

## **MOVING INTO THE HOLY OF HOLIES THROUGH PRAYER HEBREWS 10:19-25**

Introduction:

I recently read with considerable profit a recent book by Dr. Dallas Willard.

It is entitled *The Great Omission*. He contends that we moderns have shamefully omitted a vital part of the Great Commission. We have not taught people to obey the commandments of Jesus—and thus we have missed the heart of discipleship. A disciple is a learner, a student, one committed to learning all they can from a respected and wise teacher, and implementing what they learn into their lives.

In his book Dr. Willard discusses some books that have influenced his spiritual life. One of them is by a Catholic nun who had great spiritual influence many years ago entitled *The Interior Castle*. She develops her discussion on prayer around the analogy of the human personality being like a castle. In this castle she pictures seven significant rooms. They move from the outer, physical part of the personality to the deepest interior, the very holiest place where the King himself is enthroned. As you read her book it is rather obvious that most Christians never experience prayer in the holiest.

As I was meditating and trying to learn from her book, I thought of the exhortation from the letter to the Hebrews, and exhortation to move into the

very holy of holies in worship with confidence and assurance. Then a great lesson on prayer began to take form in my heart as I began to think about the Old Testament tabernacle, and the temple. My heart began to warm with in me as I thought on this holy place. Let us walk through the temple, remembering that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and learn some lessons in prayer.

The temple had only three rooms in the temple proper though there were many rooms adjacent to the Holy House. We will divide our discussion into these three rooms—the Outer Court, the Holy Place, and the Holy of Holies. In this you move from the outer to the inner, and further in you move, the closer you get to the presence of God.

#### I. PRAYER IN THE OUTER COURT.

1. The prayer for forgiveness at the Brazen Altar.
2. The prayer for cleansing at the laver.

#### II. PRAYER IN THE HOLY PLACE.

1. The prayer of intercession for the world at the Golden Lampstand.
2. The prayer for intercession for believers at the Table of Shewbread.
3. The prayer of praise at the Golden Altar of Incense.

### III. PRAYER IN THE HOLY OF HOLIES.

1. The prayer of communion at the Mercy Seat.
2. The prayer of listening at the Ark of the Covenant.