

### **BUILDING GOD'S HOUSE – Part XIII His Revelatory Word (d)**



**W**e have been studying the topic of building a house fit for God's habitation for well over 13 months with breaks for hurricanes and different staff quandaries that we as a ministry have experienced. God, from a Biblical perspective is such a huge discussion, but I had no idea that our conversation in building us up as a house fit for Him to dwell in would take us to so many different areas. Like the dynamics of space and time, it's colossal. While it is a gigantic topic, we really are talking about us, as humans, and God's undertakings with and for us. Frankly, as creatures go, we're

not that interesting. Oh, I know we could go on about the complexities of the human body, our soulish endeavors and all the emotions and thoughts, good and bad that that entails. While all that is interesting, what makes this subject vast is when the God found within the pages of the Old and New Testaments enters the picture. A few months back we started talking about His communication with us through His revelatory word, both spoken and written. In years gone by we have also spent months on the subject of the Word, Jesus Christ. The difference between our subjects now and then is how, when and why that word comes to us, as humans created to hear that word and subsequently changed to dwell, indwell and co-dwell with God. It's BIG, but He always speaks to us individually on a level that each one of us can understand while building up the corporate house for the good of all.

I sense the Lord this month start our discussion in a way that I never would have dreamed of when you think about this theme. As must be the case with many of you, I get junk mail, and I hate to say it this way, but I get a lot of Christian junk mail. They come in all shapes and sizes---over-the-top glossy; plain old glossy and just plain old. As I was chucking a plain old glossy post card for some conference some where, the Holy Spirit sort of 'got a hold' of me. I didn't know the group, never been associated with this group, but they got my name from somewhere and---Voila---here they were asking me to come and hear their famous new guy. While I did not know the

first gentlemen speaker, I had heard of the second one. Not only was he an excellent teacher, he was anointed enough, at least for me, to not turn the channel changer on the television if I caught his program---if or when I was in the market to watch TV while flipping through the channels. In other words, I've probably watched this teacher no more than five to ten times in the last five years. I think the last time I caught his program was sometime in 2004. That in no way is any reflection on him or Christian TV, but more of an indication of the fact that I just don't get a chance to channel surf. But he was good, and more importantly I do believe the Lord revealed some excellent teachings to him to share with the corporate body of Christ for all of our good. Yet there was one statement made on this post card that caught my attention, especially since I had never heard this gentlemen ever speak on this particular subject. It said, and I'll paraphrase here, "Come and hear 'so-and-so,' the world's foremost expert on bible prophecy."

Immediately the thought went through my head, 'The Holy Spirit is the world's foremost expert on Bible prophecy.' And that's when, without any condemnation or even any real reference to the post card, the Lord started to talk to me about our worship before Him and how preachers in general direct the revelatory word they hear in worship and, in what can be a holy outcome, redirect that back to God as worship when they share it in sacrifice before a congregation of the body of Christ. Immediately I started to realize that this is

what I look for; tangible evidence, yet something not perceived by the natural senses that someone has been with Jesus, the Word made flesh. Beyond what's being said or shared in the natural or even the demeanor and manner in which it's being shared, for me it's like a program running in the background, unseen yet there. It's surrounded by circuits and conduits of love and humility, if I can use that analogy---Oh, and joy, I can't forget joy---and it's unmistakable. Sometimes you hear and meet folks and they have so many deep-seated hurts and desires that you can't see Christ's love and humility, yet Jesus has spoken to them and you know it because those conduits of humility and love surround the word spoken. You may even see this evidenced in a preacher who boasts about themselves or others may boast about them in order to look good. Paul said such boasting wasn't good (1 Corinthians 3 & 4). But as in all things human, we do it anyway. That boasting is evident is not always an indication that Jesus hasn't spoken to them, though it can be. Sometimes we're just trying to say something truthful, positive or nice about someone and we get a little carried away with ourselves. In other cases Jesus has not spoken to a person, but they have a natural way about them that seems to emanate love and humility (In some situations be careful to watch out for these because they can be wolves in sheep's clothing!!!). There are those that you meet that you know Jesus has been with them---no one is perfect, but they do know our Lord and the love and humility that Christ has raised them up in is evident. And last, there

are those in both word and action that do not exude any amount of Christ-like spirit.

I said all that because we will be studying Psalm 29 this month and looking at how the revelatory word can manifest in a worship setting and how the Lord shares it. This is only one example and God can manifest His word in any way that He likes. So Psalm 29 is not all-encompassing when it comes to this subject matter. What I find interesting is how it flows directly from a worship setting. In some psalms you assume that the writer is worshiping. Not in Psalm 29. It tells you that a whole congregation is worshiping, as is also the case in a few other psalms. But Psalm 29 presents a pattern as to how the presence and word of the Lord flows from that setting. I'm copying it from the NIV translation only because I like how the first two words of each of the first two verses is translated. The KJV uses the word 'give' to the Lord, while the NIV translates it as 'ascribe.' While both are correct; we are both giving and ascribing glory to Him when we worship, 'ascribe' carries a more written and formal declaration. One that would fit in a more formal worship setting that comes when we gather as a large congregation publicly.

PSALM 29: "Ascribe to the Lord, O mighty ones, ascribe to the Lord Glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness. The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the

Lord is majestic. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning. The voice of the Lord shakes the desert; the Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in His temple all cry, 'Glory!' The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever. The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord blesses His people with peace."

As a simplistic outline for the revelatory word, we could compartmentalize this psalm into three parts. In the first part the congregation is worshiping the Lord and lifting Him up, ascribing to Him all the glory due to His name. The result of part one is part two: God goes out and does some absolutely awesome things. Much of what is written in the verses for part two is symbolic. But as the congregation is getting a sense of what He is doing on the face of the earth in response to giving Him the glory, He speaks to the group and reveals to them what is being done or will be done. Have you ever been in a worship setting where you just know God showed up and then all got quiet? During that time a lone voice spoke and shared in a gift of prophecy what business God was about for His people. Well, it would be after this realization that part three would take place, "And in His temple all cry GLORY!" After such an announcement we praise Him even more, giving Him the time to sit and dwell

among us. I realize many congregations don't give Him the time to sit and dwell long after this as one leader or another will get up and close the worship part of the service with announcements. But if you have ever been in a setting where they will wait upon the Lord it can be awesome. This would be the third part or aspect of Psalm 29, habitation.

Psalm 29 is one of those psalms that give us an indication on an individual level of personally praising and ascribing glory to God in worship and God raining down in prophetic utterance in our own personal lives. But it also has an awesome correlation with the book of Revelation, especially in those sections of the last book of the Bible where we see angels worshiping and seals broken and other events taking place on the earth and the congregation in heaven worshiping the King of Glory even more. During the seventeenth century there was an arrangement of a number of the psalms according the months of the year, sort of like a calendar of nature where praise would be harvested as a fruit for each month. The old priests would ascribe the stormiest time of their year to this Psalm 29. They would draw comfort from the fact that God would take care of them in some of their more contentious times of the growing season. Yet when you back up and look at this psalm the phrase, 'voice of the Lord' is the most overwhelming part of it for me. It is quite obvious that every time we gather we should worship with such fervency that it excites God so much that it causes Him to speak---and more importantly for us, we

HEAR and respond and receive revelation to speak it to the congregation so that they may also be edified and built up.

Many preachers relegate this to their message on Sunday morning (or whenever they speak). But I don't think it should be limited to that. Actually, a gift of prophecy would suit a congregation better in such a time. It's not that I don't think that preaching is a part of this, I do. After all, I believe it is during our times of worship that we really receive what it is God is saying to us. It may take a time of prayer, quiet or even sleep to uncover it from our subconscious, but it does break through our own storminess to be deposited among the congregation. I just think that we limit God when we expect it in a preaching setting only. Well over ten years ago as I was sitting and pondering Psalm 29 and all the different ways in which the Lord had used me personally to speak to His people it was just on a whim that I grabbed a paper and pen and started to write them all down. I was amazed at the list that developed. This list of 15 different manifestations of God revealing a word to people is in no way complete, but it was just a list that was pertinent to my own experience. I was able to find an example of each within the pages of the Scriptures.

1. Parables (Matthew 25).
2. Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12). This would include prophecy as well as healings and all the rest.
3. Demonstrative (Acts 21:10, 11). I can remember turning a woman

around in one direction and then back in another in a setting of sharing with people while speaking the word of the Lord to her. Afterward she had the testimony of her life spinning in the wrong direction and God turning it around in the right direction after that experience. Many years before that though I had been sitting in a congregation where the pastor allowed folks to come up and share. One woman used a scarf to demonstrate the word given to her. Of course, I have no idea whether or not the word came to pass as I only visited that church once or twice.

4. Something taking place in your life as an example (Ezekiel 24:1-24; Isaiah 8:1-4).
5. Dreams (Genesis 37:5-11).
6. Visions (Acts 9:12; 10:9-17; 11:4-17). This would include as a seer prophet where you see exactly what will take place and also as someone prophesying a vision which would need interpretation to be understood.
7. Prophecy in a song (Psalms 45, 68, 69, 87, 89, 132). This would be a song that was already written and it would also include on musical instruments.
8. Prophesying the song of the Lord (1 Samuel 10:5). As opposed to the last item this is spontaneous and would also include on musical instruments. Let me say that I have experienced both as well as the Lord singing a song through me to a congregation

and to an individual. But the most awesome times have been when no words were spoken where I happened to be in a congregation on several occasions when instruments alone were used. In fact interpretations did come for some of them. I can remember one because the Holy Spirit gave it to me. But in all these instances it was a totally life changing experience.

9. Poetic prophecy (See the Song of Solomon).
10. Dance and Banners (Exodus 15:20; Psalm 20:5; / Isaiah 11:10, 12).
11. Prophetic Expression (This can be in many forms such as art work or acting or some other form of drama or even building, architecture, design---on many levels from scientific to artistic---and decorating. You would have seen this in the Tabernacle of Moses and especially in Solomon's Temple.)
12. Talking to someone about Jesus and/or what He has done for you (Revelation 19:10b).
13. Teaching (Matthew 28:20, see also the discourse in Mark 16).
14. Preaching (2 Timothy 4:2).
15. Writing (John 20:30, 31; 21:25; 2 Thessalonians 3:17; 1 John 2:7, 8).

As you can see, prophecy can take many different forms. Again these 15 items have to do with Spirit-filled believers communicating what they sense to be the revelatory word of the Lord to others. While this ties in with last month's examples of

creativity, it deserved a separate article because of its relationship to worship. I just don't think we look at all the different ways in which sacrifice (or worship) affects us. A couple of years back we looked at all the different manners of sacrifice, which was always received as worship before the Lord. But the ultimate effect of sacrifice is always that God shows up in His own way. When He shows up His word, His glory and His presence accompany Him. Whether we realize it or not a deposit of that revelation is made in us. We may not know what we have received at that time, but sooner or later it will come out. This is how a preacher can preach, how a teacher can teach and a prophet can prophesy. No word can be sown if no word of praise or other act of sacrifice ever goes up to the Lord and reaches His altar with a sweet aroma pleasing to Him. It should not surprise us that Psalm 29 uses the analogy, both symbolic and possibly literal of a fantastic rain storm swirling down upon the earth in response to this act of worship---whether as prayer, praise, abstinence or action.

There is one last thought I felt needed to be highlighted before we close for this month. As you can imagine, perfect people don't always show up in a congregation to worship. In fact one of my old pastors used to say if you're looking for the perfect church to join, don't bother; because as soon as you find it, it will disappoint you. After all, you are not perfect and have now joined, making it as imperfect as you! While that statement may not make us jump for joy, the fact is that Jesus is in the midst of any body

of believers where two or more have gathered in His Name. With that as our reality perfection is always in Him and in His presence. It never ceases to amaze me that the toughest and sometimes most difficult church-goers are left in tears of humility and joy after our Lord has shown up in a worship service. They come in sort of nasty---or at least they fake happiness. But after God has moved in with His unmistakable presence all pretense of perfection is erased. It's amazing how God can literally blow into a gathering of church-going sinners, never preach a word of hell, fire or brimstone, yet all involved have a deeper appreciation of their own mortality and failures and an even deeper joy at the prospect of God's doting and adoring love for them individually. It literally drives all to their knees, not only in repentance for even the smallest of untoward thought, but in adoration of the King of Glory. It's those services that I hate to have interrupted by preaching. Unless I receive a direct word from the Lord to preach, my thought is why bother? He just did it better than I ever could. Frankly, I live for those moments because I know I will come away refreshed with a fresh word of deliverance and hope to the body of Christ for such a time when we all need a fresh word of deliverance and hope.

I pray that this e-mailing this month leaves you with a renewed vigor for those moments in your own personal life where God shows up and deposits His love, joy and even leaves you with His humility to share the revelatory word that He has entrusted you

with. Each one of us carries this trust from the Lord. It is one of the ways in which He shares with all of the rest of us. Don't leave that word hidden. Share it with whomever the Lord presents to you, no matter how you feel. Who knows but that it will reproduce praise to the Lord in the recipient and the whole process of ascribing to the Lord glory will rain down His glory, presence and word back into your own life? Just as the earth gives up her mists into the atmosphere and they in turn rain back on the earth, God's praises go up and glory rains down. Be blessed as you praise. Log on next month for more.....