
LEADING IN THE PEW

UNDERSTANDING OUR CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

OUTLOUD WORSHIP CONFERENCE

COLG | MANCHESTER, CT | SATURDAY, MAY 7TH, 2011

- GOD DOESN'T NEED WORSHIP, WE DO.
- IF WE'RE GOING TO LIVE OUR WAYS FOR GOD, WE MUST DO IT GOD'S WAY.
- MY GOAL IS NOT FOR YOU TO SUPPORT YOUR WORSHIP LEADER, EVEN THOUGH I THINK YOU SHOULD; MY GOAL IS FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND THE FULLNESS OF GOD'S DESIRE FOR YOUR LIFE IN RECOGNITION OF HIM.
- NLCC'S POLICY OF LEADERSHIP IS WE FOLLOW ALL LEADERS
- WE TRAIN OUR CHILDREN BY TELLING THEM TO FOLLOW THE LEADERS
- OUR HEART FOLLOWS OUR VISION [MATH CLASS FOR THE GRADE, NOT BECAUSE WE HAVE A HEART FOR IT]

PROVOKING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

"I don't wait for God to move, I make God move."

SMITHWIGGLESWORTH
REVIVALIST | 1859-1947

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- FIRE ALWAYS FALLS ON THE SACRIFICE; IF IT DOESN'T IT'S NOT GOD'S FAULT, IT'S THE ABSENCE OF A SACRIFICE.
- EXPERIENCE VERSUS ENCOUNTER

WHAT WE GET “IN COMPANY” | HIS PRESENCE

Matthew 18

¹⁹ “Again, truly I tell you that if **two of you on earth agree** about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For **where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.**”

■ THERE IS A LEVEL OF HIS PRESENCE THAT WE CAN ONLY EXPERIENCE WHEN WE ARE TOGETHER THAT WE CANNOT WHEN WE ARE ALONE:

“CORPORATE ANOINTING” VS. “PERSONAL ANOINTING”

■ GOD ANOINTS “TEAM” DIFFERENT THAN HE ANOINTS “ONE.”

■ STOP COMPARING WHAT YOU EXPERIENCE ON A SUNDAY TO WHAT YOU’RE EXPERIENCING IN YOUR KITCHEN WHEN YOU’RE ALONE. THEY’RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE THE SAME!

WHAT WE GET “IN COMPANY” | HIS AUTHORITY

Matthew 16

¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter [**Petra, not Petros**],^[b] and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades^[c] will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be^[d] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be^[e] loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 18

¹⁸ “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be^[e] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be^[f] loosed in heaven.

■ HE WAS NOT TALKING TO PETER, HE WAS TALKING TO THE CHURCH CORPORATE!

■ ACTS 16: SATAN’S MISTAKE WAS PUTTING PAUL & SILAS IN PRISON TOGETHER.

■ GOD-STUFF HAPPENS WHEN WE GET TOGETHER!

CHURCH | WHEN HEAVEN MEETS EARTH (references: pastor pierre du plessis)

Genesis 28

10 Jacob left Beersheba [**wells**] and set out for Harran [**dry and thirsty**].

■ WE LEAVE A PLACE OF COMFORT TO BRING THE REFRESHING WE KNOW TO A REGION THAT DOESN'T KNOW IT.

■ OFTEN GOD CANNOT CONNECT US WITH THE DIVINE UNTIL WE'VE DISCONNECTED WITH DISTRACTION.

11 When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. **12** He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. **13** There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. **14** Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. **15** I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it."

■ HOW OFTEN HAS GOD BEEN MOVING AND WE HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN AWARE OF HIM? **HOW MANY SICKNESSES DIDN'T WE CATCH? HOW MANY CAR ACCIDENTS DIDN'T WE GET IN? HOW MANY TIMES DIDN'T WE LOSE OUR JOBS?**

17 He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

18 Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. **19** He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

REITERATING WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS:

- 1.) THE LORD IS IN THIS PLACE
- 2.) IT'S AWESOME
- 3.) CALLED THE HOUSE OF GOD
- 4.) IT'S THE GATE OF HEAVEN (AND EVERY GATE LEADS SOMEWHERE)
- 5.) THE PLACE WHERE GOD SPEAKS
- 6.) DIVINE ACTIVITY IN THE HOUSE OF GOD
- 7.) THERE IS SUPERIOR POWER IN THE HOUSE OF GOD
- 8.) WE ARE FACING FAILING OPPOSITION

■ THE CHURCH IS THE EPICENTER OF DIVINE CONVERGENCE

■ SHE IS THE GOD-DESIGNED CONDUIT FOR AFFECTING CULTURE

■ THE CONGREGATION IS SO SAD BECAUSE EVERYONE IS JUST WAITING TO GO HEAVEN, WHILE GOD IS WAITING TO SPILL OUT ONTO THE EARTH.

■ CORPORATE WORSHIP SERVES THE PURPOSE OF CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE WHERE HEAVEN AND EARTH COLLIDE.

THE MECHANICS | INSTRUMENTS (references: pastor kirk gilchrist)

Psalm 150:3-5 (NIV)

*³ Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,
⁴ praise him with timbrel and dancing,
praise him with the strings and pipe,
⁵ praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.*

■ I AM HERE TO WORSHIP THE LORD BEFORE I'M HEAR TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT

STANDING

Psalm 135:1-3 (Amplified)

*¹PRAISE THE Lord! (Hallelujah!) Praise the name of the Lord; praise Him, O you servants of the Lord!
²You who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God,*

³Praise the Lord! For the Lord is good; sing praises to His name, for He is gracious and lovely!

■ TO STAND IS TO REGISTER RESPECT [A LADY, A JUDGE, A PRESIDENT]

■ ALERTNESS [MILITARY]

SINGING

Psalm 9:11 (NIV)

*¹¹ Sing the praises of the LORD, enthroned in Zion;
proclaim among the nations what he has done.*

Psalm 18:49 (NIV)

*⁴⁹ Therefore I will praise you, LORD, among the nations;
I will sing the praises of your name.*

Psalm 47:6 (NIV)

*⁶ Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.*

■ SINGING MATURES THE THOUGHTS OF THE MIND INTO REALITIES OF THE HEART.

“Words create realities and we are the brokers of those realities.”

BILL JOHNSON

SENIOR PASTOR | BETHEL, REDDING, CA

■ WHAT WAS GOD’S PRIMARY MEANS OF CREATION?

■ HOW WOULD THE NEW TESTAMENT READ IF JESUS NEVER SPOKE?

CLAPPING

Psalm 47:1

*¹ Clap your hands, all you nations;
shout to God with cries of joy.*

■ WE JUST DO NOT WANT **NOISE**, WE WANT **EXUBERANCE** BECAUSE IT REVEALS THE HEART.

■ WE CLAP AT NEARLY EVERY EVENT WE ATTEND! CONCERTS, SPORTS, PLAYS, RALLYS, DINNERS. WHY? **APPRECIATION & JOY**

■ SOMETIMES WE GET SO NEGATIVE - RATHER THAN HAVE GREAT APPRECIATION, WE SAY, "WHY DO WE ALWAYS CLAP?" **WHY NOT?**

LIFTING HANDS

Psalm 63:4 (NIV)

*⁴ I will praise you as long as I live,
and in your name I will lift up my hands.*

Psalms 119:48 (NIV)

*⁴⁸ I reach out for your commands, which I love,
that I may meditate on your decrees.*

Psalms 134:2 (NIV)

*² Lift up your hands in the sanctuary
and praise the LORD.*

■ MY CHILDREN REACHING TO ME: LOVE

■ A HOLD-UP WITH A GUN: SURRENDER

DANCING

Psalm 30:11 (NIV)

*¹¹ You turned my wailing into dancing;
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy*

Psalm 149:3 (NIV)

*³ Let them praise his name with dancing
and make music to him with timbrel and harp.*

■ WHEN WORDS AND MUSIC ARE NOT ENOUGH

■ DAVID DANCED WHEN THE ARK WAS BROUGHT BACK

■ MIRIAM DANCED WHEN THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL DROWNED THEIR ENEMY

■ EVER THOUGHT OR HEARD, “LOOK AT THAT SISTER SHE IS PRAISING AND DANCING, BUT I KNOW HER LIFE!”

■ THAT IS ERROR IN ITSELF! WE DO NOT PRAISE BECAUSE OF OR IN SPITE OF OUR SPIRITUALITY, WE PRAISE BECAUSE GOD IS WORTHY

BEING LOUD!

Psalm 98:4-9 (NIV)

*4 Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;
5 make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
6 with trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn—
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.
7 Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.
8 Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;
9 let them sing before the LORD,
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.*

Additional research: bowing, prostrate, flags, offerings.

■ OFTEN TIMES WE MUST ENGAGE IN THE MECHANICS UNTIL THEY SERVE US INTO A PLACE OF PASSION [SUCCESS IN MATH CLASS].

THE MYTH OF BEING BALANCED

■ “BUT BROTHER, WE NEED TO BE BALANCED.”

■ 168 HOURS IN A WEEK; HOW MANY OF THOSE ARE SPENT WITH YOU BEING STILL, QUIET, MEDITATING ON THE LORD? NOW HOW MANY ARE IN DANCING, SHOUTING, AND CLAPPING? WE’RE OUT OF BALANCE THE OTHER WAY!

■ "BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD" (PS. 46:10) IS IN CONTEXT OF WATCHING GOD VIOLENTLY DESTROY EVIL IN THE EARTH! [ONLY PLACE IN SCRIPTURE!]

Psalm 46 (NIV)

*² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.*

*⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.*

*⁹ He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields^[d] with fire.*

THE PASSION OF PURSUIT

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

*²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. **Against such things there is no law.***

■ INSTEAD OF LIVING OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE JUSTIFYING HOW CLOSE TO "THE LINE" WE CAN LIVE AND STILL BE "IN LINE" WITH GOD, LET'S BE EXCESSIVE IN THE THINGS PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH THERE IS NO LAW.

■ THERE ARE NO LAWS FOR THEM ON PURPOSE! MOVEMENT IN A DIRECTION, NOT PROXIMITY TO A LINE.

■ LIFE IS A PURSUIT OF GOD, NOT AN ADHERENCE TO LAW.

■ A LAW BINDS YOU IN PLACE, A PURSUIT DRAWS YOU TO A PERSON.

"If our worship is small, then the grace we see is not that big. If our worship is 'restrained,' then the grace we see is not that radical. If our worship is 'neat and tidy,' then the sin we see Him bear was not too messy. Our worship tells the world just how big the cross of Christ really is to us."

LOUIEGIGLIO

PASTOR | PASSION CITY CHURCH | ATLANTA, GA