

THE GREATER ONE IN YOU!

by Kenneth E. Hagin

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

—1 Corinthians 3:16 (KJV)

Do you not discern and understand that you [the whole church at Corinth] are God's temple (His sanctuary), and that God's Spirit has His permanent dwelling in you—to be at home in you [collectively as a church and also individually]?

—1 Corinthians 3:16 (Amp.)

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

—1 Corinthians 6:19,20

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

—2 Corinthians 6:14-16

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

—1 John 4:4

The New Testament gives us three relations God sustains toward men:

First, *God for us.*

Second, *God with us.*

Third, *God in us.*

To have God *for us* guarantees success. The Scripture says in Romans 8:31, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" If God is on our side—and thank God He is—we are sure to win!

If God is for you, and you know He is, then you become utterly fearless in life.

I don't care what the circumstances are.

I don't care how dark the clouds may be that gather on the horizons of your life.

I don't care how severe the storms may be that have broken upon your life.

When you know that God is for you, you know He is for you no matter what the situation is, and you can be calmly assured that you must win.

There can be no defeat if the Great Unseen One is not only for us, but *with us*. And, thank God, He *is* with us.

You can have the consciousness that your Lord and your God is with you every place in life. That very fact of God's Word, regardless of circumstances, will buoy up your spirit in faith, confidence, and assurance.

But the third reality is that God is not only *for us* and *with us*, but *God is actually making His home IN OUR BODIES!*

We read that in our texts. If it weren't in the Scriptures, we could hardly imagine such an idea. But God, according to the Scriptures, is actually making His home in our bodies.

Only a few of us, however, are conscious of God in our bodies. We constantly hear Christian men and women—Spirit-filled men and women—talking about their lack of power, their lack of ability, and what they can't do.

When you know He's *for* you, He's *with* you, and He's *in* you, you can understand why Jesus said, "All things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark 9:23). *Because* the God with whom all things are possible dwells in you (the believer) to enable you, all things are possible to him that believeth.

If you really are conscious of the fact that He's not only for you and with you, but in you, you can't talk negatively.

You can't talk about lack of ability—because He's your ability.

You can't talk about lack of power—because He's the powerhouse.

You can't talk about what you can't do—because He can do anything.

It doesn't seem possible, but it's absolutely true:

The greatest truth that is revealed to us in the New Testament is the fact that after God the Father, by the Holy Spirit, has recreated us and made us new creatures, He is actually making our bodies His home!

We read in the King James Version that the Holy Spirit "*dwelleth*" in you (1 Cor. 3:16). Another translation says, "He will make his home in you." In 2 Corinthians 6:16, God said, "*I will dwell IN THEM, and walk IN THEM.*"

Your home is the place you live or dwell. God said, "I will make my home in them." That doesn't seem possible. Your head doesn't want to accept that. People who are

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untaught in the Scriptures will reject it. But blessed be God, those who honor the Word of God will accept it gladly.

No longer does He dwell in an earth-made Holy of Holies. Our bodies have become His temples. That's one reason we have "a better covenant, which was established upon better promises" (Heb. 8:6).

Under the Old Covenant, the presence of God was hidden in the Holy of Holies. That's why every male in Israel had to present himself at least once a year at the Temple in Jerusalem. That's where God was. That was God's house.

God's presence, the *Shekinah* glory of God, was kept shut up in the Holy of Holies. Nobody dared approach into that holy presence save the High Priest, and he only under *great* precautions, after having made sacrifice for his sins and the sins of the people. If others intruded into the Holy of Holies, they fell dead instantly.

As Jesus was dying on the cross, He said, "It is finished." He wasn't talking about the New Covenant being finished; it wasn't finished! It wasn't finished when He died, and it wasn't finished when He arose from the dead. It wasn't finished until He did two things.

The Bible teaches that His first office, when He was raised from the dead, was to enter into the heavenly Holy of Holies as High Priest of the New Covenant with His own blood to obtain an eternal redemption for us.

That is the reason He said, when Mary saw Him in the garden, "Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father" (John 20:17).

However, a few days later when His disciples saw Him, He said, "Go ahead and touch me. It's all right." Why? Because by then He had already ascended into the heavenly Holy of Holies with His blood and had obtained eternal redemption for us.

His second office was when He ascended and sat down. (You don't sit down until the job's finished.) The New Covenant wasn't finished until He ascended and sat down at the right hand of the Father, where "He ever liveth to make intercession" for us (Heb. 7:25). Then and only then was the New Covenant finished.

What, then, did He mean on Calvary when He said,

"It is finished"? He was talking about the Old Covenant's being finished. The Bible tells us that, having said this, Jesus gave up the ghost, and the curtain in the Temple that curtained off the Holy of Holies was "rent in twain." That means it was torn or ripped apart.

Flavius Josephus, the Jewish historian, said that the curtain (or veil) in the Temple was 40 feet wide, 20 feet high, and 4 inches thick.

The Bible says it was torn from top to bottom, not from bottom to top. That meant that 20 feet up in the air an unseen being, an angel in all probability, took hold of that 4-inch-thick curtain that was 20 feet tall and 40 feet wide and ripped it apart. And anybody—anybody—could see into the Holy of Holies.

No longer was admittance limited to the High Priest only after he had offered the sacrifice of animals. Why? Because God had moved out of there!

God no longer dwells in an earth-made Holy of Holies. Under the New Covenant, our bodies have come His temple!

This is where people have missed it. (We become so religiously brainwashed that we miss the spiritual blessings of God.) The Temple in the Old Covenant was holy because it was God's house. Sometimes today we call the church house "the house of God."

If we mean that the church house (or building) is the house of God because God lives there, we're wrong. He does not live there. He does not abide there. That's not His house. If, however, we mean that it's the house of God because we built it and dedicated it to Him for worship, that's fine. But many people have almost worshipped buildings. "That's God's house," they say. "God lives there." He doesn't at all.

I remember a fellowship meeting I attended down in East Texas when I was pastoring my last church. We were going to have dinner on the grounds after the service, but about the time the service was over, it just poured down rain.

Their Sunday School annex was cut up into little rooms, and they couldn't feed the people there, so the pastor suggested we turn the pews around two by two, and eat in the church.

Somebody came to me and said, "That beats anything I've ever seen in my life! Don't they know this is the house of God? Why, they're eating in the church."

"My God," he continued, "they've all backslid!" I tried to talk to him, but he got fighting mad (of course, he was "sanctified"), and he went home.

After we had eaten and cleaned up, we put the pews back in place, and we had a tremendous—an unusual—afternoon service. The power of God came down on us, and we had the greatest fellowship meeting I was ever in. I couldn't see that it made any difference to God that we had eaten in the church.

The man who got angry was worshipping the building. He didn't realize that his getting angry, pouting, and not fellowshiping with others was really sin, while those of us who joined in the fellowship weren't sinning.

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Godliness/from page 4

you mean when you say, 'Brother So-and-so is a *somebody*?' "

I mean he's a child of God. I mean he's a son of God. I mean he's a joint-heir with Jesus Christ—an equal heir. I mean he's in the family of God. That's a *somebody*!

Jesus tells us we are somebody. We are the Body of Christ. The Bible tells us that.

Writing to the Ephesians, Paul uses husbands and wives as an illustration of Christ and the Church: "*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it*" (Eph. 5:25).

He went on to say, "*So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth*

it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones" (vv. 28-30).

No man has ever yet hated his own body: that has to do with husband and wife, and it is beautiful. But there's a further thought here, my friends, that I want to get over to you: We are the Body of Christ. We are His Body.

A man's wife is bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh. And as Paul points out, we are bone of Christ's bone and flesh of His flesh!

Paul said that men were to cherish and love their wives. Then he said, "*This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church*" (v. 32). We are precious to Jesus.

What I'm pointing out to you is that if you have valuable property,

you're going to protect it. You're not going to leave it out for the dogs to chew on.

And godliness is profitable unto ALL things.

Godliness guarantees or insures protection, for godliness is profitable unto all things. Read the 91st Psalm and learn about the protection that is yours.

Promotion

Second, godliness insures promotion.

Consider what God did for Joseph because he stayed true. Yes, he was sold into captivity. Yes, he was put into prison. But God blessed him in Egypt.

Ordinarily, a man would become

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Greater One/from page 3

In June 1939, I accepted a little Full Gospel church. Little by little I suggested we should fix it up and make it look presentable. (They had never done anything to it in 23 years.) Eventually we needed to redo the altar bench. Men on the board and others in the church said, "*Oh, no!*"

One of the board members took me by the arm and said, "*I got saved right there. Right at the end of that altar. If you look real close, you can see some of my tear stains still there!*"

He was worshipping the altar.

People—even good people—make too much about things and places. My faith is not in some rug or some spot where I once knelt to pray. My faith's in Jesus. My faith's in what God said.

I realize under the Old Covenant that the Temple was a holy place, but under the New Covenant, your body is the holy temple of God. As our text said, "*Know ye not that YE are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in YOU*" (1 Cor. 3:16).

1 CORINTHIANS 3:16 (Amplified)

16 Do you not discern and understand that you [the whole church at Corinth] are God's temple (His sanctuary), and that God's Spirit has His permanent dwelling in you—to be at home in you [collectively as a church and also individually]?

Notice the Amplified translation of this Scripture brings out the facts that the whole church at Corinth—the church, not the building—are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells in them collectively as well as individually.

You know that one local group at Corinth wasn't the whole body of Christ. The whole body of Christ is made up of believers everywhere. Yet Paul wrote the letter just to the Corinthian Christians, saying, "*YE are the temple of God . . .*" We are a spiritual temple.

People say, "Well, I can stay at home, listen to tapes, and feed on the Word myself, and be just as good a

Christian as anybody." No, you can't. You can be blessed that way, but you can't be as good a Christian as anybody. You miss something.

No wonder in Hebrews 10:25 he said, "*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*"

What day? The day of the end of time approaching—the coming of the Lord approaching. Assemble together *even more*, he says.

When a body of believers comes together, all of them together are a temple (or house) for God to dwell in. And because He's among that group, dwelling in that temple, He will manifest Himself there collectively in ways beyond which He'll manifest Himself through individuals.

We need to know that. We need to see something here: *The whole church collectively is indwelt.*

I also want to emphasize the fact that you individually are a temple of God. Look again at First Corinthians 6:19,20: "*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*"

My, you could preach a week about that. You're called on to glorify God in your body just as much as you are in your spirit. God wants you to do something with your body.

Somebody said, "The body's unimportant." No, it's not. I see something here.

In the Old Covenant, the Temple was the house of God. Notice what they did when they built Solomon's Temple: They put the best they had into it. They put the best craftsmen to work on it. It was elaborately decorated.

I think we simply do not realize that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. God's dwelling in there. We'd

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take better care of our bodies, dress up our bodies, and look more presentable if we really realized that. ▽

Even in the natural, people have a low opinion of somebody who's living in a rundown, dilapidated house with the windows knocked out and the front yard grown up.

"Ye are the temple." Your body is. "Glorify God in your body."

As I was coming out of a place of business in a neighboring town once, a fellow I knew was waiting for me. I shook hands with him. I never said a word to him. He just started talking. He said, "Well, they can't prove that to me!"

I said, "What are you talking about?"

"I can't find anything in the Bible about it," he replied. "I've looked in the Bible, and I can't find one Scripture about it!"

"What are you talking about?" I repeated.

He said, "Using tobacco. Smoking cigarettes. I can't find the word 'cigarette' in the Bible."

"Why, certainly not," I said. "Nobody back there had tobacco. You won't find it in the Bible."

"Well, they're going to have to prove to me that it's wrong!"

Somebody had said something to him, I guess. His wife was a member of a Full Gospel church. He was not a member. He did come to our church some on Sunday nights.

I said, "There's no use in jumping on me. I never said anything to you, did I?"

He looked at me and said, "No, no, you didn't."

"Since you brought it up, I want to ask you another question," I said. "It doesn't say in the Bible, 'Thou shalt not eat strychnine.' Why don't you eat it?"

"Why," he said, "I know better than that."

I said, "Well, some of us know better about some other things. I'm not going to condemn you, brother," I said. "I tell you what you do . . ."

"I'm just as much saved as you or anybody else!" he said.

I said, "I don't argue the question. But do you ever pray?"

"Oh, yeah. Yeah."

"Well," I said. "I tell you what you do. If you're really honest and sincere, you get on your knees and tell the Lord if He wants you to give it up, you'll give it up. Would you give it up?"

"Yes. If the Lord told me, I'd do it," he said.

"Well," I said. "Tell Him that."

"Then," I said, "I'll tell you something else. The Bible said whatever you do in word or deed, do it all for the glory of God."

I reached in his pocket and got his package of cigarettes. "The next time you pull one out," I said, "before you light up, you stop and say, 'Now, Lord, I'm doing this for Your glory.'"

I was back over in that same town about a month later. This fellow saw me, and he came over grinning.

He said, "You know, Brother Hagin, I've quit!"

I said, "Quit what?"

"Well," he said, "It was just like you said. I was honest, and I started praying, 'Now, Lord, if You want me to—I'm not going to listen to man, but if You tell me to—I'll quit.'"

"I read that Scripture, 'whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God' (1 Cor. 10:31), and as I would start to say, 'I'm going to smoke this for the glory of God,' I had to throw it away every time!"

It's obvious we can get into a thousand different areas here, but we do need to glorify God in our bodies and our spirits. It does matter to God what we do to His house. ▽

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is an excerpt from Brother Hagin's sermon "The Greater One in You." The entire sermon is being offered on cassette this month. To order your copy, please see the back cover.)

Prophetic Psalm

Prayer & Healing School 11/14/79

I've Found a Secret

I've found a secret.

It's revealed in the Word.

It's not hidden from a soul who is willing to hear.

And you can say from your spirit down here:

*"I have heard and I know for His Word has spoken
and it cannot fail."*

Faith will prevail.

Speak it out when all hell against you assails.

*Shout it out when symptoms and sickness and
disease belie the truth.*

*And you'll see that all that troubles thee will
dissipate and disappear.*

*And you'll rise up victorious and shout and give
glory to Him as you walk down here.*

*Your health shall spring forth speedily and you'll be
a blessing unto those around about,*

Because you have learned what faith is all about.

Hear with the ear of faith.

See with the eye of faith.

Take with the hand of faith.

Speak with the Word of faith.

Shout with the joy of faith.

Walk in the light of faith.

Rejoice in the goodness of faith.

For the Lord your God, your Father, is a faith God.

*And ye being faith children of a faith God, walk, act,
and talk like God.*