

The Mighty Works of the Lord: Building The Temple

Day 1

Walk by the Spirit

When the temple was rebuilt in the book of Ezra, the problem faced was that the Spirit was absent. Because the temple represents the Christian, we can see that the imagery resembles a person who is trying to live without the work of the Spirit in their life, and the results of Ezra and Nehemiah are disappointing precisely because of this problem. As Christians, we often face the same disappointing results from a lack of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives, but we do not know how to address this problem.

To begin our education on this topic, check out this sermon by John Piper:
<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/let-us-walk-by-the-spirit>

Verses: Ezekiel 36:26-27, Romans 8:4, 2 Corinthians 3:17

Prayer Topics: Submission, Peace, Wisdom

Day 2

Getting Practical

Check out this article for a list of practical ways you can make your life more spirit led:

<https://www.johnbmacdonald.com/blog/how-to-walk-by-the-spirit>

It is important for us to remember that the freedom we have cried out for has been given to us. That means that when we get baptized we do not experience an uncontrollable compulsion to obey God. It means we can now choose to allow the flesh to control us, or we can choose to follow the spirit. If we believe the flesh has been crucified with Christ, we should choose to follow the spirit of God.

Verses: 2 Timothy 1:7, Romans 8:2, 2 Corinthians 5:7

Prayer Topics: Trust, Hope, Strength

Day 3

Holiness, Joy, and the Temple

As Ezra and Nehemiah recount the reconstruction of the Israelite nation, rebuilding the temple is central to this endeavor. Why is this so? Because the joy of the Lord is our strength! To find out more, check out this message by John Piper:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-joy-of-the-lord-is-your-stronghold>

Verses: Ephesians 6:10-20, 2 Corinthians 10:3-7, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Prayer Topics: Power, Confidence, Bravery

Day 4

Thanks to Sylvester Warsaw, Jr for our devotional today

When we respond to God's invitation of redemption in obedience by accepting Christ Jesus as our Lord and Savior we're choosing the way of holiness the way of the cross. We're choosing to lay our will down at His feet and daily pick up the cross of obedience to follow Him. The way of holiness is a commitment to God and not the way of this world order because the ruler of this world order as we know it is one of deceit therefore oppressive self serving and we're instructed not to envy the oppressors ways, Pro. 3:31. The beauty of holiness is that holiness teaches us how to rest in Him and we know that only God gives rest in and through Christ Jesus, Ps. 37. Isaiah calls this highway of discipleship the Highway of Holiness, Is. 35:8. The beauty of holiness is God preparing His children to spend eternity with Him worshipping Him forever. Just as Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit (Luke 10:21-22) we also should rejoice because of our position/relationship in Him (Luke 10:17-20) thereby knowing that the life we now live in the flesh we live by the faith of Him who loved us and who gave His life for us, Gal. 2:20-21. The beauty of holiness teaches us how to live a life of worship that glorifies and honors God for being who He alone is. For God changes not He's the same yesterday, today and forevermore. Worship isn't about us, it's about God and Him alone!

There's no worship of God without holiness, Heb.12:14.

Day 5

This Means War!

Sometimes our view of the Christian life is more akin to a monk meditating on a mountain rather than a warrior doing battle in the valley. While there are definitely aspects of peace in our life that come from our reconciliation to God, there is also a fight or struggle to be engaged in with all our might. Check out this devotional to learn more:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/walk-the-war-before-you>

Verses: Ecclesiastes 3:8, Matthew 24:6-14, Exodus 15:3

Prayer Topics: Enemies, Trials, Struggle