speaks continually on our behalf.
C. The new and living way = the way that Jesus Himself followed: self-denial, obedience, sacrifice, death.
   1. 1 Pet. 2:21—Christ has left us an example that we should follow in His steps.
   4. Heb. 2:10–11—All God’s sons must follow the Leader and be perfected in holiness through sufferings.
   5. Heb. 5:7–9—The way of obedience and suffering leads to perfection (1 Tim. 2:5 [compare Phil. 2:5–9]).
D. A great high priest = Jesus, in two aspects:
   1. Heb. 8:2—Minister of the true sanctuary; i.e., Jesus has ensured that all God’s requirements concerning access to the Holy of Holies have been complied with in heaven.
   2. Heb. 9:15; 12:24—Mediator of the new covenant; i.e., Jesus ensures, by the Holy Spirit, that God’s requirements are worked out in us as we follow the way of access into the Holy of Holies (Heb. 10:22).

Four Chief Requirements
Of The True Worshiper
4028

I. Four Chief Requirements
A. A true heart = sincerity, honesty, loyalty, total commitment, no reservations
   1. Ps. 51:6–10—Truth in the inward parts comes only by a creative work of God.
   2. Ps. 139:21–24—God must be allowed to search our hearts and try our thoughts before He can lead us into this way of holiness.
   3. Jer. 17:9–10—Only the Lord can reveal the truth of our hearts (Is. 40:3–4; Hosea 6:8).
   4. Contrast: Is. 29:13–14—Religious people honor God with their lips, but their heart is far from Him.
B. Fullness of faith = a decision to believe all that God says with all our heart.
   1. Ps. 119:128—All thy precepts concerning all things.
   2. 2 Cor. 10:5—Every thought brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (Rom. 8:7).
   3. James 1:6–8—All wavering and double-mindedness must be excluded. Decision—or indecision?
   4. 2 Thess. 2:11–12—To reject revealed truth exposes us to the spirit of error.
C. A heart sprinkled from an evil conscience = acceptance by faith of the complete working of the blood of Jesus in our heart.
   1. Rom. 5:9—Justified: “Just-as-if-I’d . . . never sinned”
   2. Rom. 8:1—No condemnation
3. 1 John 1:9—Forgiven, and cleansed from all unrighteousness
4. 1 John 3:21—If our heart condemns us not, we have confidence toward God (contrast Ps. 66:18)
5. Lev. 26:13—God’s redeemed people should walk “upright”
6. Heb. 10:17—Sins and iniquities remembered no more

D. A body washed with pure water = the physical body, with all its members and functions, cleansed and sanctified through God’s Word (Heb.10:22).
1. Eph. 5:25–27—The cleansing, sanctifying water is God’s Word (compare 1 John 5:6).
2. 1 Pet. 1:22—God’s Word purifies us as we obey it (compare 1 John 3:3).
3. 1 Thess. 4:3–4; 5:23—Holiness includes the body.
4. Heb. 10:5–7—Christ our pattern: a body to do God’s will.
5. 1 Cor. 6:12–20—The body for the Lord, the Lord for the body; redeemed by the blood of Jesus to be a temple for the Holy Spirit.
6. Matt. 28:19—After believing, the whole body must pass through the sanctifying waters of baptism (compare Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).
7. Rom. 12:1—Then presented a living sacrifice on God’s altar (compare Matt. 23:19).
8. Rom. 6:12–13—Each member presented as an instrument to God.

E. Conclusion: Let us draw nigh = direct access to God, continuing fellowship with Him. This requires: faith, decision, commitment.

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