

## THE TEMPLE MAN

**1 SAM 3:1** And the child Samuel **ministered unto the LORD before Eli**. And **the word of the LORD was precious in those days**; there *was* no open vision.

Ministry for Samuel began under the tutorage of Eli. I have noted over many years that some people don't like the idea of working under supervision. Some had said, "I can hear God for myself". The fact is that God sees all work, no matter what it is as ministry unto the Lord. If we work under the authority of a man of God, God will promote us in due time and give us our own ministry. (1 Sam 3:19-20)

**1 COR 6:19-20** What? know ye not that **your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost** *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and **ye are not your own? 20For ye are bought with a price**: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

The Bible says that our bodies are His temple designed to be filled with His Holy Spirit. We were created for Holy Spirit in-filling. We do not belong to ourselves; the awesome task of glorifying God in body and spirit is before us daily.

**PHIL 1:20** According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope, **that in nothing I shall be ashamed**, but *that* with all boldness, as always, *so* now also **Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death**.

Paul's attitude was that his Apostolic lifestyle and ministry bring no shame to the work of Christ. He was determined to magnify and honour Christ whether living or dying.

**LUK 24:49** "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, **until ye be endued with power** from on high."

The "temple body" of the believer works better when endured with "Holy Spirit power". This is the reason Jesus wanted the disciples to receive the in filling of the Holy Spirit before engaging in ministry work beyond the city of Jerusalem.

**1 COR 5:17** Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, **he is a new creature: old things are passed away**; behold, all things are become new.

Some "new-born" believers have trouble believing that the new creature (new man) is alive and well. The fact is "in Christ" the old man with his sin nature that was alive and well yesterday (before he found Christ) has passed away. The "old man" of sin has deceased. In effect, he is a corpse; he must be buried.

It is not clever to dig up a corpse; you cannot befriend someone that is dead!

**EPH 4:22-22** That ye **put off concerning the former conversation the old man**, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; **23**And **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**; **24**And that ye **put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Paul gives the new believer 3 steps in which to guarantee progress:

1. Put off the old man. Yesterday is over and finished. The way the old man lived, lusted and talked has passed away. (1 Cor 5;17)
2. We must now be renewed in the spirit of our mind. The reading of His Word will bring this transformation. See study on “Renewal of the mind”
3. We now put on the new man. It is like putting on a new coat after the old one is discarded.

**ROM 6:13** Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: **but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead**, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God.

Walking in the “new” man is only made possible by yielding to God. Seek His kingdom first. (Matt 6:13) These steps are crucial to understanding what it will mean to live as a temple man. Yielded instruments are the ones that put on the new man by obedience. Only then are they used as “instruments of righteousness”. God has no favourites, but He loves obedience.

**HEB 4:14** Seeing then that **we have a great high priest**, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, **let us hold fast *our* profession**.

**HEB 3:1** Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, **consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus**

The Greek word for “**profession**” is “**confession**”. It is the acknowledgement of Christ. He is now our “high priest” and we need to walk out our profession by faith. Our confession of Him is the starting blocks position of our calling in Christ.

**EPH 3:19** And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, **that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God**.

The love of Christ changes our desires, as we mature we desire more of the fullness of God. Note the words (Eph 3:19) “**filled with all the fulness of God**”

**1 JN 4:4** **Ye are of God, little children**, and have overcome them: because **greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world**.

It is Satan's job to convince believers that they are not of God. (1 Jn 4:6)  
"We are of God". It is fact. God is greater in us than any deception of the devil.  
If God speaks to us it is of God. Samuel was indeed hearing God speak to him,  
even though he was a young child. (1 Sam 3: 3-12)

**1 COR 4:16** For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish,  
yet **the inward man is renewed day by day.**

What a great confidence builder. As we fellowship with Christ, the inward man is  
being renewed every day.

Eli's problem was that he allowed his inner man to decay like his outer man.

**1 SAM 3:1** And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; *there was*  
no open vision. 2And it came to pass at that time, when **Eli was laid down in his**  
**place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see.**

**EPH 3:16** That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be  
**strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;**

The inner man was created by God to be strengthened with "spirit might".

Eli was a man of the "law". He was also a weak man for he allowed his sons to sin  
and he did not intervene. God judged both Eli and his sons. (1Sam 4:10-18) Eli's  
personal weaknesses both physically (being overweight may have caused some of  
his blindness) and morally (allowing his sons to dishonour God's name). Eli's  
personal weaknesses became so noticeable that he disqualified himself from the  
priesthood. God was forced to find a man with priest like dedication to serve Him  
in the temple.

**ROM 8:4-5** That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk  
not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 5**For they that are after the flesh do mind**  
**the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the**  
**Spirit.** 6For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and  
peace.

Those that serve God in ministry are on public view in the congregation. Those  
who consistently yield to the flesh have no right to any position of ministry.

**ROM 6:12,13** Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should  
obey it in the lusts thereof. 13Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of  
unrighteousness unto sin: but **yield yourselves unto God**, as those that are alive  
from the dead, and **your members as instruments of righteousness** unto God.

The ability to yield to God should not be considered a weakness. The fact is that

we must all learn the value of “yielding” to God. Yielded men are strong men. Our mortal bodies must yield as “instruments of righteousness”.

**1 COR 2:12** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

Carnal Christians are those who are partly ruled by their senses. They lack moral fortitude; often slipping into the realm of the flesh. They want to play around; they enjoy the “spirit of the world”. They enjoy the lifestyle of a baby one day and take on a more mature Christian lifestyle another day. These people have not yet taken hold of the things that belong to God. These things are freely given to those that desire the meat of the Word of God. God wants to speak to us as spiritual people. He is desirous of increasing our level of maturity and anointing.

Meat is fed to those living in maturity.  
Milk is given to those living in carnality.

Where are the spiritual men of the church? Men that know God and desire the meat of the Word will bring forth effective, powerful ministry.

**1 COR 3:1** And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ. 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able. 3For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, **are ye not carnal, and walk as men?**

**PSA 24:7** Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.