

# Easter to Pentecost: A Season of Prayer

## Week 2: Patterns and Places of Prayer

Although most of the references to 'bless' in the Old Testament are to blessing God, the blessing of people does go back to OT times.

Numbers 6:23-26 says

"Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

""The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.""

Dr Lesley Weatherhead, considering the words of Jesus when he told his followers 'When you pray go into your inner room and shut the door' suggests that few of them would have inner rooms – most would have been one-room houses. Therefore, Jesus was talking about the inner self where one can separate oneself from one's surroundings – on a bus or train or ...?

I was wondering about this suggestion that Jesus was not talking about a physical place when he referred to an 'inner room' in Matthew 6:6. There seem to be different theories about this. According to [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew\\_6:6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_6:6) 'Theologian Eduard Schweizer suggests that the room (Greek: ταμείον, tameion) referenced in this verse would have been the storage room. Most of Jesus' audiences would have lived in homes with only one room, but in Palestine it was common to have a separate storage area with a door to protect foodstuffs....Albert Barnes argues that "every Jewish house had a place for secret devotion" such as a room above the front porch...'.

I have read that the inner room could be a storage room but the important thing is that it is somewhere to meet with God in private. This does not mean that it is wrong to worship and pray together but that we should be wary of displaying what we do in the hope that we look good. Prayer is real and it is about a relationship. It is about our God being happy to speak, and listen, to us.

Luke 24 v.35- 37 When Cleopas and his companion returned to Jerusalem they 'found the Eleven and those with them assembled together and saying "it is true The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon"' But in verse 37, when they were still talking about this, and Jesus appeared among them, 'they were startled and frightened. Is there a message here that we need, through prayer, to continually renew our sense of the presence of God?