

The background of the entire slide is a dark, almost black, space filled with ethereal, swirling smoke in shades of purple and lavender. The smoke rises from the bottom right and drifts towards the top left, creating a sense of movement and depth. The smoke is semi-transparent, allowing some darker areas to be seen through it.

Incensed!

*Personal Processing
Through Prayer*

My Prayers, Like Incense
(An Introduction)

*“Let my prayer be set forth as incense
before You, the lifting up of my hands as the
evening sacrifice.” –Psalm 141:2 [AMP]*

“And when he took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they held gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God’s people.”—Revelation 5:8 [NLT]

1. The Bible describes prayer as *incense* that rises up into the Presence of God.

2. Moses' encounter with God on the mountain was so personally transforming that his face was glowing when he descended from the mountain. When he met with the Israelites after the encounter he covered his face with a veil.

3. According to 2 Corinthians 3:13,
Moses did not veil his face to hide
the brilliance of his countenance, but
to hide the *fading glory* of the Law.

4. The Law could not transform the hearts of God's people and make them holy and righteous enough to approach Him in His Holiness. They could never speak with God face to face. They could never have personal encounters with Him through prayer.

5. Tucked away within the worship of the early Israelites is a breathtaking shadow of the transforming power of prayer.

6. When we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior, we can approach God face to face through prayer, and speak with Him heart to Heart.

7. It is impossible for us to place ourselves before God and dwell in His Presence without being *changed*.

8. Jesus called the place of meeting with God in prayer the Inner Room. (Matthew 6:6) The Old Testament representation of the Inner Room is very intriguing. As we dig into the Scriptures together we will look at the Altar of Incense, its makeup, and the incense burned on it, in the light of our prayers.

9. We will be looking at two areas in the Old Testament Tabernacle: the *Holy Place* and the *Most Holy Place*.

10. The Holy of Holies was the innermost room of the tabernacle. It was the place of God's Presence. Only Aaron, the high priest could enter that room, and only once a year after offering multiple blood sacrifices, not only for the people but for himself as well.

11. The Holy Place was located next to the Holy of Holies. A thick curtain, or veil, hung between the two rooms. The Altar of Incense was located just outside the Holy of Holies on the other side of the veil.

12. This veil in the Temple during the time of Christ was about four inches thick and at least fifty feet tall. (1 Kings 6:2)

13. The moment that Jesus died on the cross, Matthew 27:50-51 says that the earth shook and the veil was ripped in two from top to bottom.

14. The tear was made by God
Himself, granting us direct
connection and communication
with Him once again!

15. Christ is revealed in every component of the Altar of Incense and the incense burned on it.

Next Week:

Resistant to Decay