

USHERING IN THE GLORY

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2 Chronicles 5:1-14

“Whatever you are worrying about or whatever you are going through, God has already worked it out.”

There are times in our worship when the glory of God is so evident that Pastor cannot preach. When the glory falls it arrests us. It brings us to our knees as we are overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit. It is useless to try to wrap human words around such an experience. When something is good and wonderful you just want to do it over and over again. God wants us to have extravagant experiences like this on a regular basis. He wants worshippers who will passionately pursue Him. There are certain actions that invite Him in. In the text, the people prepared to give and they came singing, shouting, and celebrating. They had a praise on their lips because they were grateful to God. Do you remember when you didn't have much to give but you gave anyway? God blessed you with more because of that. God wants to give us excess. He wants a paid off house and furnishings for you. Can you imagine no mortgage, car payments, or credit card debt because you have excess? Excessive worship brings about excessive giving and extravagant blessings.

In this text, we see some of the key principles of ushering in the Lord.

We have to come with a sense of expectation and excitement. The people in the text couldn't wait to get to church to worship God. During our grandparents' time, they were excited to go to church. They didn't let anything but sickness keep them away from the house of God. Anticipation and excitement to meet God is key to ushering in the Holy Spirit.

We have to believe that God will meet us here and meet us at the point at our need. It is called preparation. In the Bible days, the priests and the Levites prepared for worship. Our ministers, deacons, elders, ushers, choir, and dancers prepare this space for our worship and praise. However, that is not the only preparation that is needed. You need prepare yourself. You can't come to church unprepared for worship.

You have to come with the right attitude. Come worshipping, praying, and praising. Come with gratitude. Be clear that you are not the audience. God is the audience.

Your mind must be focused on connecting with God and nothing else. People have all kinds of motives for coming here. Your motive should be to get with God. We have to be careful to fill our minds with God's Word. What we do privately all week should prepare us for what we do here. We usually come in here with the weight of the world on our shoulders and minds so we are distracted. You are not prepared to hear from God. Some of you are reading the scriptures from the other

religions' texts just to see what they say. That is a distraction of the enemy. God's Word is the truth and only truth. **John 8:32** You can't read everything when it comes to scripture when you are the people of God. God's Word should be your only scripture. **Philippians 4:8; Psalm 19:7** Read **Psalm 119** this week.

God wants to blow your mind in 2009. You have to believe it and prepare yourself through prayer and worship. It is an act of your will to worship. You can worship without the choir singing. When you learn how to worship you won't need someone to lead you into worship.

You come in with expectation and preparation but then you must be consecrated. Consecration is when someone or something is dedicated to the service and worship of God. We have been clothed with the righteousness of Christ. We have already been anointed by the Holy Spirit. God has consecrated us. However, we must daily consecrate ourselves by worshipping Him. Worship is total adoring response. **Romans 12:1** What God wants is that we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice so that He may use us exclusively.

When we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice that means we first offer our bodies which leaves us open to other possibilities. The key word for worship means to bow. Bow before God. Kiss towards to God. Adoration of God is passionate and hot. When the Ark of the Covenant was brought into the house that is when the worship went to another level. They all started worshipping. **Matthew 18:20** That is when the glory came down because God inhabits the praises of His people. **Psalm 22:3** "When the Saints go to worship that's when the King of Glory shall come in."

Peace

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