

Walking through the Tabernacle

God's presence dwelt in the Old Testament Tabernacle. There were two major divisions in the Tabernacle: an outer court and an inner court.

The Outer Court

1. Enter the outer court.

- Enter His courts with thanksgiving and song. (Psalm 100:4)
- Sing praises to Him. A chorus or hymn.
- Praise Him through a psalm. (Ps 139, 145, 146, 147 are good examples to use.)
- Praise Him for His attributes. You can take each letter of the alphabet.
- Write your own psalm of praise to Him.

2. The Bronze Altar (Altar of Burnt Offering) – symbolizes sacrifice.

(Ex. 29:10-25) – Animals were sacrificed on this altar to cover the sins of the Israelite people. Today we don't need to sacrifice animals in order to come into God's presence, because Jesus' death on the cross was the ultimate sacrifice for our sins.

- When you come to the bronze altar, thank Him for His sacrifice for you on the cross so that you can come freely into His presence.
- Then I present myself as a sacrifice to Him. "Lord, I lay myself on the altar as a living sacrifice. Use me today however you please. I'm yours." (Romans 12:1-2)
- Is there something hindering you from laying yourself on the altar, giving yourself completely to Him? If so, take time to talk to Him about those issues. Journal.
- Ask God to remove those hindrances.
- Ask Him to make you willing to present yourself a living sacrifice to Him.

3. Laver for Cleansing (Ex.30:18-21) – Aaron and his sons would wash their feet and hands before entering the tent of meeting to cleanse themselves. This is a time for confession of any unconfessed sins.

- Psalm 139: 23-24 and 1 John 1:9
- "Search my heart, Lord."
- Are there any unconfessed sins in my life?
- Have I spoken unkindly to or about someone? (Eph. 4:29)
- Do I have a critical spirit?
- Am I grumbling and complaining? (Phil. 2:14)
- Is there someone I have not forgiven? (Eph. 4:32)

- Am I causing any dissension or strife within the body of Christ by my actions or words?
- Are my thoughts true, honorable, right, pure, gracious? (Phil. 4:8)
- Do I want my way more than God's way?
- Am I bitter or angry about something? (Eph. 4:31)
- Am I walking in my flesh or by the power of the Holy Spirit?
- Go before the Lord. Ask Him to search your heart and to reveal any unconfessed sin. Confess it, and turn away from it. He has forgiven you and cleansed you from your sin through the blood of Christ.

The Inner Court – Divided into two areas:

The Holy Place (Heb. 9:2)

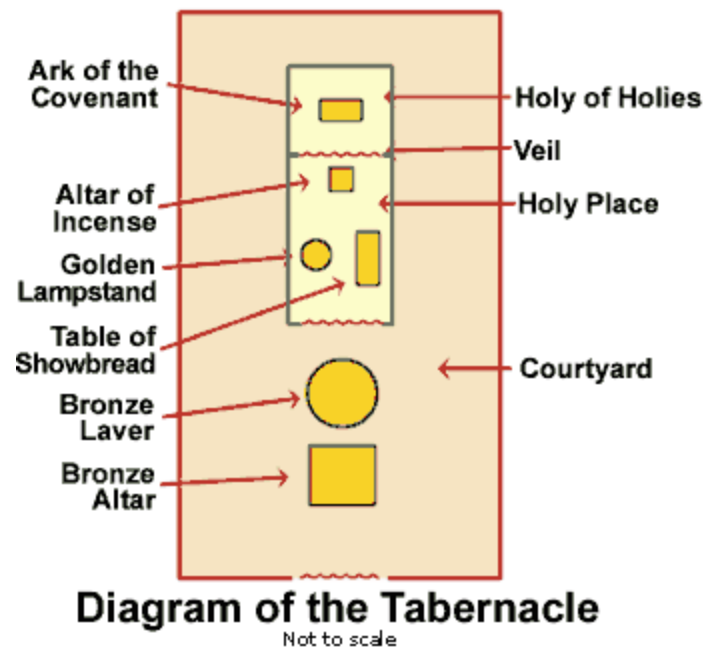
- 1. Candlesticks on the lampstand**, on the left side of the room (Ex. 25:31-40). The lampstand was made of pure gold with 6 branches, 7 lamps. Oil was from beaten olives. The priests would trim the wicks twice a day – morning and evening (Ex. 30:7-8). The lamps burned continually.
 - The candlesticks symbolize the constant presence of God in our lives. He dwells in us through the Holy Spirit and will never leave us.
 - The oil symbolizes the Holy Spirit, the power source that enables us to live the Christian life.
 - Ephesians 5:18 - Be filled with the Spirit.
 - "Lord, take control of my life. Empower me through the power of your Holy Spirit."
- 2. Table of Shewbread** (Ex. 25:23-30) – on the right side of the room, across from the candlesticks
 - The table of shewbread reminds us of God's provision for us, beginning with the provision of Jesus as our Savior.
 - Jesus is the Bread of Life (John 6:48).
 - Phil. 4:19 - God supplies all our needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus.
 - Thank Him for His provisions and answers to prayers. How has He provided for you?
 - Thank Him for providing for you in specific ways.

3. Altar of incense (Exodus 30:1-10)

- The high priest burned fragrant incense on it twice a day, and he made atonement on its horns once a year before going into the Holy of Holies.
- In Psalm 141:2, David says, "May my prayer be counted as incense before Thee." Rev. 5:8 talks about the golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. (Incense represents the prayers of the saints.)
- This is the place of intercession and supplication for others. Pray for others, your own personal needs, issues that need to be prayed over, etc. (Phil. 4:6)

The Holy of Holies (Ex.40:3; Heb. 9:3-5)

- In the Holy of Holies was the Ark of the Covenant with the two angels sitting on top. The Ark represented the presence of God. There was a veil that separated the Holy of Holies from the front room. Only the High Priest could go in the Holy of Holies once a year after making atonement for the sins of the people. But when Jesus Christ died on the cross, that veil was torn from top to bottom and now we all have access to go into the Holy of Holies and spend time directly with God. God is present in each one of us as we invite Him to be our Savior, and the Holy Spirit indwells us.
- Now you're ready to just spend time enjoying being in His presence.
- Psalm 46:10 - "Be still and know that I am God."
- Enjoy being in His presence. Sing, write, read and meditate on His Word. Be silent.
- Linger in His presence. Walk in His presence and continue to fellowship Him throughout the day. Just because you leave your Quiet Time doesn't mean you leave His presence or your fellowship with Him is over.



Accessed from
http://www.jesuswalk.com/hebrews/images/tabernacle_diagram.gif