

☞ Restoring the Glory

Christianity does not need better church growth methods or more political clout in Washington, but a true Holy Spirit revival, according to Jim Cymbala. *“Christianity is hopeless without the Holy Spirit. If doctrinal sermons were all that was needed, we would have won the entire world by now, but we need the Holy Spirit. Revival will not happen by doing methods or programs. We need an invasion from heaven; we need the power and blessing and anointing of the Holy Spirit on our churches and our work.*

Last week: God’s glory is his presence, power, protection and direction. We need the glory of the Lord in the church today. You need the glory of the Lord in your life today. We need his presence, power, protection and direction now more than ever.

☞ 2 Samuel 6

David desired God’s presence. The ark had been in Philistine territory, then they sent it back to Israel, but Saul didn’t seem to care. Almost immediately upon becoming king, David decided to bring the ark into the capital city.

v. 3-6 David wanted God’s presence, but did some things wrong... Some looked right – v. 5, they celebrated with songs and instruments. They even put “all their might” into it! That’s good, but some think that is all that is needed to bring God’s presence... sing louder; shout when you pray; dance when you worship... all these are fine, but they are not the keys to restoring his presence! David had all those things going, but there was a problem...

v. 6-7 When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. 7 The Lord's anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore, God struck him down and he died there beside the ark of God.

Now, this seems unfair. Uzzah was just trying to keep the ark safe and he got killed. Why? The bible calls it an “irreverent act.” Why?

1 Chronicles 15:13

It was because you, the Levites, did not bring it up the first time that the Lord our God broke out in anger against us. We did not inquire of him about how to do it in the prescribed way.

☞ **David didn’t check with God first. There was a prescribed way to usher in the glory of God, but David did it his own way.**

1 Samuel 15:22

Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

v. 3 they set the ark on a new cart... This was wrong! It was supposed to be carried on the shoulders of the priests!

I think the new cart represents programs and methods for us. *"If we'd just do this latest new program, we'd really make an impact."* *"If we'd just do our worship this certain way, then we'd get a breakthrough."* *"If pastor would just preach like so and so does..."*

Once again, I'm not saying these things are wrong, but they are not the keys to bringing in God's presence. **Methods and programs are useful, and I'm always thinking about how we do things, but God's presence and glory is what we really need!**

v. 3-4 Uzzah & Ahio were guiding the cart and Ahio was walking in front of it.

The ark was supposed to be leading the people. They had things in reverse! **God's glory is supposed to lead us, not the other way around!** Too often, we have our agenda and just try to add God into it. That doesn't work! Instead, we need to ask God what his agenda is and then follow his lead. And, I'm not just talking about our Sunday gatherings. I'm talking about your personal daily life. God's presence can and should be with you, leading you everyday!

v. 9 then David was afraid... I think perhaps this is where he should have started in the first place. It was the "irreverent act" that killed Uzzah.

☞ We need a holy fear of God! God is "a consuming fire." If not given proper respect and fear, he can be deadly. When Christ returns in person, his presence coming in fullness - the bible writers call that "the great **and** terrible day of the Lord."

God's glory is awesome. It's something wonderful to be desired, but it's also something to be feared. We think the fear of God just means reverence, but it's more than that. There should be some genuine fear involved.

I remember as a kid, how fun it was to play with Dad. But, it was scary (genuine fear) to be in trouble with him.

If we think we can have God's presence and power while continuing to live any way we want, we're fooling ourselves. He must be feared! **Our lives must conform to his plans, not vice versa.**

v. 12 David still desired God's presence and decided to try again... Even with the previous failure and now with fear, it's still desirable to have God's presence. We need his presence!

Exodus 33:15-16

Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. **16** How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

v. 13-15 just like before, there was celebrating, singing, shouting and dancing, but something was different... The ark was being carried as it was supposed to be. And, there was better preparation.

1 Chronicles 15:12-15

He said to them, "You are the heads of the Levitical families; you and your fellow Levites are to consecrate yourselves and bring up the ark of the Lord, the God of Israel, to the place I have prepared for it. **13** It was because you, the Levites, did not bring it up the first time that the Lord our God broke out in anger against us. We did not inquire of him about how to do it in the prescribed way." **14** So the priests and Levites consecrated themselves in order to bring up the ark of the Lord, the God of Israel. **15** And the Levites carried the ark of God with the poles on their shoulders, as Moses had commanded in accordance with the word of the Lord.

Now the priests were carrying the ark, rather than oxen pulling a cart. Even David was wearing priest's clothes. (Linen ephod; not underwear!) Priests are all about ministering to and for God. David wasn't displaying his kingly clothes (his authority and power), but was displaying his **☞ submission to God.**

1 Peter 2:9 (*we are priests today*)

you are a chosen people, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

We can carry God's presence and glory as we submit to him and minister on his behalf.

v. **13** They offered sacrifices. (Commentaries are split about the "six steps," whether that was only the first six, or every six steps... for about 10 miles)

☞ Welcoming God's presence will cost you. **Sacrifice something!** If you want the fire of God; if you want the presence of God, **it's going to cost you.** Time, energy, effort, money, friendships, priorities...

v. **16 David's wife, Michal despised him...** She wanted him to remain dignified as the king of ☞ Israel. But, **he humbled himself** by wearing what he did. Her reaction cost her (no children). Be careful how you view other's response to God. When God's glory is present in a powerful way, some will shout, some will cry, and other various reactions may occur. But we must be humble and be careful about criticizing each other.

v. **22 David said he would be even more undignified and humble, if it was for the Lord**

How badly do you want God's presence? Are you willing to sacrifice? Are you willing to humble yourself?

v. **16-17 the ark was brought to the City of David and placed in a prepared tent**

☞ **God's presence is something we must prepare for. His glory must have a place of prominence.**

Chapter 7... after bringing God's presence in, the Lord gave David rest from all his enemies; and, God spoke to him about his future.

When God's presence is given the place of prominence, he gives us rest.

Psalms 62:1-2

My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. **2** He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

Psalms 91:1

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

When we focus on God first, we can experience his presence and glory and then our troubles tend to vanish into the background.

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face; and the things of earth, will grow strangely dim, in the light of his glory and grace”

Chapter 8... God gave him victory after victory after victory...

Psalms 44:5-7

Through you we push back our enemies; through your name we trample our foes. **6** I do not trust in my bow, my sword does not bring me victory; **7** but you give us victory over our enemies, you put our adversaries to shame.

☞ When God's glory & presence is with us we experience victorious life! It's his presence that enables us to overcome sin, temptation and the power of the enemy!

We need his presence!

We need a Presence encounter instead of a program encounter.

We need a God meeting instead of just a church meeting.

Church isn't about a few songs and a slick sermon; rather it's about getting up-close and personal with God. ("Leading people to an encounter with God")

- Lloyd John Ogilvie... The institutional church in America is filled with religious people who desperately need an experience of the living, holy, forgiving, gracious God.

We need God's presence!

☞ Let's make sure we give him the proper place of priority!

Let's prepare for his presence by being consecrated to him!

Let's honor him with holy fear!

Let's be obedient to his commands!

Let's watch our attitudes toward others!

Let's welcome his presence with worship!

Let's follow his lead, rather than just asking him to join us!

We need the presence of God! His glory restored.

Song: Holy Spirit