

## COME & MEET YOUR ETERNAL FATHER

### Part 15 Ephesians Chapter Two

Ephesians 2:18 **SLIDE**

*For through Him **we both have access** by one Spirit to the Father.*

PAUL WRITES, BOTH JEW & GENTILE HAVE FREE, UNRESTRICTED ACCESS (WITHOUT CEREMONY) TO GOD!

But to get the full impact of this statement we must recap and expand the thought of '**THE JEWISH TEMPLE**'.

*We see this thought has definitely been on Paul's mind since Ephesians 2:11 and remains in his thinking until the end of chapter 2. In fact, Paul finishes chapter 2 clearly revealing **WE ARE THE NEW TEMPLE**.*

Ephesians 2:21-22

*We are being built together for a dwelling place (a holy temple v21) of God in The Spirit.*

### **SO LET'S HAVE ANOTHER LOOK AT 'THE TEMPLE'**

**SLIDE** THE TEMPLE HAD 3 MAIN AREAS

1. The outer court (including the Court of The Gentiles)
2. The inner court (The Court of The Priests – menorah, altar of incense etc)
3. The holy of holies (containing The Ark – the Presence of God)

#### ➤ **AFAR OFF**

We already mentioned that our position as 'GENTILES' was '**afar off**' ... Which referred to us as Gentiles being in the '**OUTER COURT**' or '**THE COURT OF THE GENTILES**'.

**SLIDE** **SO HERE'S 'JOE THE GENTILE' AFAR OFF** –

*In the outer court of the Gentiles looking over a low barrier at all the temple activity ... and God's presence behind closed doors, behind a 60 foot high curtain ...*

*He is a long way off in the distance ...*

BUT NOW, WE ... THROUGH JESUS' BLOOD (NOT THE BLOOD OF BULLS & GOATS) ... WE HAVE BEEN BROUGHT NEAR. (Ephesians 2:13)

➤ BROUGHT NEAR RELATES TO THE INNER COURT –

The place where the priests served.

So we have been brought through the middle-wall of partition ... past all the ceremonial washings etc ... straight into the inner court – to the Menorah – The Shew-bread – The Incense ... next to the dedicated Jewish priests who were right next to the Holy of Holies – God's presence ...

**SLIDE** SO HERE'S, JOE THE GENTILE who knows nothing of ceremonial law and doesn't care ...

*He has no dedication ... no history ...*

*But he's suddenly propelled into the inner-court past the wall of prejudice ... through all the sacred ceremonies ... and now stands in equality with these Levite-priests.*

**Now, there is now no difference between you and a Jewish priest** whose life was dedicated and separated to the call of worshipping and serving in the holy place.

**THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU TO BE BROUGHT NEAR!**

You are there without all the ceremonies ... washings ... garments ... and total dedication day after day ...

**IT'S NOT FAIR!**

Imagine how the priests feel looking at you beside them ...

They who have spent hours and years being made worthy ...

And you stand there ... equal with them ... with your hands in your pockets.

**IT'S NOT FAIR BUT IT GOES EVEN FURTHER ...**

➤ ACCESS INTO THE HOLIEST OF ALL

... NOT ONLY ARE WE BROUGHT NEAR INTO THE INNER COURT

... **WE HAVE BEEN ALSO BROUGHT INTO THE HOLY OF HOLIES**

... BEYOND THE HOLY PLACE – BEYOND THE SANCTIFIED PRIESTS – THIS GOES RIGHT INSIDE **THE HOLY OF HOLIES.**

**Once a year only one priest had access** into the very presence of God and that was to make atonement. He went in with fear and trembling – with bells on his garment to show he was still alive.

But now we are instantly there also ...

Hebrews 10:19-20 & 22 NIV **SLIDE**

*Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter **the Most Holy Place** by the blood of Jesus <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body ... <sup>22</sup> **let us draw near to God** with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.*

**NOW THE VEIL HAS BEEN TORN IN TWO ...  
ALLOWING FREE ACCESS**

Matthew 27:50-51 NIV **SLIDE**

*When Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He gave up his spirit. <sup>51</sup> **At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split.***

**THIS SIGNIFIED THAT IN CHRIST THERE IS NO LONGER ANY RESTRICTION FOR **EITHER JEW OR GENTILE**.  
WE BOTH NOW HAVE 100% FREE ACCESS TO THE HOLY OF HOLIES WITHOUT CEREMONY ... PRAYER ... OR FASTING ...**

**BUT OUR TEXT TAKES THIS EVEN FURTHER –**

**IN OUR TEXT WE ARE TOLD WE HAVE ACCESS TO 'THE FATHER'**

Ephesians 2:18 **SLIDE**

*For through Him we both have access by [in] one Spirit **to the Father**.*

**WE ARE NOT ONLY GIVEN FREE ACCESS TO A HOLY GOD BUT ...  
ACCESS TO A LOVING FATHER – TO OUR LOVING FATHER**

**HERE WE ARE NOT SHOWN THE GOD WHO IS A CONSUMING FIRE,  
WE ARE SHOWN THE WARMTH OF A FATHER ...**

One of the great purposes Jesus had when he came to earth was to reveal God – that holy, fearful, almighty God ... the Creator of heaven and earth ... and He who dwelt in the Holy of Holies – was actually **A FATHER**.

**THIS, THE JEWS DID NOT UNDERSTAND.**

John 5:18 ESV **SLIDE**

*This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but **He was even calling God His own Father**, making himself equal with God.*

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE FATHER**

**BUT NOT ONLY DID JESUS REVEAL GOD AS FATHER, OUR TEXT TELLS US HIS PURPOSE IS NOW TO ALSO **BRING US TO THE FATHER** – TO INTRODUCE US TO HIS FATHER**

Ephesians 2:18 **SLIDE**

*For through Him [**Jesus**] we both have **access** by [in] one Spirit to the Father.*

**"Access"** (prosagōgēn) Noun = from the verb 'prosagoge = **'To Lead'**

*It is "**an introduction**" (used also in [Ephesians 3:12](#); [Romans 5:2](#)), a technical word of presentation to a royal presence. So says Chrysostom, "We came not of ourselves, but He brought us in." The corresponding verb is found in [1 Peter 3:18](#), "Christ also suffered for sins ... the just for the unjust--that **He might bring us to God.**"*

**This is another ongoing ministry of the Lord Jesus** - to not only make it possible for us to meet the Father, but **to actually bring us to meet His Father** ... to personally introduce us ...

**THE PURPOSE OF JESUS REDEMPTIVE WORK WAS TO BRING US BACK TO THE FATHER**

John 17:6 & 9 NLT

*"I have revealed you [**Father**] to the ones you gave me from this world. **They were always yours.** You gave them to me, and they have kept your word.*

<sup>9</sup> *"My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because **they belong to you.**"*

**Matthew 11:27** Berean Study Bible

*... No one knows the Son except the Father, and **no one knows the Father except the Son** and those to whom **the Son chooses to reveal him.***

**John 14:6** Berean Study Bible

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes **to the Father except through Me.***

*Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones ... 'This is the apex of Paul's statement started in verse 11.*

*It is staggering ... The whole object and purpose of everything. **Jesus died to bring us to the Father.'***

*This is ... not just making the way clear.*

*Not just giving us a passport and sending us on.*

*This is **taking us by the hand** ... leading us step by step into overwhelming love / into eternal warmth / into joy unspeakable and full of glory ... not just to the great temple of God ... BUT INTO THE PRIVATE-RESIDENCE OF THE FATHER ... WHERE **THE HEART OF GOD IS UNCOVERED & REVEALED.***

### **AT THIS POINT, WE NEED TO PUT THIS IN HUMAN TERMS**

*Jesus takes you by the hand and says, 'Come with me. The Father has invited you to His private residence to have a special dinner with Him tonight. **ARE YOU READY?**'*

**HOW WOULD YOU FEEL?**

*Many of us would shy away ... feel insecure and frightened ... That's because we don't **KNOW THE FATHER** ...*

### **SO WHAT IS THE FATHER LIKE?**

**THE FATHER IN HEAVEN IS NOT HIGH-MINDED  
HE IS DOWN TO EARTH**

*So you go with Jesus ... and when you get there you see The Father has been waiting for you.*

*You see Him beaming, holding Himself back so as not to overwhelm you ...*

*Then Jesus says, 'Father I'd like you to meet your beautiful child!'*

*THE FATHER LUNGES FORWARD AND HUGS YOU ... puts His arm around you saying ... I'm so happy to finally meet you.*

*I've seen you for years and heard about you from Jesus ...*

*'You are so beautiful ...' He says as He notices every little thing about you.*

## **WHAT IS THE FATHER LIKE?**

John 14:9 **SLIDE**

*Jesus said to Philip, 'If you've seen me ... you've seen The Father'*

So looking at Jesus life and the things He did, we can get clues as to what The Father is like.

### **OUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS DOWN TO EARTH**

*Jesus Was So Human that He Cooked –*

John 21:9-10 NLT **SLIDE**

*When they got there, they found breakfast waiting for them—fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread. <sup>10</sup>“Bring some of the fish you've just caught,” Jesus said.*

*So imagine The Father Cooking for you.*

*He says to you, 'Tonight I'd like you to try some of my favourite recipes ...*

*THE TASTE IS OUT OF THIS WORLD ...*

*PLUS, I've made a fire in my private den and I've opened a 6000 year old bottle of Eden-red which I've been keeping in my cellar since time began just for a time like this. I know you enjoy a good "red".'*

## **WHAT IS THE FATHER LIKE?**

*Jesus Noticed, Honoured & Loved Little Children*

He wasn't so intensely spiritual that He couldn't sit down, speak to and pray with children.

Matthew 19:14 NIV **SLIDE**

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*

### *Imagine The Father Greeting a Little child*

*The Father has a Universal meeting of the biggest spiritual giants in the universe – great cosmic-kings ...*

*But one of these guys brings his 4 year-old little girl. (He couldn't find a baby-sitter)*

*So they all walk in to meet The Father and there at the back is this little, insignificant girl, looking rather out of place.*

*Well The Father sees her ... pushes past all the spiritual giants and kneels down and greets the little girl with a great big smile.*

*He asks ... 'Hello ... and what's your name?'*

*She answers, 'Nancy!'*

*'Well. Nancy, how old are you?'*

*'I am 4'*

*'Would you like to see my little dog?'*

**AND HE LEADS HER BY THE HAND – PAST ALL THE SPIRITUAL GIANTS INTO HIS BACK YARD AND THERE INTRODUCES HER TO HIS LITTLE DOG 'DAISY' (JUST LIKE MINE).**

### **WHO IS THIS FATHER?**

- HE'S THE FATHER THAT RAN TO HIS PRODIGAL SON
- HE'S THE FATHER THAT WENT & PLEADED WITH HIS ELDER SON
- HE'S THE FATHER THAT BURST THROUGH THE CLOUDS AT JESUS BAPTISM & YELLED ... 'I LOVE THIS GUY SO MUCH'
- HE'S THE FATHER THAT CAME DOWN TO EARTH & WENT LOOKING FOR ADAM, HIS SON, WHEN ADAM WAS HIDING
- HE IS THE FATHER THAT DANCES IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ANGELS OVER ONE SINNER THAT BELIEVES (Luke 15:10)

**THIS IS US STARTING TO KNOW OUR FATHER ...**

**BUT DID YOU KNOW ... THE FATHER ALSO WANTS TO KNOW YOU.**

**WE ALWAYS USED TO PREACH ABOUT US KNOWING GOD**

## **BUT NEVER THAT THE FATHER WANTS TO KNOW US**

But you say, 'But God knows all things – He is omniscient – all knowing ...

Indeed, God knows you ... everything about you ... every hair on your head ... every nerve in your body ... every thought you have ever had ...

But that's one thing ... to know afar off ... to know the detail ... even your antics ... your idiosyncrasies ... and to enjoy you from a distance ...

But it's quite another thing for you to be right there with Him in the same space ... to sit in the same atmosphere. For Him to hear you personally communicate with Him. For Him to personally see your expressions ... your instant response to His words ... To be able to laugh with you ... to interrupt and instruct you ... to dry your tears ... to comfort your sorrow ... to hug you ... to kiss your face.

## **THE FATHER WANTS TO KNOW YOU ... HIS CHILD**

**SLIDE** *My last encounter with my own father was at His place, just before he went home to his Heavenly Father.*

*He came into his English-looking den where I was sitting and asked me all about my business and what I was doing. He was sincerely interested in what I had been doing and who I had become. He wanted to know about me.*

*I remember how he genuinely took delight in me sharing who I was ... what I'd been doing ...*

*I could see he was proud of me ...*

**SO IT IS WITH YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER ... HE WANTS TO KNOW YOU ... AND JESUS IS WAITING TO INTRODUCE YOU TO HIM ... THE DOWN-TO-EARTH, HEAVENLY FATHER ...**

**WE WILL NEVER AGAIN HAVE TO FEAR THE HOLINESS OR JUDGEMENT OF GOD ... BUT WE CAN FOREVER MORE ENJOY THE LOVELINESS OF THE FATHER.**