

SACRED ASSEMBLY S03 ENCOUNTERING GOD'S BEAUTY - OUR GREATEST REWARD & IMPACT

I. A WORLDWIDE PRAYER & WORSHIP MOVEMENT

A. In 1998 I saw a vision of every tribe and tongue standing before the LORD, dressed in their cultural clothing and worshipping Him with musical instruments native to their lands. Their worship appeared as light, converging in a hurricane that ascended before God's throne. I understood by the Spirit this is Malachi 1:11.

Mal. 1:11 From the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense [i.e. prayer] shall be offered to My name, and a pure offering [i.e. worship]; for My name shall be great among the nations," says the Lord of hosts. (Rev. 1:5-6)

1. This promise was in direct rebuke of Israel for despising their priestly ministry to God (Mal. 1:6-10).
2. The LORD will have a kingdom of priests who not only *do* "worship," but *are* worship (Rev. 1:5-6).

Rom. 12:1 Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God... your spiritual worship.

B. In 2001, after seeking the LORD on how He would accomplish this with so many congregations and denominations I heard, "By years end, I will show you how all these streams flow together as one mighty river." Later that year, I "accidentally" visited IHOPKC with Mayor Dave during the "trailer days." Grace Kim sang, "Worthy is the Lamb" for 45 mins. The LORD said, "This is Malachi 1:11. I am raising up a kingdom of priests who will do all the works of the kingdom out of the overflow of the first commandment."

C. Jesus doesn't return in a vacuum, but in response to the most powerful prayer and worship movement in human history (Isa. 42:10-13; Rev. 22:17). This movement is *not* fueled by the desperate needs of humanity, but rather worship-driven prayer fueled by the beauty of God. The human soul "burns out" over time, if we're primarily *needs-driven* by humanitarian issues and causes for justice. However, we will be *joyfully fascinated* and *eternally sustained* if our hearts are fueled by the beauty of the Bridegroom God (Isa. 4; 24; 42; 62).

Isa. 42:10 Sing to the Lord a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea... and you coastlands [LA, NYC, etc.]! 11 Let the wilderness [nomadic Bedouin tribes] and its cities lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits [lit. Saudi Arabia]. Let the inhabitants of Sela [lit. Jordan] sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains [Nepal, Tibet, etc.]. 12 Let them give glory to the Lord, and declare His praise... 13 [Then] the Lord shall go forth like a mighty man [2nd coming]; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies.

D. The LORD will shake all nations to bring forth a great harvest of souls (Hag. 2:6-9; Zeph. 2:11). However, between the divine shaking and "coming to Jesus" is a prophetic worship movement declaring the beauty of God with such clarity it causes Isaiah to respond as when he saw Jesus face-to-face (Isa. 6; 24:14).

Hag. 2:6 "Thus says the Lord... 'I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; 7 and I will shake all nations, and they [i.e. nations] shall come to the Desire of All Nations [i.e. Jesus] ...' (Zeph. 2:11)

Isa. 6:3 One [Seraphim] cried to another... "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" 5 Woe is me, for I am undone! For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!

Isa. 24:14 They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing; for the majesty of the Lord... 16 From the ends of the earth we have heard songs: "Glory to the Righteous!" But I said, "I am ruined, ruined! Woe to me!

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II. DEVELOPING A JOYFUL MULTI-GENERATIONAL CULTURE WITH CORRECT PERSPECTIVE

A. We want to develop a *joyful multigenerational culture* as a “safe greenhouse” where everyone can *encounter* God, *experience* His joy and be *equipped* to creatively express their unique gifting (Ps. 27:4; Isa. 56:7). *Joy* is relational (i.e. someone’s glad to be with you), creates belonging, accelerates maturity and fosters recovery. Young tender shoots must be planted (i.e. commitment and consistency) to flourish (Ps. 92:13-14).

Isa. 56:7 Even them [i.e. Gentiles] I will bring... and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their... sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.

B. The goal of the HOP isn’t 24/7 but developing a *dwelling place* of encounter (Ps. 132), where our greatest *impact* occurs through *intimacy* with God (2 Cor. 3:18). *If 24/7 is the goal, then everything less is failure.*

Ps. 132:2 [David] swore to the Lord and vowed... 3 “Surely... 4 I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, 5 until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.” (Eph. 2:22)

C. Encountering Jesus in intimacy isn’t just a *means* to another end, but an end in itself and our highest aspiration (Ps. 27:4; Phil. 3:3-14). The LORD asked, “*Why are you in the house of prayer?*” The reward of my prayer life isn’t just found in answers or results, but the *intimate partnership* I experience with Jesus throughout the process. Prayer isn’t *unto* greater works. Prayer *is* the greater work!

Ps. 27:4 One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.

D. Being a person of “one thing” isn’t a calling unique to David, Paul or Mary, but a *choice* (Ps. 27:4; Lk. 10:38-42; Phil. 3:3-14). God said, “*You can make this choice too.*” I asked, “*Who will do all the work?*” Ten years later He said, “*You will and you’ll bear more fruit, because you’ll do work the right way*” (Jn. 15). People don’t get burned out from *hard* work, but from *wrong* work. *Lovers always outwork workers.*

Lk. 10:39 Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving... 41 And Jesus answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”

E. We must “Learn from Your Fathers.” The 24 Elders, as the most powerful, mature and highest ranking men in authority within God’s government, spend their strength *beholding* His beauty (Rev. 4:4; 5:5-6; 7:11; 14:3) unto *transformation* (2 Cor. 3:18) that effortlessly produces *worship* (Rev. 4:10; 5:8-10, 14; 11:16-17; 19:4), *intercession* (Rev. 5:8-10) and *proclamation* (Rev. 4:11; 5:4-5, 8-10; 7:13-17; 11:16-18) as the primary means of releasing God’s governmental power (12x Rev. 4:4, 10; 5:5, 6, 8, 11, 14; 7:11, 13; 11:16; 14:3; 19:4).

1. Rev. 4:4 Around the throne... I saw twenty-four elders sitting... (Rev. 5:6; 14:3)
2. Rev. 4:10 The twenty-four elders fall down before Him... and worship... and cast their crowns...
3. Rev. 5:8 The twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp [worship music], and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song...
4. Rev. 5:14 The twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.
5. Rev. 7:11 The elders... fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God...
6. Rev. 11:16 The twenty-four elders who sat before God... fell on their faces and worshiped God...
7. Rev. 19:4 The twenty-four elders... fell down and worshiped God... saying, “Amen! Alleluia!”

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III. CULTIVATING INTIMACY WITH GOD THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES

A. There are *two ways* we receive from Scripture – *milk* and *meat* (Heb. 5:12-14; 1 Pet. 2:2). *Milk* is obtaining truth from someone else's digested meat. *Meat* is learning to eat the Word of God for yourself and gaining truth through *experiential knowledge* as you put the Word into practice (Ez. 2:8-3:4; Rev. 10:8-11).

Heb. 5:12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles... of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age... who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil.

B. Growing in the *experiential knowledge* of God is synonymous with growing in *intimacy* with God. I am most *intimate* with those I “*know*” the most. Therefore, the *more I know* about a person the *more intimate* I am with them. However, this is not purely *cognitive information* gained by memorizing facts about God, but growing in *experiential knowledge* of how He *thinks, feels* and *acts* by encountering Him through the Word.

C. There are *three stages* to growing in intimacy with God:

1. *Invitation* (menu): Intimacy begins with understanding His *desire* for relationship with us at a deep heart level, right now in our weakness not only once we've matured (Song 1:5). God doesn't need us as anointed laborers, He *desires* us to draw near Him, because He *really* likes us (Mk. 3:13-15; Jn. 15:9; 17:24-26)!

Jn. 17:24 Father, I desire that they... be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory...

2. *Substance* (meat): The *relational knowledge* of God gained by personally experiencing Him – the “one thing” needed (Ps. 27:4; Lk. 10:42). God doesn't hide things *from* us, but *for* us to discover (Pr. 25:2). The Holy Spirit was sent to escort us into the deep things of God's heart and mind (Jn. 14:26; 15:26; 16:13-14).

1 Cor. 2:9 “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor entered the heart of man the things God has prepared for those who love Him.” 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God... 12 that we might know the things... freely given to us by God.

3. *Overflow*: As we encounter God in intimacy we are awakened unto *eternal life* (Jn. 5:39-40; 17:3), we receive spiritual *impartation* (Jn. 6:63), end time *understanding* (Dan. 11:32), *strength* to overcome (Dan. 11:32), experience deep *interior pleasure* and *rest* (Ps. 36:8), holy *fascination* (Ps. 27:4), the *delight* of discovery (Pr. 25:2), effortless *worship, prayer* and *proclamation* (Rev. 5:8-10), personal *transformation*, as we delight to do God's will (2 Cor. 3:18), greater *freedom* (Jn. 8:32), lasting *character development* (Eph. 3:16-19), are established in our *authentic identity* (Mt. 16:18), empowered to *instruct* many, release *great exploits* (Dan. 11:32), and walk out radical acts of *selfless love* (2 Cor. 5:14).

Jn. 14:23 “If anyone [experientially] loves Me, he will [be empowered to] keep My word”

D. Most often the *invitation* and the *overflowing benefits* are taught as a motivation to pursue intimacy with God. However, without engaging in the *substance* of intimacy we can never attain to the overflow! Sadly, after receiving the invitation and failing to experience the overflowing benefits as quickly as desired, many sincere, well-meaning Christians wrongly conclude: 1) The message is *false* and doesn't work or 2) They are the *problem* and it just doesn't work for them. The truth is they need to persevere in substance (Heb. 6:11-12).

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IV. THE SUBSTANCE OF INTIMACY: ENCOUNTERING JESUS' MAJESTIC BEAUTY (REV. 1)

A. The *highest revelation* of God is Jesus Christ (Jn. 14:9; 2 Cor. 4:6; Col. 1:19; 2:3, 9; Heb. 1:3). The *greatest revelation* of Jesus is the book of Revelation (Rev. 1:1). The Father's *primary purpose* of the book of Revelation is to unveil the unsearchable riches of Christ to *transform the Church* into a fully mature Bride made *comparable* to Jesus as His eternal companion (Jn. 17:20-26; Eph. 4:13-16; 5:27; Rev. 19:7; 22:17)!

Rev. 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God [Father] gave Him [Jesus] to show His servants...

B. As we behold the glory of Jesus, seen throughout the book of Revelation we are progressively transformed into the *same image* (thoughts, emotions, desires) and *prepared* for mature partnership (Ps. 17:15; 1 Jn. 3:2).

2 Cor. 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

C. In Rev. 1 Jesus reveals Himself, as the "Son of Man" (Dan. 7:13-14), highlighting *52 distinct aspects* of His eternal majesty, strategically given in *14 titles*, *10 attributes* and *28 descriptions* of who Jesus is today! Even as it takes time for your eyes to adjust when emerging from a dark room into the blinding light of the summer sun be patient with yourself as your eyes slowly adjust to the glorious light of God's Son (Rev. 1:16).

Rev. 1:12 And I saw... ¹³One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. ¹⁴His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. ¹⁷And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead.

V. TOOL FOR THE PRAYER ROOM A.R.K.

A. *Agreement*: Make declarations of agreement to Jesus about *who He is* (titles), *what He's like* (attributes, emotions) and *how He acts* (words, actions). Identify the core truths in each of the *52 aspects* (some overlap) and simply declare them back to Him with affection, gratitude and wonder (Jn. 5:39-40).

Jn. 5:39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

1. "You are... the Faithful Witness, the Firstborn from the Dead, Ruler over the Kings," etc.
2. "You have... eyes like a flame of fire, a sharp two-edged sword, the keys of Hell and Death," etc.
3. "You do... hold the seven stars in Your right hand, dwell in the midst of the churches," etc.

R. *Revelation*: Ask Holy Spirit for increased revelation of these specific aspects of Jesus' majesty. Each facet is like the tip of a massive iceberg of truth just waiting below the surface for the Holy Spirit to reveal to us.

Jn. 16:13 When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth... ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine [thoughts, emotions, etc.] and declare [i.e. reveal] it to you.

K. *Keep the Prophecy*: Make simple declarations of resolve to guard these truths about Jesus, while asking God to *empower us* to faithfully express these aspects of Jesus' majesty in our lives and ministries.