



# The Harvest

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## Integrity and Worship

*“Vindicate me, Adonai,  
for I have walked in my integrity,  
and trusted in Adonai without wavering...  
I will wash my hands in innocence,  
so I can walk around Your altar, Adonai,  
hearing the voice of thanksgiving  
while proclaiming all Your wonders.”  
~ Psalm 26:1, 6-7 ~*

What does it require to enter God’s presence? Have you ever asked yourself that question before? Pause for a moment and challenge yourself to answer.

Are there requirements to enter the presence of the Most High God? Throughout the history of God’s people, we see a demonstration of holiness and specific commands surrounding entering into the temple – the place where God’s Spirit dwelled. All throughout Exodus and Leviticus, there are rules surrounding holiness and what it meant to live a life according to God’s design. The priests themselves had a multitude of requirements - from how to dress to how to conduct themselves when ministering before the Lord (*read Exodus 39-40*).

One excellent example of this occurs in Leviticus 10:1-11. In this passage of Scripture, we see Nadab and Abihu explicitly defy the Lord’s commands and offer an offering of fire to God without the expressed command to do so and in an improper manner. The consequences are devastating, as the men, their family, and the whole community soon realize. Nadab and Abihu are killed for their insubordination, and the whole community received admonishing words from the Lord. Verses 9 and 10 drive home what the Lord intends to teach His people: *“Do not drink wine or fermented drink, neither you nor your sons with you, when you go into the Tent of Meeting, so that you do not die. You are to make a distinction between the holy and the common and between the unclean and the clean.”*

The Lord was very clear about His requirements for entering His presence. This is not something the people of the Lord are to do lightly. We must enter into His presence with holiness, sincerity, integrity, and humility. This is demonstrated clearly in Leviticus 16 when describing the manner in which the priests were to enter the Holy of Holies. There were specific instructions that were not to be broken by penalty of death, just as there were for entering the outer courts of the temple as well.

Pause: While we see the concept of holiness in the Lord’s presence throughout the Tanakh, is this idea present anywhere in the Apostolic text? Is this something that we need to be focused on today? Take a moment to reflect on these questions, and write your thoughts below. If this is something we need to take into consideration, what does this look like for us without the Temple?

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If you wrote above that there is evidence of our requirement for holiness in God’s presence in the Apostolic Scriptures, you would be correct. In *Mark 11:15* we see an example of Yeshua’s zeal for righteousness in the presence of His Father. “*Then they came to Jerusalem. And He [Yeshua] entered the Temple and started to drive out those selling and buying in the Temple. He overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those selling doves.*” He then goes on to condemn the people, proclaiming that they had turned what was supposed to be a “*house of prayer for all the nations*” into a “*den of thieves.*” God’s people had yet again turned what was holy into something common.

Now that we’ve seen these examples throughout Scripture, let’s take a look at what this means for us today. We know that when we pray and when we worship, we are entering into the presence of the Lord. He has promised to meet us when we call out to Him (*Isaiah 65:24*). So how do we maintain a level of holiness to approach the Lord in prayer and in worship? As Torah observers, we know how difficult it is to follow all the commands outlined throughout all of Scripture. In fact, we know that as imperfect human beings, we will never be able to do so perfectly. However, we also know we are still commanded to do them. So when we approach the Lord in worship – to walk around His altar with thanksgiving – we must do as Psalm 26 clearly states: ask the Lord to make us clean, show Him a heart of repentance, demonstrate our desire for His mercy and His love, and make clear our intentions of walking anew in His commands. We have seen the beauty of His presence, and He will always leave our hearts wanting more of Him. So we must walk in integrity, approach Him with humility, and adore the joy of worshipping Him in His presence, knowing that His power is made perfect in our weakness (*2 Corinthians 12:9*). Spend some time worshipping the Lord. Be sure to stop and make your heart humble while entering His presence, and enjoy the sweet mercy and grace that He offers too you while you sit with Him. With Him, there is no condemnation. With Him, there is freedom from all your chains. With Him, there is fullness of joy.

Worship:

- ~ Clear the Stage by Jimmy Needham
- ~ New Wine by Hillsong Worship
- ~ There is a Power by Rita Springer (feat. Dante Bowe)