



My Life = My Offering of Worship

In Biblical times, many of the worship practices of God's people centered around the Jerusalem Temple and local synagogue. As the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples of Jesus gathered at the Temple for Pentecost/Shavuot, and then spread to include Gentiles believers in Jesus who received the Spirit, individual believers became "Tabernacles" or dwelling places of God. This means that everything we do in the "tent" we live in becomes an offering of worship!

Starting thought for your group -

- 1 Kings 6:1 describes how Solomon built "a **house** for the Lord" - the Temple in Jerusalem. Ever since the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai in Exodus chapter 19, the Israelites celebrated receiving the commandments of God every year on the holiday of Shavuot - the Greek name for this day was Pentecost. So in Acts 2, when the disciples of Jesus gathered together in Jerusalem on the day of this celebration, the House they were in was "the house of the Lord" - the Jerusalem Temple! As we reconsider Pentecost, how does this change the way we read Acts 2:1-12? If the Spirit of God came forth from the Temple, where does it now dwell?

Watch Video #7, then discuss...

If we are now the dwelling of God, what sacrificedo we offer?

- **Read Romans 12:1-5**
- *We no longer bring an animal sacrifice for sin, because Christ is our atoning sacrifice. Christ is also our High Priest, and His person becomes our new place of worship. According this passage from Romans 12, what does Paul say is now the worship offering we bring to the Lord? Discuss as a group what this amazing change means for us as believers today.*

We are not saved by works, but we were created for works!

- **Read Ephesians 2:8-10**
- *This passage reminds us we are not saved by grace through faith, but also that God created us for good works - how would you describe the difference? What kinds of good works do you think Paul is referring to?*

A new and living Temple!

- **Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 & 1 Corinthians 6:19-20**
- *In Paul's amazing letter to Gentile Christians in Corinth, he reminds them that they are collectively a new and living Temple, and that they have been bought with an incredible price. How does the story that Pastor Scott shared about the bema where slaves were purchased impact our thinking about who our Lord and Master is? Again, what does this say about our offering of thanksgiving and worship to God?*

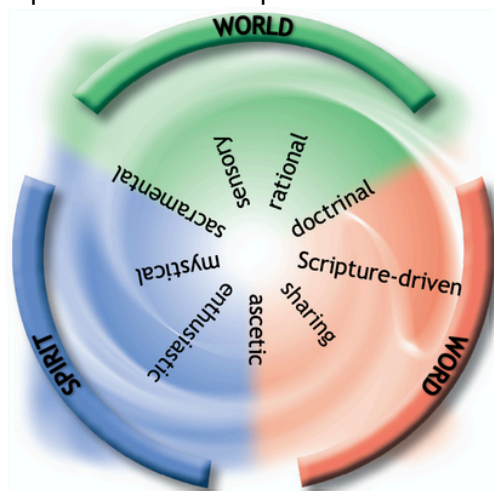
EN-CORE

JOURNEY

SCRIPTURE • BELIEFS • PRACTICES

Living Temples

we've referred to the graphic below in thinking about our spiritual formation style and how we are uniquely wired to worship. Looking at the chart below, how does it reflect all the ways worship of God happened in Temple and Synagogue in Jesus' lifetime? What insights does this give us, the Church, in how we are now corporately the living Temple of God? Instead of people coming to the Temple, we now bring the Spirit with us wherever we go to sanctify that space for worship.



Accountability!

What has this study of spiritual formation practices meant to you? What is something new you have learned or tried?