

God's Glory In God's House

"Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house" (2 Chronicles 7:1).

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Whenever God's glory descended, whether it was in the tabernacle in the wilderness, the temple at Jerusalem or other places, it is always associated with victory, protection, guidance, peace, provision, prosperity and all manner of blessings for the benefit of mankind. A Christian who cultivates the presence of God will inevitably enjoy these blessings and privileges.

2 Chronicles 5:11-14 and 7:1-3 provide vivid accounts of divine visitation (manifested in the glory cloud) at the completion of the temple building and during its dedication. These scriptures though true of the literal temple constitute part of the things that "were written aforetime ... for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Romans 15:14).

The old testament temple is symbolic of the new testament believer being the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). As the temple is worthless without God's presence, and temple services mere empty rituals, without divine acceptance, so is the believer's life (as the temple of the Holy Spirit). Cultivating and retaining divine presence is the key to Spiritual victory, and the essence of Christian living and worship. These can be achieved through:

- (1) Recognition of the believers body as a divine temple (1 Corinthians 6:19,20).
- (2) The believer as a royal priest, must "come out of the holy place" and remain "sanctified". (see also Isaiah 52:11; 2 Timothy 2:19-21; 2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1).
- (3) Living and working in harmony and unity with believers. Note that "the trumpeters and

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:19,20).

singers were as one" There is power in unity! (Psalms 133:1-3; Acts 2:1).

- (4) Living a life of praise and thanksgiving (1 Peter 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; 2 Chronicles 20:22; Acts 16:25-26).
- (5) Discern divine presence (i.e. that the cloud represented God's presence not sign of rain nor smoke from the offerings).
- (6) Abandoning routines of temple services for divine agenda when God shows up (i.e. when His glory manifests).
- (7) Worshipping and praising God ushers the believer to dwell under the shadow of the Almighty (Psalms 91).

Who is filling your 'house' - God's glory, self or Satan? The visitor you allow into your life, home or organisation will determine the atmosphere, joy, peace, happiness, progress, prosperity, etc in that life, home or organisation. When God is your 'partner' then the benefits of that partnership are overwhelming. However, God will not force Himself on anyone. As free moral agents we have the choice to court the fellowship of God or allow sin to break it as in the case of Adam and Eve!