

092924 Sermon "**Two Pillars: Jachin and Boaz**" 2 Chronicles 3:15-17

In 2 Chronicles 3:15-17, we read about the two majestic pillars, Jachin and Boaz, standing at the entrance of Solomon's Temple. As you may know, Solomon's temple was the first temple in Israel's history. Before that, there was the tabernacle. Think of it as a large tent. It symbolized God's presence.

Jachin and Boaz were prominent and impressive bronze pillars, about 50 feet high. That would be roughly the height of a five-story building today. Interestingly, however, they did not physically support the structure. They were separate structures standing in front of the temple. People were to look at them before entering the temple and look at them when leaving the temple.

So why would they build two giant pillars that don't actually support the building? Actually, they held deep symbolic meaning. Jachin (meaning "He will establish") and Boaz (meaning "In Him is strength") conveyed to the Israelites the assurance that God was their firm foundation, establishing and strengthening His covenant with them. Their significance was more spiritual, serving as reminders of God's enduring presence and faithfulness to His people, not merely architectural elements.

Fast forward to John 4:23-24, where Jesus speaks with the Samaritan woman at the well. Here, we find that the nature of worship is redefined. No longer is worship tied to a specific location, like the temple in Jerusalem. Jesus reveals that true worshipers will worship the Father in "spirit and truth." This echoes the meaning of the pillars: Jachin and Boaz point us to the enduring qualities that true worship must embody.

In John 4:21-24, "Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

Jachin, meaning "He will establish," reminds us that God Himself is the foundation of our worship. Worship grounded in truth is rooted in the knowledge of God as revealed in the Bible. As Jesus says in John 4, true worshipers worship the Father in truth. This is not based on rituals, traditions, or specific locations, but on the understanding of who God is—His holiness, His righteousness, and His redemptive work through Christ.

When we gather to worship like today, our foundation must be anchored in the truth of the Gospel. Just as Jachin stood firm at the temple entrance, so must the truth of God's Word stand firm at the entrance of our hearts. True worshipers do not merely go through the orders and the motions; they respond to God's Word with humility, adoration, and obedience. Without this pillar of truth, our worship crumbles.

Boaz, meaning "In Him is strength," speaks of the power and vitality of worship in the Spirit. In John 4, Jesus says that God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must do so in spirit. This pillar reminds us that worship is not just an intellectual exercise or a ritual that is always the same. Worship is a dynamic interaction between the believer and the Holy Spirit.

Worship in the spirit does not require you to have any special qualifications, but rather it means offering your heart, soul, and mind to God. It is not confined to ritual or formality but is vibrant and living, fueled by the Spirit of God who dwells within us. Just as Boaz stood as a pillar of strength, so does

the Spirit empower us to worship with passion and sincerity, bringing our whole selves before God.

In Jesus, the temple finds its ultimate fulfillment. No longer do we need physical pillars to represent the presence of God, for Jesus has become the mediator between God and humanity. Through Him, we enter into God's presence boldly. And it is through Jesus that we are called to worship in both spirit and truth.

Jesus died on the cross, even though he was sinless, to save us from the power of sin and death. And he broke the power of death and was resurrected. He gave the power to become children of God to those who believe in the Lord Jesus. So we believe in Him as our Lord. Even those who were the masters of themselves, when they believe in Jesus as the master of their lives, their lives change. That was the case for me too.

True worship, like the temple pillars, stands on two firm foundations: the truth of who God is and what God has done, and the strength of the Holy Spirit enabling us to worship fully. Both are essential. If we focus only on the truth, our worship can become cold and legalistic. If we focus only on the spirit, our worship can become strayed from the grounding of God's Word. Together, spirit and truth create the fullness of worship that God desires.

And the lives of such worshippers are not only pleasing to God, but their lives are also beautifully transformed. Because love for God always extends to love for one's neighbor. Of course, you can help your neighbors in need whom you do not know well in the community, but you can also change the lives of those close to you already.

Dear beloved sisters and brothers in Christ, as we reflect on the pillars of Solomon's temple and Jesus' teaching to the Samaritan woman, we are reminded of the kind of worship God desires. God is seeking worship that is established on the truth of His Word and empowered by the Spirit within us. May our worship reflect this balance of spirit and truth, standing firm like Jachin and Boaz, as we honor God not just with our lips, but with our hearts and lives. Fairfield Grace, may God's grace, peace, goodness, and mercy be with you, your family, your business, your studies, and with the lives of your children. To Christ be thanks and praise. Amen.