



Access Granted – Part 1 The Sacred Preparation for Prayer

Leviticus 16:1-4 (NLT)

(1) The Lord spoke to Moses after the death of Aaron’s two sons, who died after they entered the Lord’s presence and burned the wrong kind of fire before him. **(2)** The Lord said to Moses, “Warn your brother, Aaron, not to enter the Most Holy Place behind the inner curtain whenever he chooses; if he does, he will die. For the Ark’s cover—the place of atonement—is there, and I myself am present in the cloud above the atonement cover.

(3) “When Aaron enters the sanctuary area, he must follow these instructions fully. He must bring a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. **(4)** He must put on his linen tunic and the linen undergarments worn next to his body. He must tie the linen sash around his waist and put the linen turban on his head. These are sacred garments, so he must bathe himself in water before he puts them on.

QUOTE:

“Prayer is the world’s greatest wireless connection.”

-Anonymous-

Pastors Big Point: Prayer is an essential component of any religious belief. Communication with God strengthens, empowers, gives direction, preserves, and provides. It causes us to seek higher order throughout our lives. Knowing that we serve the true and living God; that He is the all-powerful God; that He was uncreated yet Creator of everything—should push us to seek Him all the more. The truth of the matter is that anyone can pray (and they should). But the greater truth is there are several factors that keep people from getting what we want out of prayer. There are ways to ensure our prayers are more effective and that the lines of communication are always open to access God.



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Table
Discussion

How does the quote: *Prayer is the world's greatest wireless connection* resonate with your understanding of prayer? Can you share an example of how prayer has connected you to something greater than yourself?

Pastor's Teaching Points

1. The Ritual of Preparation and Its Significance

- Cleansing and Consecration
 - Confession and Repentance
 - Mindful Preparation

2. Understanding the Role of Sacrifices in Prayer

- Offerings of Commitment
 - Personal Sacrifices
 - Symbolic Offerings

3. Sacred Attire as a Metaphor for Spiritual Armor

- Garments of Holiness
 - Truth and Righteousness
 - Preparation for Spiritual Battles



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Reference Scriptures:
Consider the following scriptures and how they tie into or affect our lesson.

Psalm 24:3-4 (NLT)

"Who may climb the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? Only those who have clean hands and a pure heart, who do not worship idols and never tell lies."

Hebrews 10:22 (NLT)

"Let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water."

1 Peter 2:5 (NLT)

"And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God."

Discussion Question:

1. What are some ways you physically and spiritually prepare yourself before engaging in prayer?
2. How do you interpret the requirement of 'sacred garments' in today's context of prayer?
3. Share a time when being spiritually prepared significantly impacted your prayer experience or the outcome.