



Sunday June 26, 2016
Following the Leading of His Presence

as we conclude this series on the presence of God, our desire is for us to corporately host the presence of God. We desire to be a people, a community among whom God dwells. And of course, this is also the desire of God's heart. He wants to dwell among His people and His glory to be seen through His people.

The glory is a manifestation of who God is (His character, virtues) and what He does.

The glory is a tangible manifestation of His presence.

The glory is the atmosphere of heaven just like air is the atmosphere of earth.

Numbers 14:21

but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD—

Habakkuk 2:14

For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.

God desires for the earth to be filled with His glory, and not just that, but for the earth (people) to be filled with the knowledge of His glory. And He is going to do this through His people who are not only carriers of His glory but also "know" His glory.

We need to have knowledge of the glory of God..know what this glory is, know how to respond and move in the glory presence of God.

When we know the glory of the Lord, we not only recognize the glory of the Lord being present, but we also know what to do to receive miracles and manifestations of God from His glory presence.

We must learn to recognize, respond and receive from His presence.

WHERE HE DWELLS, HIS GLORY ABIDES

Isaiah 4:5-6 (NKJV)

5 And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory (*kabod*) shall be a defence.

6 And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.



Isaiah 11:10 (ESV)

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious (*kabod*).

Revised Version, margin, “and his resting-place shall be glory,”

God's glory on us is a covering of protection.

His glory will be our rear guard or protection (Isaiah 58:8).

God desire for His presence to rest upon us and for us to be covered by His glory presence.

LEARNING TO MOVE WITH THE CLOUD

The people of Israel made their journey from Egypt to Israel led by the glory of God.

Numbers 9:15-23

15 Now on the day that the tabernacle was raised up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the Testimony; from evening until morning it was above the tabernacle like the appearance of fire.

16 So it was always: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night.

17 Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, after that the children of Israel would journey; and in the place where the cloud settled, there the children of Israel would pitch their tents.

18 At the command of the LORD the children of Israel would journey, and at the command of the LORD they would camp; as long as the cloud stayed above the tabernacle they remained encamped.

19 Even when the cloud continued long, many days above the tabernacle, the children of Israel kept the charge of the LORD and did not journey.

20 So it was, when the cloud was above the tabernacle a few days: according to the command of the LORD they would remain encamped, and according to the command of the LORD they would journey.

21 So it was, when the cloud remained only from evening until morning: when the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they would journey; whether by day or by night, whenever the cloud was taken up, they would journey.

22 Whether it was two days, a month, or a year that the cloud remained above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would remain encamped and not journey; but when it was taken up, they would journey.

23 At the command of the LORD they remained encamped, and at the command of the LORD they journeyed; they kept the charge of the LORD, at the command of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

The people of Israel followed the cloud and the command of the Lord. This teaches us something. We must learn to honor the presence of God and the Word of God.

Exodus 33:14-15

14 And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

15 Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here."

Moses, as a leader valued God's presence so much.

How important is the presence of God, the glory of God to us as a church community? It is very likely that many churches will go about their regular church activities and



ministries even without the presence of God, since we are more dependent on our programs, skills, talents, strategies, etc. that the presence of His glory.

The sad part is that there were times in Israel's history, after they inherited their land of promise, when the glory of God had left the people (1 Samuel 4:21-22; Ezekiel 10:18).

We as a community cannot afford to be in such a state.

Let's keep our focus on God's presence amongst us. He is most important.

We must learn to give priority to His presence and move as He moves.

So let's talk a little about following the leading of His presence. This applies to us when we gather together as a congregation, when we meet together in small groups or even for us personally.

As we have been sharing over the last several Sundays, as we praise and worship God we experience tangible manifestations of His presence. This can come in many ways: as fire, light, rain, glory, wind, etc.

Here are some ways we must be sensitive and flow with what God is doing in a service/meeting or as He moves on us personally:

#1] Stillness / Waiting

Habakkuk 2:20

"But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."

Zechariah 2:10-13

10 "Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," says the LORD.

11 "Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.

12 And the LORD will take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land, and will again choose Jerusalem.

13 Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for He is aroused from His holy habitation!"

There are times when God is moving in His holy dwelling and all we are required to do is stay still in silence. Be still. No music. No singing. Nothing. We just bask in His presence. This is the time just to soak and linger in His presence.

#2] Engaging / Responding

There are times when God moves upon us and does a deep work within us.



This could be cleansing, refining, inner healing, release from hurts and wounds, etc. We must yield and respond to His moving. We must engage with Him to receive His deep inner work.

There may be tears, crying, repentance, weeping, wailing, or many other emotions being expressed.

Psalm 42:7-8

7 Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; All Your waves and billows have gone over me.

8 The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, And in the night His song shall be with me — A prayer to the God of my life.

#3] Exuberance / Energetic

There are times when there is a heightened intensity of His presence and God is moving in a strong, forceful powerful way - like a "rushing mighty wind", like a "mighty warrior", like the "King of glory"

Psalm 24:7-10

7 Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory (*glory*) shall come in.

8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle.

9 Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.

10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah

God's entrance and arrival is to be welcomed with great pomp, grandeur, befitting the King of glory, One who is Strong, Mighty, Triumphant and Eternal.

Psalm 29:3

The voice of the LORD is over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The LORD is over many waters.

Revelation 19:5-6

5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"

6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

In heaven, where His glory fills the entirety of everything, there are times of solemn worship. And there are times of loud praise, sound that is like mighty thunderings.

Mighty things happen during such moments, chains are broken, healings, miracles take place. Angels are released to do mighty things.

#4] Receiving / Faith



When the presence of God is manifested, the Holy Spirit does great and mighty things in our midst. Amazing things happen. This is the time we must receive by faith. God may lead us to do things we would normally not do in the natural. But because His presence overshadows us.

John 11:40

Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"

In the glory there is no limitation of distance or time. We speak, declare, act and do whatever the Lord says, and miracles will take place.

#5] Changing focus

As we learn to follow the leading of His presence, we must learn to recognize what specific thing God is doing and go with that. In a single service there may be changes in the move of His presence amongst us. There may be times of stillness and waiting. There may be times of deep engaging and responding. There may be times of great energetic exuberance. We must go with the flow. Follow the cloud. Stay under the cloud of His presence.

All of the above is applicable to our personal lives, the season that God takes us through.

LET'S PRESS IN TO NEW LEVELS OF GLORY

We need to rise to new levels of glory.

2 Corinthians 3:18 tells us that we move from glory to glory, implying greater glory.

Haggai 2:9 the latter house will have greater glory than the former.

We need to become desperate for new levels. We need to hunger and yearn for new levels of glory.

Desire to become a carrier of greater levels of glory.

Don't let fear hold you back from pressing in for new levels of glory.

Don't get offended by what the new level of glory might bring or how it might manifest itself. Every new move of God's Spirit will have its own uniqueness to it, along with similarities to past moves of God. God often uses the foolish to confound the wise (1 Corinthians 1:27-29).