

Instructions  
January 26, 2025  
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Exodus 25:1-9; 31:1-6

Think about preparing your home for a special guest. What are some things we might do to make our home a welcome sanctuary for a treasured friend or family member? Think about a couple about to welcome their first child into the world. What kind of preparations do they make in setting up the nursery?

In this section of the book of Exodus God gave Moses very specific instructions for the construction of the Tabernacle. Based on your prior study of scripture, what do you know about the Tabernacle? What was God's primary purpose for having it built? Do you know where it stood in the camp? Why do you think that position was symbolic? Let's read our lesson text for today then unpack it.

**Exodus 25:1–9 (NLT)** — **1** The Lord said to Moses, **2** “Tell the people of Israel to bring me their sacred offerings. Accept the contributions from all whose hearts are moved to offer them. **3** Here is a list of sacred offerings you may accept from them: gold, silver, and bronze; **4** blue, purple, and scarlet thread; fine linen and goat hair for cloth; **5** tanned ram skins and fine goatskin leather; acacia wood; **6** olive oil for the lamps; spices for the anointing oil and the fragrant incense; **7** onyx stones, and other gemstones to be set in the ephod and the priest's chestpiece. **8** “Have the people of Israel build me a holy sanctuary so I can live among them. **9** You must build this Tabernacle and its furnishings exactly according to the pattern I will show you.

**Exodus 31:1–6 (NLT)** — **1** Then the Lord said to Moses, **2** “Look, I have specifically chosen Bezalel son of Uri, grandson of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. **3** I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts. **4** He is a master craftsman, expert in working with gold, silver, and bronze. **5** He is skilled in engraving and mounting gemstones and in carving wood. He is a master at every craft! **6** “And I have personally appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, to be his assistant. Moreover, I have given special skill to all the gifted craftsmen so they can make all the things I have commanded you to make:

- We see several significant things in these verses.
- God could have made His dwelling place appear supernaturally. How did He have His people participate in building it? Where did they likely get the treasures God asked them to dedicate to this project? What is the lesson for us today?
- God chose craftsmen and gave them “special skills” for the construction of the Tabernacle. What lesson do we see that applies to us today?
- The Tabernacle must be important because it is mentioned in fifty (“5-0”) chapters in scripture. A serious Bible student should do a study of the Tabernacle but that is beyond the scope of our study this week and next.
- I want to zoom in to Exodus 25:8 and God's instructions to Moses: **8** “Have the people of Israel build me a holy sanctuary so I can live among them.

- In **Leviticus 26:11–12** God declared to the children of Israel: **(NLT)** — **11** I will live among you, and I will not despise you. **12** I will walk among you; I will be your God, and you will be my people.
- God desired a relationship with His people, so He came to dwell among them.
- First His presence dwelled in a portable tabernacle, then in the temple.
- When Jesus came to earth to dwell among people. He became the new tabernacle for God's presence. (John 1:14, 2:19).
- Where does God's presence reside on earth today?
- Before Jesus went back to Heaven, He promised His Holy Spirit and told us: *"All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them."* (John 14:17, 23; 1 Cor. 6:19; Eph. 3:17)
- The Point: Today, God's dwelling place is in the hearts of His people through His indwelling Holy Spirit. The question for us: How can we make our hearts the dwelling place God's Spirit deserves? Here are six thoughts.
- **Heart Hospitality Rule #1 - Clean the house and take out the trash.**
- In the home of our heart that means regular confession of sin.
- **1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (ESV)** — **19** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, **20** for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
- **Psalms 19:12–13 (NLT)** — **12** How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults. **13** Keep your servant from deliberate sins! Don't let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of great sin.
- We wouldn't ask a guest to clean up the house, but God offers to do it if we ask!
- **Heart Hospitality Rule #2 – Spend time with your honored guest.** A guest in our home wouldn't feel very welcomed if we ignored them or said, *"Sorry, I only have time to spend with you one day a week."*
- The great news: The Holy Spirit goes with us everywhere we go; we just need to be sensitive to His presence. We converse with Him through prayer.
- **Heart Hospitality Rule #3 – Make your guest feel loved and welcomed.** We might repeat: *"I'm so glad you're here! You are so loved and special to me!"*
- In the home of our heart that means worship. A worship lyric from a few years back declared, *"Holy Spirit You are welcome here, Come flood this place, And fill the atmosphere, Your glory God, Is what our hearts long for, To be overcome, By Your presence, Lord!"*
- We make God's Spirit welcome in our hearts through regular worship when we tell Him how much He means to us and express our love and reverence for Him.
- **Heart Hospitality Rule #4 – A great host listens and pays attention to the guest.** If your guest had tremendous wisdom to impart you would absorb all you can. In the home of our hearts, we hear the Spirit through studying God's word.
- **Heart Hospitality Rule #5- A good host will not disappoint, or argue with an honored guest.**<sup>ii</sup> Scripture tells us not to "quench" or "grieve" the Holy Spirit. That means keeping our hearts clean of anything that would offend Him. When the Spirit is speaking to us through prayer and Bible study we don't "talk back"; we obey!

- **Heart Hospitality Rule #6 – Look for ways the honored guest can influence the host in a positive way.** If you had a very wise and accomplished guest in your home you would hope some of that wisdom would “rub off” on you. In the home of our hearts that means allowing the Spirit to change our behavior from the inside out; we call that the fruit of the Spirit recorded in Galatians 5:22-23.
- If we spend enough time with our “guest,” the Holy Spirit, we can expect to experience things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- When those things are lacking it means we need to spend more time with Him.
- Other thoughts on making our heart a welcoming home for God’s Spirit?

So, What’s the Takeaway?

- Since Jesus went to Heaven, God’s dwelling place is in the hearts of Christ’s followers through His indwelling Holy Spirit.
- **Galatians 2:20 (ESV) — 20** I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- This lesson reminded me of two old songs. One a hymn, another a gospel song.
- In the hymn, “He Lives” we used to sing:  
*“He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!  
 He walks with me and talks with me along life’s narrow way.  
 He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!  
 You ask me how I know He lives?  
 He lives within my heart.”<sup>iii</sup>*
- The cowboy poet Stuart Hamblen posed the question: “How Big is God?” He answered with this lyric:  
*“He’s big enough to rule His mighty universe  
 Yet small enough to live within my heart.”<sup>iv</sup>*
- Scott Hubbard writes, *“Here’s a thought to make the soul stagger: if you are in Christ, then the God of highest heaven has made your heart his home. The Holy Spirit has moved in, so to speak, filling your soul’s halls and rooms with himself. And he will never, ever move out. Before the Spirit brings us to heaven, he brings something of heaven to us. How foolish, then, to ignore or refuse this glorious guest — and how happy to host him well.”<sup>v</sup>*
- This week let’s strive to make our hearts the dwelling place God’s Spirit deserves.

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<sup>i</sup> Holy Spirit lyrics © Capitol Cmg Genesis, Jesus Culture Music

<sup>ii</sup> Galatians 5:16, 1 Thessalonians 5:19, Ephesians 4:30

<sup>iii</sup> <https://hymnary.org/text/i-serve-a-risen-savior>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://hymnary.org/text/though-man-may-strive-to-go-beyond-the>

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-to-entertain-the-holy-spirit>