

The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind

Study Guide

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RETHINKING THE TEMPLE OF GOD

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"
(2 CORINTHIANS 6:16).

We conclude this week adding to what we started out discovering—the house of God is not a structure composed of bricks and mortar, but it is redeemed humanity being filled with the Presence of the Holy Spirit. The first reality we needed to rethink was what the house of God looked like. Now, I want us to rethink what the temple of God operates like in the twenty-first century.

In Second Corinthians 6, Paul is actually quoting God. Such a statement demands special attention! God's desire was to dwell inside of His people and walk among them. This concept of walk among is intriguing. In the Old Testament, the temple was in a fixed position. It did not get up and change geographies. Now, because of the redemptive work of Christ and the infilling of the Holy Spirit, the temple of God has become mobile. We now carry the glory that remained stationary in the temple. This is what we need to rethink if we are going to bring God to those who are not necessarily looking for Him.

It is amazing to think that we carry the Presence that filled the temple. There are countless people whom we encounter, day after day, who will never come to church. Some may. But many will not, and to these people, we have the distinct honor of bringing the temple of God directly to their lives through our contact, to them.

We see this pictured in the Old Testament—God's Presence cannot be moved by some structure, organization, or system created by man.

Consider that the church building is stationary. It is a place of fellowship, equipping, teaching, and yes, transformation, but when all is said and done, the physical building cannot uproot itself and go to where the people in need are. This is our unique privilege, for we carry what no building ever could—God's Presence.

Back in Second Samuel 6, we see what happened when man assumed that his systems or structures were adequate to transport God's glorious Presence. The people experienced disastrous results (see 2 Sam. 6:6-8). This is because no structure humanity can create, regardless of how beautiful or ingenious, can truly carry God's Presence. Even in the Old Testament, the appropriate protocol involved priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant upon their shoulders. In the New Testament, because of Jesus' blood, we are all priests. We have been cleansed of sin and became fit to carry God's Presence to those who need to encounter Him.

TRANSFORMATION THOUGHT

The temple of God is no longer a fixed structure; the Holy Spirit made it possible for all believers to carry the Presence of God wherever they go.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What happens when we change the way we see God's temple—from a fixed structure to people filled with the Holy Spirit? How does this change the way we relate to the world and those who need ministry?

2. As God's portable temple, what are you able to offer the world?

TRANSFORMATION PRAYER

Father, thank You for making me Your temple. No longer does Your presence rest in a building or structure; You have made Your people Your resting place. It is a great honor to carry Your Presence and bring people into an encounter with Your love and Your Kingdom.