

# ***GOD'S HOUSE OF PRAYER IS A HOUSE OF PRESENCE***

GOD'S HOUSE OF PRAYER SERIES #08 • J.S. BOEGL

## **I. THE LORD INVITES US TO PURSUE THE VISIONS & PASSIONS IN HIS HEART**

- A. The heart of the Lord is filled with extraordinary, supernatural plans and visions for His people.  
***For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity; to give you a future and a hope.*** (Jeremiah 29:11)  
These plans are not merely fanciful hopes; because they are established in God's heart they actually transcend our normal way of thinking, planning, envisioning and executing. God's plans invite us into a new paradigm that goes against the flow of human convention.  
***For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.*** (Isaiah 55:8,9)
- B. The Lord delights in His daughters and sons seeking out, discovering, clarifying, praying through, and administrating the details of these extraordinary plans.
1. As a Father, God loves to have His children search out *the whys and the ways* of His heart.
  2. Seeking the *whys* of the vision gives us understanding about *God's attitudes* toward the *what* of the vision.
  3. Seeking out the ways of God's heart is part of ***"growing up"*** (Ephesians 4:15) and learning to relate with Him as adult ***friends***.  
***I no longer call you slaves, because the slave does not understand what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because I have revealed to you everything I heard from my Father.*** (John 15:15)
  4. King David is an example of a mature man who sought out the *ways* and the *whys* of God's heart. He became primarily fascinated by the heart of God, and became fascinated with what He saw burning in God's heart.
  5. Jesus is the One Who gives us the perfect picture of what mature conversation with the Father looks like. We can ask the Holy Spirit, ***"What are the thoughts, attitudes, feelings that distinguish Jesus' heart as He intercedes/converses with the Father?"*** and He will ***declare them*** to us. (John 16:13, 15)
- C. Taking *time to seek out God's heart* can feel superfluous and unnecessary. In our rush to achieve the ordinary, this is often why we miss out on His extraordinary. But even a small pursuit of His heart typically yields treasures of wisdom and success that are not immediately available to our natural mind.
1. Our work for the Lord will be sustained for longer periods of time, with higher degrees of joy and unanimity, with longer-lasting results, ***and*** have more exhilarating testimonies of the Lord's presence, as we take the time to pursue the high visions in God's heart.
  2. Seeking His vision also builds history in listening and interacting with the Holy Spirit. It trains our spiritual sensors; sharpening our ability to see, hear and respond to the Spirit. God is tremendously invested in developing fine-tuned communication with His children. Our spirits were expressly designed to engage and enjoy this type of communication and interaction with Him!

## **II. PSALM 132 EXPRESSES GOD'S VISION & DESIRE TO DWELL AMONG HIS PEOPLE**

- A. Psalm 132 is God's description of His plan to have a dwelling place on planet earth. And He longs to accomplish this plan through the intercession of those who will see, inquire and share His heart.  
***O Lord, You are my God! I will exalt You in praise, I will extol Your fame. For You have done extraordinary things, and executed plans made long ago exactly as You decreed.*** (Isaiah 25:1 see also Isaiah 46:11)
- B. Jesus prays and desires this same vision in John 17. Psalm 132 is John 17 in the Old Testament.  
***Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am that they may behold My glory which You have given Me.*** (John 17:24)
- C. Israel experienced a foretaste of the fulfillment of God's vision after being delivered from Egypt and journeying with God in the wilderness. This was a historical reality, within a specific, geographical location, among an actual group of people.  
***So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle. And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door.*** (Exodus 33:8-10)

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- D. Psalm 132 is far from a sketchy picture of a far-flung utopia. What the Lord showed David was more than a theological fantasy. The vision God has in mind is for ***He and His might (v.5) and strength (v.8)*** to literally  ***dwell (v. 14)*** with real people, in actual geographical locations.
- E. Psalm 132 is a picture of what Jesus envisioned when He spoke of the victorious church
  1. in Matthew 16: ***and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*** (Matthew 16:18)
  2. in Ephesians 5: ***that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.***
  3. and in many of the promises He extended to the seven Churches in Revelations 2 and 3.
- F. Psalm 132 contains twelve explicit descriptors of what God's radiant, resident presence and power will look like within a region where God establishes as ***His resting place*** (v.14).

## **1. The community will burn with intercessory desire for God's presence**

The whole scope of the Psalm is saturated with passion and fervency. As he recalls David's pursuit, the Psalmist himself runs directly into the inferno of God's ***desire*** to dwell with His people (v.13 & 14). A community that becomes a resting place for the Almighty will first become a nuclear reactor that churns with intercessory zeal for God to fulfill His vision.

## **2. The minister/servants will be invested with supernatural power for evangelistic success**

(v. 9) pleads for the priests to be ***clothed with righteousness*** (and justice). In (v.16) God promises that when He makes Zion His dwelling place He ***will also clothe her priests with salvation.*** When God ***rests*** among His people, their evangelistic/discipleship efforts will be gloriously effective and fruitful.

## **3. God will abundantly bless the people with provision**

(v.15) Because the presence of the Lord is with the people He will abundantly provide for their monetary, physical, emotional, communal and spiritual needs. (Jeremiah 31:14) This not only means there will be supernatural ***finance*** and ***resource*** for the many dimensions of the community, there will also be extraordinary anointing, personnel, relational favor etc. for all aspects of the ministry as well.

## **4. God will also abundantly provide for the impoverished**

Part of God's supernatural supply will include ample provision (food, shelter, emotional & relational wholeness etc.) for the poor. (v.15) He also supplies ***spiritual bread*** for the ***spiritually poor.*** (Matthew 5:3)

## **5. Her holy inhabitants will be overflowing with joy**

(v.16) isn't a simple promise of happiness. God is painting a picture of a people who are jubilantly bold and happy in their holy lifestyles. They are specifically exuberant about the fact that as they commune with God, His extraordinary presence itself is the source of their rich fulfillment.

## **6. The people will have favor to extend God's loving leadership to others**

Here, the Lord promises that His leadership through ***the horn of David*** will ***grow*** (v.17). This is not only political favor, but organizational favor. It means that the community will be anointed with authority to manifest ***the righteous order of the King*** to others, even as it's manifest within themselves. It's ***God's ways*** that will be established - not our ***enculturation*** of His ways. (Note: If we are talking about the eternal God of 300 billion galaxies inhabiting our communities, it will upset as many issues in ***our lives***, as it will in the lives of the unredeemed.)

## **7. A Prevailing sense of chosen-ness, value and desirability saturates the people**

As a people experience the manifest presence of the Lord, they will be marked with a deep sense of being greatly loved, desired and valued. The assurance of being profoundly loved by God is one emotional facet that most often accompanies awakenings and other moves of God throughout history.

## **8. God's Enemies are clothed with shame**

With the presence of God comes a frustration of the plans of the enemy. Pity those that obstruct the Father moving close to love His children. This quality also speaks of "godly social norms" that promote and inspire

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righteous living. In the day of Psalm 132, it will be out of vogue to engage in deeds of darkness. The light of the Holy Spirit's presence will expose destructive thinking and deceitful behavior. The chilling story of Ananias and Saphira (Acts 5:1-11) is a picture of those who oppose God's way being ***clothed with shame***.

## **9. The community becomes a radiant witness to the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth**

(v.17) ***I will prepare a lamp for My Anointed*** is a weighty statement about the Father's promise to establish a glorious witness to His Son. As the Lord's Psalm 132 presence dwells among the people, ministry will be anointed with the same purpose, the same power and same vision as the ministry of the Messiah (the anointed One). It will radiate with love for Him and magnify the beauty and power of His leadership.

## **10. The people live crowned by God's glory, authority & headship**

A ***flourishing crown*** (v.18) is a picture of authority, headship and glory. The people that God chooses to dwell among will walk under His loving authority and function as regents of compassion, healing, justice, provision and mercy. Under His Headship, His authority is fruitfully administrated through our lives.

## **11. A prevailing spirit of rest and spiritual satisfaction saturates the community**

The Lord Himself declares: ***This is My resting place*** (v.14). Because God's Spirit sets the tone for the whole atmosphere of a community, if God is at rest, the whole community is at rest and lives in unity, satisfaction and enjoyment under the Lord's perfect leadership.

(Note: In America there is no place where it could be said: *God rests here*. In many places, regions, churches, ministries, Houses of Prayer and House Churches it can only be said that *God, in His love, contends here*. In far too many places it can tragically be said: *God no longer contends here*. See Genesis 6:3 & Isaiah 57:16)

## **12. God's covenant reign of righteousness bridges at least two generations**

Most revivals last for three or four years. In (v.12) God promises David that ***if your sons will keep My covenant and My testimony which I shall teach them, their sons also shall sit upon your throne forevermore***. It's in the heart of God to not merely *visit* a community, or give a ministry a year or two of stimulating, popular, meetings. The Lord longs for the people of God to know His presence as the *norm* so that His righteous ways are transmitted to their children - *and* to their children's children.

### **III. WE NEED 5 KINDS OF GRACE TO PURSUE GOD'S VISION FOR PSALM 132**

#### **A. A Grace to Be Dissatisfied with the Status Quo**

People who are pressing into God's Psalm 132 vision need grace to see their lives and their communities as they really are. This is the tragic testimony of the Churches of Revelation. They didn't die out because of external persecution. They died out because they didn't perceive and/or receive what the Lord was actually saying about them.

***You have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.*** (Revelation 3:1)

***You do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.*** (Revelation 3:17)

#### **B. A Grace to Lament and Grieve**

As the Lord gives a group of people insight they needs grace to grieve and lament over their dull, stunted, status quo relationship with God. They need grace to *abide in the ache* as they are moved to intercession and the Spirit of God fills them with vision for their community. This internal ache make take the form of great anguish, and is often first accompanied by long periods of lament or intense travailing prayer.

***"All passion for Christ goes through a baptism of anguish. Search the scripture, and you'll find that when God determined to recover a ruined situation He would share His own anguish over a situation with a praying man or woman - and he would take that man, and literally baptize him in anguish. There's a great deal of difference between anguish and concern. Concern is something that you take an interest in; a project or a cause or a need; but it begins in you. Anguish begins in the heart of God and then He baptizes us into it. The eternal inside the mortal. The mortal filled with the agony of the Eternal...Friends. There's going to be no renewal, no awakening, no revival, until we are willing to let God come and replace our concern with anguish."*** David Wilkerson (2009)

#### **C. A Grace to See & Receive the Revelation of His Vision**

The majority of mainstream Christianity doesn't perceive that Psalm 132 is even in the Lord's heart, or is possible in this age. Therefore, most believers never contend for God's vision of being a Psalm 132 people. It is a work of

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the Holy Spirit for a people to *see* and *embrace the revelation* that God actually longs to dwell in victorious strength and might within their community. Although intensely extraordinary, Psalm 132 exhorts the people of God to *not believe* that the lack of God's presence is OK, just because it's currently the norm in their community. Status quo is latin for "*order of the common*". It takes the grace of God in order for any individual, or group of people to escape the natural gravity of a *cultural norm*. It requires grace to perceive "*Statue Regis*", or "*the order of the King*", as God's norm for a culture.

## **D. A Grace to Commit to the Covenant Vows that Accompany His Vision**

God is looking for a people who will *enter into covenant with Him* about the Psalm 132 vision that burns in His heart. The covenant says: a.) "*This is God's idea.*" and b.) "*It will only be achieved as we press into His heart, His way, unto His might and His glory.*"

Those who do pursue Psalm 132 need grace to stay steadfast to the covenant **vows** (v.2) that accompany the attainment of the vision, so that as they live wholehearted lifestyles of prayer, worship, fasting, transparency, humility, love and obedience. These dynamics assure that the people **rest** in the sufficiency of God's **might** and not in the wobbliness of their own religious determination.

## **E. A Grace to Remember & Persevere in Faith**

Entering into the covenant to establish a habitation for God on earth is a commitment of one's whole life. The dissuading voice of the enemy, the fatigue of the human flesh and the opposing arguments of others will daily tempt individuals to quit or bargain for a lower vision.

Because so much is arrayed against those pursuing Psalm 132, the Lord promises the grace of remembering; remembering not only the *letter* of the promise, but also the beauty, the nobility and joy of pursuing the vision. Even with constant Holy Spirit reminders, the journey requires enduring faith; meaning, God's vision will only be fulfilled through thousands of little and large acts of faith.

## **F. A Grace to Live in the Fulfillment of Psalm 132**

It takes grace to contend for God to fulfill His dream of doing Psalm 132 on earth. It will also take great grace to *live out the fulfillment* of His vision. If we were to get a true vision of the inconvenience, the stigma, the demand, the controversy and the mess that will accompany becoming a habitation for God, most of us would not be eager for it. We need grace to embrace the vision on His terms and not just the romance of the vision.