

“Hosting the Holy Spirit”

As the presence of the Holy Spirit increases in the house, we must remember one important thing, we invited Him! Have you ever invited someone to your home and after they arrived regretted doing so? Are we responding to the Holy Spirit this way? I'm aware that none of us are ashamed of what the Lord is doing in our midst yet is it possible that we are resisting Him in our hearts? Bear in mind, the Lord looks at our inner man, and need I say, He loves the smell of burning flesh. We need to treasure God's presence and be open to His leading even when it's uncomfortable. Not only should we plan our day around the Holy Spirit we should predetermine that we will agree with what He wants to do in our corporate service as well.

We should be excited about our heavenly guest and prepare ourselves for His coming. As we see Him approaching, we must throw the door wide open and welcome His presence. Apostle Debbie and I agreed a long time ago that we would give the Holy Spirit preeminence at Arise. At first glance, we all agree with that, however, when we come together to worship the Lord sometimes it feels as though that is not what we are here to do. This must not be, we need to come together to reverence the Lord.

Our vision statement says Arise will, “Train believers to dwell in the presence of the Lord and equip them to grow in spiritual maturity.” We strive to achieve this vision every time we gather. Whether Friday evening, Wednesday evening, Sunday morning, or any other meeting venue, we always focus on having a glorious move of God. It is as we meet each week corporately that familiarity and indifference has a tendency to creep in. The solution to our dilemma is to ask the Lord to have His way individually and corporately and to position each of us strategically under His outpouring.

Please read the story in *II Samuel 6:12-23*.

The Holy Spirit visits and remains in a place because the participants love His presence and enjoy the healing virtue that flows over every person who receives it. We have been very fortunate to have a move of the Holy Spirit in our church each time we gather. Many times we have to press and push until **we line up** in order to receive the blessing the Lord has for us, however, I feel confident to say that the Lord impacts those who want to be touched by Him. Wouldn't it be marvelous if we came to our services spiritually tuned up to not only receive from the Lord, but to also serve His Body? I believe the Lord has so much more for us and desires to give us the fullness of His presence if we will just open our hearts to Him and receive it.

The concern is that we may have become presumptuous (behaving with disrespectful boldness) with the Lord's presence because we think we can come before Him haphazardly not really giving thought to what He wants to do. We also come to our services indifferent (having no interest) because we can't seem to get outside of ourselves long enough to think about what the Lord is doing. It parallels with the microwave society in which we live that says, “If something doesn't help me I'm not interested,” and that mindset is what the Lord is dealing with.

Unlike some people, the Holy Spirit knows when He is welcome and when He isn't. When He is welcome He continues to come back. When His people treat him with contempt or indifference it hinders Him moving. The truth is that if great sermons could reach the world, it would have already happened. If wonderful programs were going to do it, it would have already been done. **What we really need is a place for the Holy Spirit to come and to be warmly welcomed.**

The mercy seat that God told Moses to build in Exodus 25 was to be shrouded with beaten gold. Even the cherubim were beaten into place. The glorious things of God occur as we allow the hammering of His Spirit to mold us into vessels that He can use. How many of us are pliable in every area of our lives, allowing ourselves to be hammered into the position of **gratitude** and **adoration** by living a life that is being refined into pure gold? These are the true materials required to build a seat that can handle the weighty presence of God's glory. God comes and sits on the seat that we have built and looks out on the people and instead of judging them He has mercy upon them. Love flows from His throne causing people from all nations to be drawn to Him. Hearts are melted and changed and people are never the same because God appeared.

The Lord wants to inhabit our lives and our Church. Think of what it means for Him to not only visit but to make a habitation. Do we really value what He is doing in our midst? Consider how it would be if we didn't have His presence. Are we really appreciative of Him, for example, when He congratulated us for a task well done then gave us a new assignment (Travail, Greater Intercession, Evangelism, and Rule the Twelve Gates of Austin)? Many have turned away from the loving touch of the Holy Spirit. Are we going to follow their lead or will they follow our lead into His glorious presence?

The Lord has called us to be a lighthouse for the lost, a training and equipping center for believers as well as an oasis for those who are hungry and thirsty for the refreshing glorious presence of the Lord. That is an awesome responsibility, which we cannot shrink from or determine we can't do. We need to allow the Lord to remove anything that could restrict us from becoming a place where His Spirit rests. We must allow Him to renew our minds so that we can take a leap of faith into "Kingdom presence." An environment must be prepared by which the Lord can touch our community, city, state, country and the nations of this world. When we allow the Lord to have His way in our lives He will remove all of our hurts and fill us with His awesome love and Presence.

Conclusion

We must prepare a place for the King of Glory to inhabit. We need to make a decision today that nothing will cause us to resist what the Lord wants to do and further our old patterns of independence, isolation, and indifference so that it will no longer affect us.

From this day forth I promise to allow the Lord to inhabit my life, home, schools, places of employment, businesses, social or recreational times, as well as my Church. I further agree that we will come to all corporate gatherings fully charged with the Lord's presence, expecting Him to move. We refuse to do the same thing over and over expecting different results.

We all must guard our hearts, as the Lord is moving in our midst. Don't be like David's wife who was stricken with barrenness because of her contempt for the way that her husband worshipped the Lord. What occurred that day, when David danced so feverishly, was that God revisited Jerusalem and made it His habitation? Michal missed the fullness of what the Lord was doing. My prayer is that we do not become critical or judgmental because we don't understand what the Lord is doing at Arise.

Declare and Decree:

- The Holy Spirit will be the center of my life.
- I refuse to look at any distractions that try to separate me from the Lord.
- I will embrace the move of the Spirit in my midst.
- I will not allow a spirit of familiarity to taint my relationship with the Lord.
- I will be a vessel that has my heart and mind focused on what the Lord wants to do.
- I will be a standard barrier for the Lord separating myself from the worldly system.

* Some of the concepts of this ministry were taken out of the book "Hosting the Holy Spirit" by Che Ahn.

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