

## The Tabernacle: God's Blueprint for Relationship, Part 7

**Exodus 25:8-9** And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may **dwelt** among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the **pattern** of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.

The entire purpose of the Tabernacle was so that a holy God could have a relationship with sinful people. But this relationship would only function properly if the people put the tent together right; if they did, then God promised that He would show up with His power and provision!

The Tabernacle was God's **ORIGINAL BLUEPRINT** for relationship, and it foreshadows everything else that comes later in the Word of God. In other words, our relationship with God must follow the **same pattern!**

In previous lessons, we've dealt with the three components of God's "vertical" plan of SALVATION – BLOOD, WATER and SPIRIT. They are pictured in the Brazen Altar, Brazen Laver and the Ark of the Covenant. They pointed ahead to Jesus' death, burial and resurrection ... and they are fulfilled in our obedience through repentance, water baptism, and receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Today, we want to finish dealing with the three components of God's "horizontal" plan of SANCTIFICATION – WITNESS, PRAYER and WORD. They are pictured in the Golden Candlestick, the Altar of Incense and the Table of Shewbread – all located in the Holy Place. **WITNESS is "me talking to others."** **PRAYER is "me talking to God."** **The WORD is "God talking to me."** All are necessary in my daily walk with the Lord.

### **(VIDEO CLIP FOR TEXT)**

**Exodus 25:23-30** <sup>23</sup> Thou shalt also make a table of shittim wood: two cubits shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof, and a half the height thereof. <sup>24</sup> And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, and make thereto a crown of gold round about. <sup>25</sup> And thou shalt make unto it a border of an hand breadth round about, and thou shalt make a golden crown to the border thereof round about. <sup>26</sup> And thou shalt make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings in the four corners that are on the four feet thereof. <sup>27</sup> Over against the border shall the rings be for places of the staves to bear the table. <sup>28</sup> And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be borne with them. <sup>29</sup> And thou shalt make the dishes thereof, and spoons thereof, and covers thereof, and bowls thereof, to cover withal: of pure gold shalt thou make them. <sup>30</sup> And thou shalt set upon the table shewbread before me alway.

The chief purpose of the Table of Shewbread was to **FEED THE PRIESTS**, just as the **WORD** sustains every believer today. **WORD means "GOD TALKING TO ME."**

Throughout the Bible various names are given to the special bread that was placed on this table in the Tabernacle:

- **SHEWBREAD ("to show forth") – Exodus 25:30**
- **BREAD OF GOD – Leviticus 21:21**
- **CONTINUAL BREAD – Numbers 4:7**

The Hebrew word for "showbread" also has these meanings:

- **THE BREAD OF THE PRESENCE**
- **THE BREAD OF THE FACE**
- **THE BREAD OF ORDER**

These loaves of showbread were renewed every Sabbath. At that time they were to be eaten only by the priests, but only in the Tabernacle (Leviticus 24:9). They were then replaced by fresh loaves (1 Samuel 21:6) which were prepared by the Levites (1 Chronicles 9:32).

**In the Old Testament, only a handful of priests could partake of the showbread. But in the New Testament, all believers are priests so we all have a right to partake of the Word of God!**

**Revelation 1:6** And hath made us **kings and priests** unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

**2 Peter 2:9** But ye are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood**, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

There were twelve loaves of bread on the Table of Shewbread, one for every tribe in Israel. The number twelve is the number of **government** in Scripture – it was through the twelve disciples that Jesus distributed bread miraculously when He was on earth. Today, the church still feeds on the revelation ("bread") given to the apostles by Jesus Himself.

**Matthew 15:36** And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and **gave to his disciples**, and **the disciples to the multitude**.

**1 Corinthians 10:17** For we being many are one bread, and one body: for **we are all partakers of that one bread**.

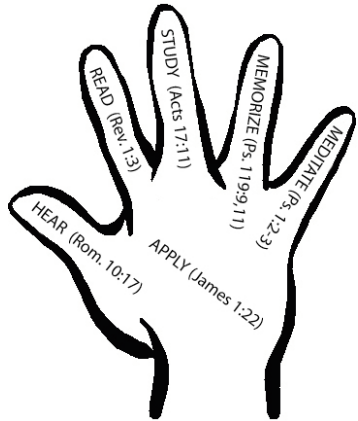
**THE BREAD IS THE WORD ... AND THE WORD IS JESUS!**

**John 6:51** I am the **living bread** which came down from heaven: if any man **eat of this bread**, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

**John 1:14** And the Word was **made flesh**, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

**WHAT WE EAT BECOMES A PART OF OUR BEING.**

**Jeremiah 15:16** Thy **words** were found, and **I did eat them**; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.



**Six Ways to Get a Grip on Your Bible**

Hear	Romans 10:17
Read	Revelation 1:3
Study	Acts 17:11
Memorize	Psalms 119:9,11
Meditate	Psalms 1:2-3
Apply	James 1:22

**HEAR** – clear your heart of attitudes that hinder, always take notes

**READ** – read a little bit every day, use a modern translation

**STUDY** – compare verses on subject, use study helps for background

**MEMORIZE** – pick verse that speaks to you, review constantly

**MEDITATE** – focus thinking on each word, paraphrase and personalize

**APPLY** – find the timeless principle (bridge), pray the promises you find

**SOAP (Personal Devotions)**

- Scripture
- Observation
- Application
- Prayer

**COMMITMENT**