

# Re-Open the Temple Doors

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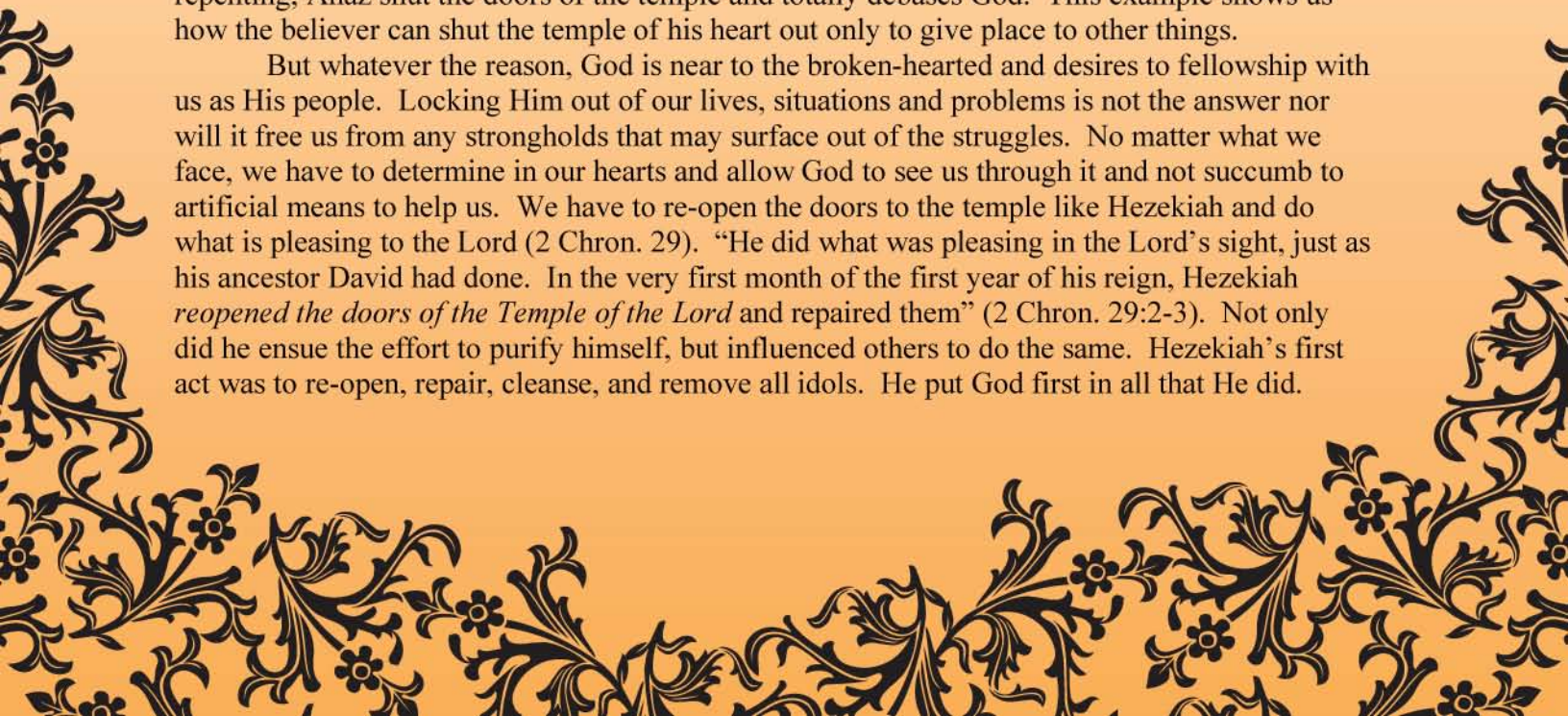
In God's economy there is perfect balance, but we can tarnish and off set the scales by our own admission and wrongful actions. *Justification* reigns and we pollute the truth with ideologies in order to escape the pursuit of righteousness. In doing so, we ostracize the spirit of God and repel from His presence. We setup walls or barriers and can attend an atmosphere saturated by the presence of the Lord, but feel nothing and our hearts are not stirred. The realization that we are the temples of God, and not a church building escapes us.

Often times, we have "legitimate" reasons we create to abandon the things of the Lord. I have heard from those embittered by wounds suffered by the hands of another Christian that they had walked away from God because of the act of a perpetrator. Overwhelming circumstances with a disappointing outcome, complacency, self-seeking motives, or sin and compromise, contribute to shutting the *temple doors*. The enemy desires to bring us to that position of shutting God out and will stop at nothing to violently drag us into this barrenness. Whatever method he chooses he will aggressively attack, until you buckle under the pressure.

We then begin on a downward spiral and our hearts harden. We lose interest in the word of God, we stop praying, we shun worship and coming to the house of God is done merely for social reasons or obligation. We receive nothing because we expect nothing. We have meetings, but we don't meet with the living God. It's like going to a World Series game just to eat the hotdogs. What's the use? You missed the purpose in going because your focus was solely on an innate object and not the true premise of being there.

In the Old Testament we read of a king named Ahaz (2 Chronicles 28) who in the Bible it states that he became unfaithful, served foreign gods and practiced idolatry. In turn, this act of disobedience led to his and the people of Israel's destruction (2 Chron. 28:24). Instead of repenting, Ahaz shut the doors of the temple and totally debases God. This example shows us how the believer can shut the temple of his heart out only to give place to other things.

But whatever the reason, God is near to the broken-hearted and desires to fellowship with us as His people. Locking Him out of our lives, situations and problems is not the answer nor will it free us from any strongholds that may surface out of the struggles. No matter what we face, we have to determine in our hearts and allow God to see us through it and not succumb to artificial means to help us. We have to re-open the doors to the temple like Hezekiah and do what is pleasing to the Lord (2 Chron. 29). "He did what was pleasing in the Lord's sight, just as his ancestor David had done. In the very first month of the first year of his reign, Hezekiah *reopened the doors of the Temple of the Lord* and repaired them" (2 Chron. 29:2-3). Not only did he ensue the effort to purify himself, but influenced others to do the same. Hezekiah's first act was to re-open, repair, cleanse, and remove all idols. He put God first in all that He did.



Maybe you have been in disobedience like Ahaz and shut the doors of your heart. Maybe it is a relationship you have to let go of, or a habit that you feel you just cannot break. The closer God gets to it, the more you back away, like Ahaz, instead of allowing Him to move in that area and cleanse you. God desires to dwell within your temple, but like Hezekiah you have to remove and tear down those idols and re-open those temple doors. Be purified, and seek intimate fellowship with Him for He stands at the door of your heart and knocks. Won't you allow God in and take your rightful place as His chosen one? "The Lord has chosen you to stand in his presence, to minister to him, and to lead the people in worship and make offerings to him" (2 Chron. 29:11).

