

FELLOWSHIP OF GOD

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1. THE ANGER OF JESUS

God has given this prophecy especially for this conference.

There are many who are saying that we have seen some shaking over the past few years in the body of Christ throughout the world. And it seems like the shaking is about over and there are things being established. But the Holy Spirit says that it is not yet over. There are still things that have to be shaking. There are still things that God is shaking while at the same time He is building.

Personally I believe that we don't have that much time before Jesus Christ comes again. No man knows the hour; no man knows the day. And no person having a rightful theological balance should ever want to try to predict the date of the Second Coming. However we do know the season. And there are some who say we are close to it; we probably may have about 30 to 40 years, but that is short to me. Considering the many things that God has placed in my heart that I must finish; to run the race which God has for all of us to run. And there are many churches that are not ready for the 21st century.

I was speaking to a denomination leader, who was one of the main prominent leaders, a man of influence. I said as I was having fellowship with him over breakfast. I asked, "Is your denomination ready for the 21st century. Can the present infrastructure continue to exist in the 21st century? Will you reach the people of the 21st century with your present structure?" He thought very carefully and he said no. I said that is the reason why God has to shake the church to get the wineskin ready for that which He has for us in the 21st century. Therefore there will be still much more shaking; much more things that God wants to establish and remove before His coming. The time for playing church is over some years back. What happens is not only the time for playing church is over, but God Himself will begin to deal with those things that are just a superficial covering for Christianity. And God will bring up only what is genuine. There are too much niceties and diplomacy; but behind them is insincerity of heart. There are too much things that we sweep under the carpet that will come to the surface that God has to deal with until we begin to walk in the perfect will of God.

I would say it is a very dangerous thing to be outside the perfect will of God in the 21st century. It is so dangerous that in the acceleration of what God is doing in the times that we are living in, there are many things that happens much faster than before in the body of Christ. And along with that the negative is also true that anything that is in His permissive will may be removed completely. God will not tolerate it any longer.

I want to show the times when Jesus was angry and upset. We know Jesus was perfect so when He felt that way it was from God's heart Himself. He was not just loosing His temper or feeling of human emotion. He was experiencing the displeasure of God. And communicating it in His manifested ways. Lets look at the gospel of Luke 6:6.

Lk. 6:6-11 On another Sabbath, when He entered the synagogue and taught, a man was there whose right hand was withered. And the scribes and the Pharisees watched Him, to see whether He would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against Him. But He knew their thoughts, and He said to the man who had the withered hand. "Come and stand here." And he rose and stood there. And Jesus

said to them, “I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?” And He looked around on them all, and said to him, “Stretch out your hand.” And he did so, and his hand was restored. But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus. Jesus upset them. They got angry with Jesus. I want to focus on that moment in verse 10. Something was taking place in Jesus’ heart. He was feeling the emotions of the displeasure of God.

It looks like a typical synagogue service where everyone was there. The bible says that they were all looking at Him. And there was one man who needed healing, a man with a withered arm. That day he was in the synagogue and everyone had heard about Jesus. They knew what Jesus would love to do. Now they were watching, in a Sabbath day, would Jesus heal like He heals before? So everyone was staring at Him. Do you know that Jesus stared back? The amazing thing is the feeling of Jesus at that time. Jesus looked back at them. I wondered how the man with the withered hand felt. I think he must have felt like a guinea pig. Everyone was looking at him and looking at Jesus. I believe that on that day he was in the synagogue probably seeking Jesus. He was there seeking a miracle from Jesus. He probably heard about Jesus. He didn’t come to the synagogue that day to be stared at. Nobody volunteers to be a guinea pig. But on that day as he was sitting there all eyes were on him.

Let me cross to Mk. 3:4-5 And He said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. And He looked around at them with anger. Christians who had a visitation from Jesus would often see much love in His eyes; His eyes look like rivers of love flowing out. But if you ever see an angry Jesus it makes you want to hide. Kenneth Hagin in his book *I Believe In Visions* speaks about how Jesus visited him. And he says that he had looked into the eyes of Jesus. And he had seen the love in His eyes. And he said there was one time when Jesus gave him an anointing. And then he laid hands on a man who couldn’t bend his back. And he said see if you can bend and the man couldn’t because there was doubt. Although the anointing was there, there was doubt and it couldn’t flow. Then as he was getting the man to be healed, Jesus appeared to him at the side. And Jesus said I told you that if you use the anointing it will work. Then Hagin started talking to Jesus. Other people didn’t see Jesus but he saw Jesus. He said yes Lord I did but he is not healed. I told you that he would be healed. Then Jesus came nearer and pointed a finger between his eyes. And he says for the first time he saw what Jesus looked like when He is angry. He says there was fire in His eyes and He said I told you that he would be healed. Jesus was angry because he had doubted. And when Jesus disappeared suddenly it dawned on his mind what he should do. He didn’t say see if you can bend. He said bend and the man bent. What a difference doubts could do whether we receive the miracles from God or not.

What I want to point to the fact is that when Jesus gets angry it is not like a man getting angry. It is not like without principles. It is not like a person losing the temper. It is because of the displeasure of God coming down on a person’s life. See it was not just anger.

Look at Mk. 3:5 So when he had looked around at them with anger being grieved at their hardness of heart. Many people think that Jesus was a loving person. They don’t know that there are times when God is upset. I want you to know that these are the last days and the Holy Spirit is speaking to us. And we want to talk about 3 things that upset God. We need to know these three things that make God angry so that we won’t

make Him angry. And on that day while the man with the withered hand was there, Jesus saw his condition and He saw the group that was against Him. And the bible says He looked around at them. For a moment there was high tension. They stared at Jesus and Jesus stared back. There is only a few time the bible mentioned that Jesus was angry.

The Holy Spirit says in this message that He is bringing forth that there are many things that His church and His people are making Him upset and angry. We may not sound that we have those kinds of things. But I have said many times it is ignorance. But we are upsetting God. We are making Jesus filled with grief and upset. The more you want the power of God the more you must not grieve Him. Remember Kathryn Khulman in her meetings there is always one thing that she keeps telling the people not to do. She said do not grieve the Holy Spirit. Many of us don't realize that it is not a purposeful, premeditated thing to displease God. That is the problem because there are very few people who actually do that. But the vast majority does it ignorantly. Sometime when He gets across to us and tells us don't hurt Me because you are hurting yourself, we don't get the message. Then He sends another instrument to tell us in some way not to hurt Him. I want you to know that the power of God is available in every church, in every fellowship every time. It is not He holding back His glory. It is we holding back the glory by grieving against Him. So that He can not work and He can not move because He is upset.

No doubt Jesus did one miracle and that was because this man was ready. But you read about another story in the gospel of Mark 6 where He says that He could not do any miracles there because of their unbelief. You may quote one scripture and say in spite of that if He still wants to work He still can work since He is a sovereign God. But I can also quote one scripture in Mk. 6 where He wanted to work but He couldn't because of their unbelief. God wants to work but there are things that upset Him and make Him angry.

The thing that also upsets Jesus is the hardness of their heart. Many of us don't realize that just letting our hearts to go cold, letting our hearts to lose our zeal cause displeasure to God. I think on the overall many Christians take God for granted. On the overall most Christians take salvation for granted. God has been taken for granted. Please don't take the peace that you have for granted. Because one day you may lose that peace and never find it again. Don't take the joy that you have in your life as a Christian for granted. Don't take the love that He loved us with for granted. I want you to know these are the last days. There are many things that God wants to do. God wants to make some of you so blessed that you never realized how great the blessing is.

There is another prophecy that God gives me several weeks back about how God wants to give finance to people and His gifts. But a lot of people are not receiving that because there are things in their lives that upset God. In this convention God can do something in your life that will work in your life as you open your heart to that. Hardness of heart is something that we never realized. Look at those Pharisees. They have not broken any commandment in a sense. I am sure they have because no man has kept all the 10 commandments. The Pharisees are not like the publicans who don't know the law. The Pharisees do know the law. Jesus even said in Matt. 23 do what they tell you to do but don't do what they do. They have become so hard in their heart

that when God was there they didn't know it. When God was manifested in the person of Jesus Christ they didn't know it and they opposed Him.

The bible tells us in the book of James 4 it is an area where even if you got your life right. You have to keep a watch all the time so that it never comes in any future time in your life. James 4:6 But he gives more grace; therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." It didn't say that God tolerated the proud. But it says He resist, He opposes, He seeks to tear down, He seeks to pull down, He resists the proud. And that was the kind of anger that Jesus felt against the Jews who esteemed in their religious pride. So hard hearted were they that they neglected the most fundamental purpose for the existence of the synagogue. To help people like the man with the withered hand to find God. In their religiosity, in their traditions they forgot the purpose of why they exist. Sometimes in our religiosity we forget why the church exist. Some times in our church politics and in our administration and structure we forget why we exist. We get so absorbed by the non-essentials. People fight and fuss over the politics and control of the church. And they forget why they exist. These are some things that God tolerated but no more. He is going to deal with those things. Hardness of heart must be broken.

This morning I want to speak about 3 things that upset God. Normally I have very nice messages but this is the word of the Lord. God gave me a prophecy to give this morning. Then God said share with my people these things that I am not pleased with. That if they don't deal with these things in their lives, then I will deal with them. Three things that Jesus is upset for these displease God. We want to look at things that displease God and be careful that we don't move into those areas especially in the critical times that we live in. To be in those areas is to be in danger of the wrath of God.

Revelation chapter 2 and 3. In the message to the 7 churches there are some warnings that God gave to some of the churches and not to all of the churches. If you are living your life right with God, if you are doing what you know is best. I am not talking about necessary being perfect in every way. All of us are on our way to perfection and we are still being transformed. I mean in the best sincerity of your heart you do know that you are seeking to do God's perfect will. However if in your heart you know you are not in God's perfect will and you are only living in the permissive will, it is important that you get your lives right. It is for your own good.

1. Sins of Ignorance

Rev. 2:4 But I have this against you, see there are some things that put us against God. Sometimes Christians don't realize it but unknowingly they go against God. I think the vast majority of people who go against God does it ignorantly. There is only a few that really mean to go against God. Do you know that the apostle Paul himself while persecuting the Christians thought that he was pleasing God. He thought that what he was doing was what God wants him to do. Lets turn to I Tim. 1:13 though I formerly blasphemed and persecuted and insulted Him; but I receive mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief. See Paul when he was going against God; when he was persecuting the church in his heart he thought that he was doing the right thing. He says he was ignorant of what he was doing. And the vast majority of people who go against God they don't really do it on purpose.

And that's where the danger is. The danger is sometimes we slip into ignorance and we go against God unknowingly. If we have known that we are going against God we would have bowed down and repented. But we don't know and that is where the danger is. We slip into it without knowing.

Turn to Acts 26:9 I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. He himself thought that means he had a thinking process. But being ignorant does not mean that you do it blindly. It's your thought process taking on a different direction, leading your conclusions to be wrong and before long it becomes ignorance in unbelief. Unbelief is not non-believing. Unbelief is believing the wrong things. Somehow in his thought process he began to think otherwise about Jesus and some of things about the early Christians. And he did things contrary to the name of Jesus.

Turn to Acts 22:3 I am a Jew, born at Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, educated according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as you all are this day. Notice the statement he made: not only was he ignorant in unbelief, not only was he doing things contrary to the name of Jesus. He says he was zealous towards God. The marvelous thing was that he thought he was pleasing God. But in thinking contrary that he was pleasing God and in ignorance and in unbelief he was actually displeasing God. There is a danger that in these days that we move in when the move of the Spirit is accelerated in so many forms, that we be found in ignorance and unbelief and end up going against God without knowing that we are against God. The thing is that we thought that we are for God. What a contradiction. At different points in our life and in our growth we may have been ignorant.

Only by the mercy of God we managed to get out of it and get into something of God.

I remember when I was new to the Charismatic Movement. I was in a Baptist church and I had some schoolmates who had become Charismatics. For some unknown reason without knowing much about it I just went against them. In a sense I was guilty like Paul but not to his extend. So in my early days those things took place. As I look back, I couldn't explain why. Maybe because of my natural carnal human and unrenewed attitude to anything new of God, I first rejected the movement. But later I accepted it. That's possibly why I have always wondered but thank God for His grace. Although I went against them and spoke things against them and I had not gone into the ministry yet my heart was hungry for God. What a contradiction here: I was hungry for God and there was something new in God and I went against it.

There have been a lot of good preachers; some of them have died and gone. Some are marvelous preachers. Think about people like A.W. Tozer and those people before the Charismatic move. A.W. Tozer called the Charismatic move the last vomit of Satan. But his other books are fantastic. Why is his reaction that way? I am not talking about any person. I am talking about a man of God, mightily used, anointed by the Holy Ghost and a mighty preacher for God. During the revival in China under Watchman Nee, there was a pocket of Charismatic movement. John Sung in his biography discouraged it. He called it emotionalism. Yet these are men of God.

The Lord's Spirit tells me, "Son in the past I have tolerated some of these things. But in the time of acceleration it becomes more dangerous. I expect people to get into God

in the times where they live in, and examine what they believe by the written word of God, not by our own traditions or by what somebody else said.” Sometimes we do ignorantly slip into the area where we are up against Jesus. And Jesus counts us His enemy. Yet we thought we are of Him. We thought we are pleasing Him but we don’t realize we are going directly against Him.

There are many other examples we could quote. Think about the move of God from the Jews going to the Gentiles. There were some Christians who opposed spreading the gospel to the Gentiles not realizing that was the move of God. And they stood against Peter for going to Cornelius’ house. And there was a whole group of them in Acts 15 who rose up and said that the Gentiles should become Jews because God is actually working among the Jews. Then we have the apostle like Peter who because he was an apostle to the Jews didn’t fully understand some of the things of the Gentiles. So in the book of Galatians Paul talks about how when Peter was with the Gentiles he behaved like a Gentile. When Jews came in he changed and became like a Jew and Paul was upset. And he said that is not right. That is being insincere. You are not what you are. When the people come you pretend to be something that you are not. So we have in the bible accounts and stories of people who slipped into an area where they went against God without realizing that they were going against God.

Rev. 2:4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Verse 14-15 But I have a few things against you; you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice immorality. So you also have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

Do you notice that there is something that Jesus hates and this is after the resurrection of Jesus. We are talking about the New Testament. Jesus had already died on the cross, risen from the dead, ascended on high, seated at the throne of God. Now He appeared to John the apostle and tells him what He feels about certain churches. And He says I have this against you and He named those things. There is something that I hate and you tolerate. I hate the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. And He says you have them among you. Implying that Jesus hated them yet the Christians of those particular churches loved them. I hate them but you tolerated them. I would have removed them but you allowed it.

Once you begin to look at what God is saying in these days it’s so dangerous. The Lord showed me that those who don’t hearken to this message may die. This message is a warning that the Lord is giving. What happens is that our life gets shortened. William Branham died early in a car accident and went home early. But Kenneth Hagin said the accident happened because William Branham taught false doctrine. The mercy of God is there. God is patient and His patience many times last several years. And if you repent quite quickly every time you fall it last quite long. Because the bible says He forgives and He forgets. But there comes a time when that period of reckoning is over for some lives. And He says either you get that right or I am taking you home.

Do you notice something about all these messages in the book of Revelation 2 and 3? They tie up to His second coming. Whether you have a historical view or eschatological view of the book of Revelation the historical view would apply these messages to actual churches. The eschatological view would point to the end time

churches. But in principle it still applies to us His church. And they are relevant because each time He mention this He talks about His second coming. He says I am coming again. Every time He tells them about how quickly He will come.

Chapter 3 to the church of Sardis. Verses 2-3 Awake, and strengthen what remains and is on the point of death, for I have not found your works perfect in the sight of my God. Remember then what you received and heard; keep them and repent. If you will not awake, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you. Look at the surprise factor. In the other churches where the warning is, is also a surprise factor. I will come quickly He says.

To the church of Laodicea He says here in verse 16-17 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing; not knowing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Jesus says that He is going to come to them. To each of the churches He keeps on saying I am coming. And we of any other generations are closest to His coming than before. Personally it is not a theological view neither it is a prediction. My own personal estimation is we may have about 30 odd years, which is not very long to do what God wants us to do. And it's time that we roll up our sleeves, pull out our bootstraps and get into that which God wants us to do without delay.

2. Making Merchandise of the Gospel

In Luke 19 when Jesus Christ went into the temple, He found a whole bunch of people making business with the offerings. The holy offerings as commanded in the Old Testament have lost their meaning and had become a money-making thing in the New Testament.

Luke 19:45-48 And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, saying to them, "It is written, My house shall be a house of prayer; but you have made it a den of robbers." Jesus meant that the people were selling and buying and cheating and making use of a holy sacred ordinance to make money.

I want you to know that the modern way of making the house of God a den of thieves is by merchandising the anointing or the offices or ministries of God. Doing so would stir the anger of Jesus in the same way He became angry as He drove those people out of the temple. We find that the ministry could be a moneymaking thing. A Christian bookstore can become a moneymaking thing unless there is a God-inspired vision. It can either be a ministry or it can be a moneymaking scheme. A tape ministry can be a moneymaking business or a ministry. Even an evangelistic or a traveling ministry can become either a profit making industry or a ministry. Many times we have to question our motives and ask whether the Christian work we do is a ministry or just an excuse to make money. We have to make a decision always not to lose our priority. We are here in the ministry to minister. As far as possible we want to seek to give. Like Paul says he gives not expecting any return. He gives because he feels that he was like a father to the people who he ministered to. And he never lost that perspective. And that is the second thing that Jesus is angry about. He is angry when there is a merchandising of the office or the anointing of God. And we need to keep ourselves from those things.

3. Immorality and Worldliness

Let me give point three. Rev 2:20 But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel. Do you notice He didn't say that they deliberately do something? He didn't say that they chose to do something. He just said that they allowed. Allowing is so easy to do. There are some people who go to the extreme and every time something goes wrong they say it is Jezebel's spirit. What about spirit of Balaam; Balaam is even worse than that. He needed a donkey to talk to him. He says in verse 20 you allowed the woman Jezebel who calls herself a prophetess. Now not every one who calls himself whatsoever is whatsoever. Not every one who calls himself a prophet is a prophet. You shall know them by their fruit. Not every who call themselves a pastor is a pastor. You don't go by what we call each other or what we call ourselves. There are some pastors who are not pastors but are actually evangelists. There are some apostles who are not apostles but are actually prophets. There are some prophets who are not prophets but are actually evangelists. There are some teachers they are not teachers but are pastors. It is not what we call ourselves is important but what God calls us to do. And it is important that we get into what God wants us to do.

Jezebel who teach and beguile my servants. My servants are nameless. There are a lot of servants who are nameless who are faithful. In every church they are there. They are the real servants of God. There are a lot of pastors, a lot of leaders who are nameless but who are faithfully serving. They don't vie for position. They don't try to do something of their own. These are those that whatever move God does they are always involved. God is bringing forth that group. But here this group is being let astray by Jezebel who beguile my servants to commit sexual immorality and to eat things sacrificed to idols. Verse 21 I gave her time to repent. Even Jezebel has time to repent. Jesus said I give her time to repent and she did not. Then verse 22 the judgment comes. Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. Verse 23 I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

I remember one Singapore minister who is an elderly minister. Before he came into the ministry and before he lived his life right with God. He knew Jesus, born again but backslided and he was living with 2 women. And they were very nice to him. But he knew that something was wrong. And he said this in his testimony. He said every time I look at the bible I never like certain passages, especially those passages that talk about morality - that you shall be a husband of one wife. And he says he doesn't like those scriptures. But finally he got renewed and lived his life right. He gave up both women and went back to his wife. And later he went into the ministry and God honored him. Praise God the bible became alive to him again. If we are living according to the bible it really inspires us.

Matt. 23 is a long, long list of woes that doesn't look too interesting. But it is interesting if you are not among the woes. But if the woes describe you it is not interesting. Even with all the woes there, there are a lot of principles you can draw out from them. Matt. 23:1-12 Then said Jesus to the crowds and to his disciples. The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; so practice and observe whatever they tell you, but not what they do; for they preach, but do not practice. They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by men; for they make

their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues, and salutations in the market places, and being called rabbi by men. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Christ. He who is greatest among you shall be your servant; whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

And He pronounced a whole list of woes to the scribes and the Pharisees. Basically with all these things Jesus definitely is angry with them and upset with them.

Pride of Life, Lust of the Flesh and Lust of the Eye

Lets turn to the book of I Jn. 2:15-16 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If any one loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, in not of the Father but is of the world.

I pick up 3 different situations or incidences and these can be summarized in 3 phrases: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. These 3 things are contrary to what God wants of His people. We read passages like Revelation 2 where they have lost their first love. Basically they have got into spiritual pride. And you read about sexual immorality as mentioned in the other 2 churches in Revelation 2 and that talks about the lust of the flesh. Then you find the Laodicean church that says that they are rich. They are actually a worldly church. And we find in all those things that Jesus mentioned; the hardness of heart has to do with pride. And in regard to the people in the temple whom Jesus drove out, they had the love of money. As far as the Pharisees are concerned you notice they are all outward people. They love the outwards things. And all the things that has to do with outward matters the things of the flesh they love. And we can summarize that those are the 3 things that make God very angry. Whenever the world creeps into the church he is upsetting the things of God. The flesh and the Spirit can not co-exist. Either the Spirit dominates the flesh or the flesh grieves the Spirit. The two can not co-exist. And God want to deal with the church of Jesus Christ as we grow in Him that we do not become more carnal that we become more spiritual and we regard things more spiritually. The day is coming when to be carnal minded is dangerous. God will deal with our lives. There are no more places to hide when the wrath of God begins to manifest.

How do people slowly fall into the area of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life? The bible says don't be proud but we get pride. The bible says don't have any lust of the flesh but we still get lust. The bible says don't have the lust of the eyes don't go for the world but we still go for the world. What is the problem here? What happens is that many people backslide a little at a time and suddenly find themselves an enemy of God.

Rom. 8:6-7 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, indeed it can not.

God says that you are His enemy when you are carnal minded. The word enmity means that it is in direct opposition against God. If you ask a Christian whether he

wants to be an enemy of God, he would answer no. But yet many slide into the things of the world and become an enemy of God without realizing it. Just like Paul became an enemy of God without knowing it. And there are people who become ignorant and then become an enemy of God without realizing it. That is where the danger is.

Coming Shaking

Isa. 66:1-2 Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool; what is the house which you would build for Me, and what is the place of My rest? And these things My hand has made and so all these things are Mine, says the Lord. But this is the man to whom I will look, he that is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word. God looks at those who are humble and of a contrite spirit. These are the days that we are living in and the prophetic word is that there are many people who are not humble and contrite who will see some great shaking suddenly. The kind of shaking that we are seeing is one of acceleration. In one day you can see the mighty fall. It is the type of shaking like we see king Nebuchadnezzar. Where he looked at his hanging garden of Babylon and he said, "Isn't all these that my hand has made." God was merciful and tried to warn him earlier in a dream that Daniel interpreted for him about a big tree about to be chopped down because of pride. And in one day Nebuchadnezzar was reduced to an animal.

In the times of acceleration that we live in the opposite can be true. Joseph was broken, despised and rejected of man. Wrongly framed, wrongly accused, God took him in one day when he was in prison and he became a Prime Minister. In the times that we are living in I could feel in my spirit the heart beat of some of you that in our midst there are many 5 fold ministers, many professionals whom God has called to their specific work. Some of you are having a very hard time because you are experiencing a time of brokenness, so that you will be humble and contrite for God to lift you up. And it seems that the high and mighty are having their way. But I want you to know the change is coming.

And this is the word that God gives. Every head bow, every eye close and let just pray to Him now.

Thus says the Lord I will raise up many new ministries. And many ministries today are being rejected by their own brethren in the same way like Joseph is being rejected by his brothers. Not that they are perfect. They may have their imperfections. But yet there is no necessity for them to be so thus rejected. And many of them are thrown into the pit to die. And some are sold to slavery. But yet I will raise them up. At a time where the world is being shaken, just as the years of famine are drawing near and in the years of abundance I will raise them up. And there are many like Nebuchadnezzar who take pride in their achievement, who take pride of what they have and do not give Me all of the glory. In one day says the Lord I will take everything away. I will reduce them to nothing. This is the shaking that I bring says the Lord.

O Father we pray O God that Your Holy Spirit will quicken Your voice to each one of us. O Lord we do not ever want to grieve your Spirit. Although it is not easy to walk in your perfect will to the natural man. It's not easy Lord to hold true to you. And to live a life of holiness that is pleasing to you. Yet you always give the strength to do your will. Father we do not want to make you angry. Jesus we do not want to make you angry. Holy Spirit we do not want to grieve you. We ask O God to reveal Your

perfect will to us. Even in this place there are some of them in the ministry who are seeking direction. I pray Lord that you will reveal direction. Maybe some of them have been wrong or may have made some mistakes. But Lord restore each one to Your perfect will. Father your graces are sufficient for each one of them.

Every head bowed and every eye closed. There is a businessman here that has fallen into sin. And you are still experiencing some of the blessings of God. But you have found your position in church affected. This word is for you. The Lord says He forgives you, even though the body of Christ has not forgiven you. And the Lord says get back into the zeal that you have before. Get back to do the things that you have done before. Because there is no one to do those things that you have done.

There are some in the ministry who are not in the right place in the ministry. This is what the Lord says, I will open doors for you. Don't turn down those doors because it is I who open those doors for you. Just like Barnabas opened the doors for Paul. And although you don't realize it, it is a door to enter the ministry that you have for the next phase. So the next time, says the Lord, don't close your ears to that door. There is a businessman here who once was a pastor and the Lord speaks to you. He forgives you. Get back into the ministry. The Lord knows you have fallen. The Lord says He is coming. If He doesn't reject you why do you still reject Him?

2. CITIES OF REFUGE

Now in the second session here we want to look at how people backslide, why people backslide and how to preserve ourselves so that we don't backslide. How do the backsliding start and what we can do to prevent it from happening in the first place.

Turn to Numbers chapter 35 the cities of refuge. Verse 9-15 And the Lord said to Moses, "Say to the people of Israel. When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then you shall select cities to be cities of refuge for you that the manslayer who kills any person without intent may flee there. The cities shall be for you a refuge from the avenger, that the manslayer may not die until he stands before the congregation for judgment. And the cities, which you give, shall be your cities of refuge. You shall give three cities beyond the Jordan, and three cities in the land of Canaan, to be cities of refuge. These six cities shall be for refuge for the people of Israel, and for the stranger and for the sojourner among them, that any one who kills any person without intent may flee there.

Six as we know is the number of sin. The cities of refuge are meant to protect the one who accidentally has killed another person. Suppose you were chopping wood but you were not diligent to take care of your tool. The axe head is loose and the axe head strikes a person's head and he dies. Let's say the person who was accidentally killed has a brother. Then his brother will come after you. You think, "Where do I go, where do I run?" God provided a city of refuge so that quickly, before his brother comes, before his avenger comes, he runs to that city for refuge. God provides a solution for this accidental death. You know why, if the avenger succeeds and kills the killer, that dead killer's brother may go after that avenger and you will have a never-ending story of bloodshed. In many places of the world you find that continual hatred and war among tribes because of one killing. Sometimes that enmity goes on for generations. So God provides a solution to put a stop to that killing once and for all.

Now let us point to this fact here. The city of refuge is not a place for the guilty. In a sense the one who accidentally killed another is guilty. As sinners, everybody is guilty. But there are different degrees in which people go against God. Those who directly oppose God I don't think there is much solution. Those who choose to go against God in the book of Hebrews chapter 6 it says there is no repentance for them. Later on in the book of Hebrews it says that those who trample the Blood of Jesus under them there is no more room for them. So there is a group who is indeed guilty beyond redemption but it is very small and don't simply throw people into that group because there are not many people in that group. And don't use that passage wrongly to condemn people.

The vast majority, if I can use these words replacing the word ignorant with the word accidental, unknowingly, should know better but didn't know. When like chopping the wood and it falls and kill somebody else. Do you know that every sin you sin doesn't just hurt yourself. It hurts somebody else. Nobody sins alone. Even if you think you are alone, your sin may still affect your children and your loved ones. When we don't walk in God's perfect will somebody is being hurt. And the city of refuge will not protect those who murder, those who kill deliberately. The city of refuge is something God provided because of the imperfection of mankind.

Turn to Deut. 19:1-3 “When the Lord your God cuts off the nations whose land the Lord your God gives you, and you dispossess them and dwell in their cities and in their houses, you shall set apart three cities for you in the land which the Lord your God gives you to possess. You shall prepare the roads and divide into three parts the area of the land which the Lord your God gives you as a possession, so that any manslayer can flee to them.

Now here are more details in verse 3 God says that you must make roads for them, so that these roads lead to the city of refuge. In other words it’s accessible for people to come to this city of refuge.

Then it says in verse 4 and this is the case of the manslayer who flee there that he may live whoever kills his neighbor unintentionally, not having hated him in times past. Now it will not protect someone who kills his or her neighbor intentionally.

Then in verse 6 Lest the avenger of blood in hot anger pursue the manslayer and overtake him, because the way is long, and wound him mortally, though the man did not deserve to die, since he was not at enmity with his neighbor in time past. Therefore I command you, you shall set apart three cities.

Why did God make a city of refuge? Everything in the Old Testament is a shadow of something in the new. The cities of refuge point to the believers the Christians. And every one of us who live our life right with God becomes like a city of refuge. A church in a sense and the fellowship becomes like a city of refuge and it protects people from some consequences of their life but not all. Let me point to some interesting types in the New Testament.

Lets look at II Cor. 5:18-21 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Him to be sin that knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

In a sense we become ambassadors of God when we come into Jesus. In a sense individually we all have now a ministry of reconciliation. Then when we group together corporately there is a large covering.

Lets turn to I Cor. 5 there is a man here who is not living his life right.

I Cor. 5:1-5 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and of a kind that is not found even among pagans; for a man is living with his father’s wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. For though absent in body I am present in spirit, and as if present I have already pronounced judgment in the name of the Lord Jesus on the man who has done such a thing. When you are assembled, and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

That is an interesting passage. Paul here says that the person who is living among the must be separated, to use a strong word excommunicated. We know that the power to excommunicate someone has been abused and misused in church history. There are a lot of people who are excommunicated by the bad guy. The bad guy sometimes excommunicates the good guy, because the bad guy is on the chair. So every principle and every thing that is right can be abused. Lets look at it in this context here.

Lets say everything is running in order. The church of Jesus Christ is holy and all the right people are in place. And Paul here was overall advising the church and the church leaders who are all yielded to the Spirit of God. And there was one blot of sin in their midst. Paul says a strange thing. Paul says, "I want you to take him and deliver him to Satan." That puzzles many young Christians. What do you mean deliver him? Send that person as a present to Satan? What have we to do with Satan our archenemy?

Look at it in a different light. Behind this thing is an understanding that there is protection in the church. You must see the other side. What was happening is that there is an invisible protection round this person who is not living right. Somehow by coming into their midst, and being with them, he is protected and shielded from the onslaught of the devil. Now see the devil comes to steal, kill and destroy. Satan is very clever to give temptations on credit terms, which most people think was free. And after you have taken his goods you realize that he is now asking a heavy price for it. You have tasted of sin and he is coming after you.

Remember Satan never give anything free. Don't be deceived. He will ask for a price and the price is heavy which is paid by your blood. Anything that you take from the devil he will come and collect the wages and the payment for it. And you somehow are able to go into a place where Christians are. And while inside this place where lets say everyone is living right with God. Jesus said, "Where 2 or 3 are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them." Satan doesn't like to visit such a place. So he stays away from that place. He hangs outside looking for loopholes.

And of course the church is not just a place; the church is the people. And when we live our life right with God, the presence of God goes with us. And we are protected to a certain extend. The cities of refuge are Christians and we all are cities of refuge. And wherever we go if we walk in our life right with God there is shield of protection around us. You have to believe that you have the shield of protection around you. Remember the Armor of God and all those things protect you and are able to quench every dart of the enemy. If your shield of faith is up nothing touches you. Eph. 6 says that every fiery dart is quenched or removed by the shield of faith. So wherever you go you are protected.

And so this guy is living in sin and the devil is seeking to destroy all the time. Somehow he managed to always stay close to one of those Christians. Now normally I would be fine. But this guy is not repentant. And Paul understands all these things. And he says you should stop protecting this person from the judgment that is due on his life. He may encourage others to do the same thing. It is something that displeases God. Either this person repents or you can not take him into your fellowship. And so Paul says deliver him off, surrender him. What they did was to come together and in agreement and Paul invoked the power of God. I know a lot of people who would love to do this thing but their motives are wrong.

Here it says in I Cor. 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ when you are gathered together along with my spirit with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words there has to be an anointing. This power to deliver someone to Satan is not something you do by your emotions or just because you are upset. There has to be an anointing of God. It has to be something ordained of God. And there has to be unity done in the name of Jesus. And what they did was to cut off the protection of the city of refuge that they were offering to this person. The moment this takes place Satan will go after this guy. He will have the just consequences of what he has and that he may realize his mistakes. Later on you read the same person repented.

Let me find a small secular illustration to this. Lets say there is someone who lives off Christian love and is always getting into debt. The creditors are coming after him. He runs to you and say please help me. Then you help him. And he is debt free again. So you go again to another moneylender. Then he got into another debt. Then he comes again to you. And you help him again. Then he goes to another moneylender. Who paid the judgment for him? You. That is hard earned money. Somebody worked, somebody earned and somebody paid. You never earn, you never work hard, somebody is working double hard just for you. Now if this goes on as a life style you become a moocher. I have experienced one that came many years back. This person is very experienced. This person came and borrowed 100 dollars. He paid that amount back. He then borrowed 3 hundred dollars and then paid back that amount. Finally he borrowed one thousand dollars and ran off and disappeared.

What is happening here? By Christians not standing up to their principles, they are propagating a life style and a sin that could have been easily removed. When the Christians stand up to the principles this person would have to pay the price for his sin. For the first time this person is made to work to repay his debt. And he may be renewed and changed. Let say a person is in sin and is somehow is not dealt with and is condoned. It may spread and before long everyone begin to accept the sin and that person is not facing that kind of judgment he should. Not that we all judge. None of us can play the judge or should play the judge. But what happens is that we should have no part in some things that are not of God. And that is the story of the cities of refuge that God has provided in this area.

Why do good things happen to bad people and why do bad things happen to good people? The answer is based on the cities of refuge. The bad people are sometimes blessed because of the good people with them. Lets say sometimes a company is not operating according to righteous principles but there are Christians inside there. The Christians are the salt of the earth. God may bless that company not because of that proprietor but because the others that are involved there are living right for God.

Good things can happen to bad people because somehow the bad people are living under the good people. Good people somehow are holding the whole thing together. God is actually blessing the bad people because the salt of the earth in their midst is the preserving them from decay. Think about a person like Nebuchadnezzar who is a very wicked fellow. But God blessed him because of the Jews. Think about the Persian Empire at the time of Esther. Do you think God blessed that empire just because of the ungodly folks? No, it's because of God's people there. God is working out something to preserve the Jews. So sometimes the bad gets the side benefit of the good people who are there.

The reverse is also true. Why do bad things happen to good people? This is not the only reason. There are many other reasons. But one of the reasons is because the good people associate with the bad. Paul in I Cor. 5 advised the church to deal with the sinner very quickly or otherwise the whole church will be infested with that kind of immorality. If they don't deal with it then the entire church may be affected. Now it looks very hard it looks very cruel but it is required in order to preserve the holiness of the church.

Ps. 1:1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked; nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers. Do you know there are some places where you are not to sit and stand? There are some places you are not to walk in. Your blessings are depends also on your walk. You have no compromise with people or situation, which displease God. Sometimes God can protect you from a situation. Sometimes God protect you through a situation. Jesus can still a storm when you sail across it. Sometimes Jesus protects you through the shipwreck like the apostle Paul. But whatever it is you are protected. Sometimes as a city of refuge you could withstand different things.

But there are other times when God said have no part. You remember in the book of Revelation the Lord said come out my people. So there is a time when nothing else protects. The city of refuge is in relationship to God. Now when something displeases God there is no protection. That is why in the wrath of the Lamb in the book of Revelation the sinners called on the mountain to cover them. Nothing can cover them; even the mountain could not help. Here God is saying that there are some situations where His wrath is at work. God is not obligated to protect the person who ignored His warnings to flee certain places.

Sometimes God can protect a city. Now Abraham was stretching his faith as much as he can to protect the city. Here are two opposing areas. If Abraham had come down to asking whether if there be one righteous person Sodom and Gomorrah may have been saved. Somehow his spiritual energy or prayer could not break through to that. He came to the minimum of 10 righteous persons. But there were not even 10 righteous persons. Do you notice the whole argument? If there were 10 righteous persons the thousands in Sodom and Gomorrah who were wicked would have been saved. Isn't that an amazing theology? It is the salt of the earth theology. If there were 10 righteous persons the city of Sodom and Gomorrah may have existed until today and they would still think they existed because they are very good not realizing that is because of those 10 righteous people. That is why some good things happen to bad people and they don't know it. Sometimes you see God blessing a company and you look at the boss, you find that he is a crook. But somewhere in the back room is a godly guy. And the godly guy is living his life for God and his living comes from that company and for his sake God blesses that company. Sodom and Gomorrah are full of crooks and God said if 10 righteous persons could be found He will preserve the 2 cities and the people would have been saved because of 10. Don't you think the power of the city of refuge is powerful?

However there is a line you do not cross. There are certain things that the city of refuge can not go beyond. Even Abraham can not go beyond. There were no more 10 righteous persons found and the whole cities of Sodom and Gomorrah is destined for judgment in the wrath of God. God sent 2 angels to take out Lot and his family. Lot's wife began to look back and she was turned into a pillar of salt. There is a line when

God says, “No more, move out. You can’t even put your feet there. If you put your feet there, your feet will turn into a pillar of salt.”

Why and How Do Some People Move Into the Direction of Backsliding?

Let me point to reason No.1 Most people don’t become enemies of God immediately. But the first prime reason that you have to answer in your life is who you fellowship with. We have to choose the kind and type of fellowship correctly. Even Jesus has different degrees of fellowship with different people. You have the multitudes. You have His disciples. You have His 12 apostles. You have His 3 apostles. And all of us would have fellowship with the whole body of Christ. And some contact with the world because of your responsibilities in this life and because you are evangelizing the world. But we need to understand the quality and the quantity of our fellowship. It depends very much on how we measure the scale of who we fellowship with. If you feel at home among those of the lowest kind no matter how spiritual you are you will be pulled down.

Paul in the book of Romans 16:17 I appeal to you, brethren, to take note of those who create dissensions and difficulties, in opposition to the doctrine which you have been taught; avoid them. Notice the word. He says avoid them. And there are many other passages like that where Paul even said don’t even eat lunch with them. And John the apostle even warns not even to greet some of them. Now of course I know some people abuse this thing and they do it to every Tom, Dick and Harry, which is not correct. I always wonder how many Christians really treasure good fellowship. If I meet with a person who is very spiritual, I would really have a heart to heart fellowship with him. But with people that I sense are sometimes in the spirit and sometimes in the flesh, I would put my guard up. The thing about many people is that they don’t have many guards. The city has no walls. They don’t know how to put up different quality and quantity of the fellowship. And as a result every foul kind of creatures can just come in. There is no protection at all in their life. But the thing that we need to watch most is No. 1 the fellowship.

Do you know why the apostle Paul became an enemy of God? He hung around the wrong folks. His favorite folks were the Pharisees. From whom did he get the letters? Do you think that it is easy to get a letter of commendation from the Pharisees? No, you have to be close to someone in authority. If you read the life of Paul you will realize that he was a Sanhedrin member. For example not every Tom, Dick and Harry here can probably go to a Governor and get a personal recommendation. And from there he got his letters and persecuted those Christians. He was hanging around the wrong folks. A good intelligent man like him can be thrown the other way. And there are many people who are good, intelligent, and smart, on the average they would not have done something. Because they keep hanging around the wrong folks and the wrong people, not knowing how to differentiate between good and bad quality fellowship, their minds are first affected and become unrenewed. Wrong thoughts, ideas and philosophy begin to draw you away. Your mind begins to be affected. Fellowship brings about emotional bonding. When you are emotionally bonded to people you tend to favor their views.

One top salesman wrote a book about achieving a million dollars sales. He says one of the things he cultivates was emotional bonding. This is not a principle for us to adopt since it is just a worldly principle. So when he goes to a family he would be nice to

the children. But his motives are not just to be nice to them, but also to form an emotional bonding with that family. His reasoning is that if a customer has to choose between 2 salesmen he could buy from, he tends to buy from the one he knows. So he used these methods to his advantage. Emotional bonding takes place and that is No. 1.

No. 2 is mental consent. By not speaking out for our beliefs we become overwhelmed by the unbelief. That would be the mental consent being affected.

The third is attitudes, which is very dangerous. You pick up and you catch something, which are not taught. The mental consent develops through conversation. Emotional bonding arises after a time span in relationships. But the third attitude is something invisible that you just catch at the sub-conscious level. There are some things that are caught rather than taught. What happens if you are in the company of people with jeering attitudes? Even though you are someone who is very careful before long you adopt their jeering attitudes.

And the worse is step four. Your character becomes defiled and affected. You become like them. Then the next area you began to do like what they do. You can trace it in the life of Paul. You can trace it in the life of king Saul.

The positive is also true. By having it the right way, the right fellowship, you get into the right type of vision, the right type of beliefs. And you began to get the right attitudes towards different things. And you began to have a character like those people who are holy. And you began to do the right thing. Positive or negative it also works the same way.

3. THE SACRIFICE OF WORSHIP

Tonight I want to talk about something that touches the heart of God. Something that is most precious to Him. I want to talk about what we must do in order to enter into the heavenly veil. We know that what Moses had in his revelation of the tabernacle was only a picture or pattern of what is real up there in heaven. We know that in the Old Testament the animals and blood sacrifices point to Jesus. And we know that Jesus had opened the veil for us to go through, so that we can come boldly to the throne of grace that we may find help in grace and mercy as we need from God.

No matter how much we have tasted of the presence of God. No matter how sometimes comfortable we feel at ease because we know He loves us and that we could come into His bosom and just love Him and let Him love us, I never lose that awesome holy fear of His presence. No matter how many times you have tasted His presence; no matter how many times you have entered into the most holy place, that freshness and that holiness and awesomeness of His fear is tremendous. The holy fear of His presence always remains. And it is in the heart of God. We could title this message in many ways. How to touch the heart of God. Or The secret place of God's heart. There is something that touches God very much. And I want to talk about the main thing that touches God's heart.

In the book of Leviticus 16 we see how the high priest on the Day of Atonement, which takes place once a year, is to enter into the Most Holy Place and what he must do.

Lev. 16:3-15 Thus shall Aaron come into the holy place; with a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering? He shall put on the holy linen coat, and shall have the linen breeches on his body, be girded with the linen girdle, and wear the linen turban; these are the holy garments. He shall bathe his body in water and then put them on. And he shall take from the congregation of the people of Israel two male goats for a sin offering and one ram for a burnt offering. And Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering for himself, and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. Then he shall take the two goats, and set them before the Lord at the door of the tent of meeting; and Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats, one lot for the Lord and the other for Azazel. And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the Lord, and offer it as a sin offering; but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the Lord to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel. Aaron shall present the bull as a sin offering for himself, and shall make atonement for himself and for his house; he shall kill the bull as a sin offering for himself. And he shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before the Lord, and two handfuls of sweet incense beaten small; and he shall bring it within the veil, and put the incense on the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat which is upon the testimony, lest he die; and he shall take some of the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it with his finger on the front of the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat he shall he shall sprinkle the blood with his finger seven times.

Take note of verse 12 and 13. How Aaron has to take a censer full of burning coal before the altar. And this is talking about the altar of incense. There are 6 pieces of furniture and there 3 parts to the tabernacle; the outer court where there is a brazen altar and the lever; then the second place called the holy place where you have the

candle stick, the altar of incense and the table of show bread; then you have the veil. And once a year the high priest enters into the veil where you have the Ark of the Covenant. God gives instruction to sprinkle the blood on the mercy seat. The blood is important and it points to the Blood of the Lamb.

But another thing is important too. And that is the incense. He can not just enter with the blood. He must enter with something else that God prepared at the altar of incense. And that is Aaron must take coals of fire and put incense there. And as he puts the coal of fire and the incense immediately the incense will come forth like a smoke and an aroma that surrounds that place. And as he hold the incense stick on one hand and holds the blood on the other, under the covering of the cloud he must quickly go in. See there is only a certain amount of time that the incense will remain.

In verse 13 the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat. The high priest only had a glimpse of the mercy seat. He had to look at the mercy seat through the cloud of incense. And that is only the earthly pattern. And as the cloud of incense fill the place, he must go under the cloud. If he goes before the cloud he will die. That is why when God made the high priest garments all along the edge of his skirt are little bells and pomegranates. So when the high priest walks you can hear the tinkling sound of the bells. According to some Jewish writings, they had to tie one rope to the high priest's leg. When the high priest enters into the most holy place, the other priests would be waiting outside. And they would be all very concerned. As long as the rope is moving they look at one another and say it is all right. But if anytime they hear a fall, they would have to slowly pull the rope out with a dead priest. It's a dangerous assignment. I wonder how he felt emotionally. It must be very exciting in a sense that is once a year affair. But he knows that if he makes one mistake, that's the end of him. And if the priest was too slow and if before he could put the blood the incense cloud disappears he would die. Then he must not be clumsy. He must be very precise and time it nicely: put the blood there under the covering of the cloud and then quickly come out. He must quickly leave the place before the cloud disappears. If the cloud disappears and he hangs around and have a tour of the most holy place he will die.

That cloud has meaning in the New Testament. What is the meaning of that incense cloud? The Lord began to speak to me something special about that incense. I said, "Lord there must be something that pleases You." I know in the bible says faith pleases God. There is a time in your life as you walk with God you always has a desire to please Him. If you really love your wife sometimes you want to think of some ways you could show your love. That is the way we have in God. I want to know what moves God.

Do you know that if God can get angry God can also be touched? And there are some things that touch God more than others. Tonight I want to share with you the secret of touching the heart of Father God. Something that pleases Him so much, you could almost feel His pleasure. Do you know that in heaven if God smiles there is some power that flows from Him to our lives. And that incense is the secret of touching His heart. That incense in the New Testament has to do with the sacrifice of worship. The Lord began to talk to me about the sacrifice of worship that costs you something and how much it meant to Him. I know that in Heb. 11:6 it says that without faith it is impossible to please God. But then God began to speak to me and said, "Did you have a look at what that kind of faith it is that pleases God?" That faith involves a sacrifice of worship.

Heb. 11:6 Without faith it is impossible to please God. Then he lists the many people who live by faith. Verse 7 Noah, verse 8 Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Enoch and all these other people. And if you look down the list you notice one thing common. Each one of them paid a price to love God. It was not just by saying I believe, I confess and that's all. There was a price they paid to walk with God and to love God. Abraham by faith left his homeland to go to a strange new land. That was a sacrifice. Noah had to prepare and give up everything and spend the rest of his days building the ark. That was a sacrifice. What about Cain and Abel? Abel's sacrifice pleased God. Now Cain also sacrificed. But the sacrifice was different. Abel's sacrifice cost him something. Cain's sacrifice didn't cost him anything. The bible tells us that Able gave the firstlings. What Cain should have done was to give first fruits with the blood sacrifice. There is something that is meaningful when it costs us something. And you give it to God as worship. It is something that costs you something. When Abraham offered Isaac it meant everything to him. You could feel the feelings of what a holy sacrifice is. To give all that you love, all that is dear and precious to you and pour it before God as an incense of worship. I want to make it very clear that is not just sacrifice alone. It has to be a sacrifice based on a heart of love and worship.

In Matt. 9 and Matt. 12 where Jesus was talking to the Pharisees and he says I desire mercy and not sacrifice. Now He is talking about the attitudes. The Pharisees were having a form of religion and doing something but it was not costing them anything. They didn't understand mercy and the deeper things of God. You can love God and your love for God will cost you to surrender many things because of love. You can't love without giving. Because when you love you want to give. But you can give without loving. And that's what some of the people in the bible did. For example in Isa. 1, Jer. 6 God told the people and said I am tired of your sacrifices. I am tired of your incense because you don't obey My Word. You don't follow My Word. And to you all these sacrifices of Moses are just nothing. So take it in the context when God was against those sacrifices. It is not that He is against all sacrifices. He is just against the sacrifices that don't cost us anything. And it is just a pattern or a form of religious thing that we do day in and day out.

God also rebuked Saul in the book of I Samuel in chapter 15 through Samuel. When God commanded him to go and slay Amalekites, he didn't obey God's word and he kept the best of the flock. I don't think he really had God in mind. He probably was thinking of something for himself or for the people. When God rebuked him he just said that it was for God. When Samuel says to him what is this sound of the animals and then Saul excused himself in verse 21 it says But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal. The way he said the Lord your God instead of the Lord my God shows that there is a lot of differences.

In verse 22-23 And Samuel said, "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king."

Now take it in the context that here Saul didn't really love the Lord. And what he is saying is more like a form of a religion, something that we just do because we have to

do. Those things don't please God. And that's what God means when He says that those sacrifices don't please Him.

However, there is an area of sacrifice that touched the core of the heart of God. And that is when our worship cost us something. And that was the way David who was known as a man after God's heart. You know why God loved him. He knew how to touch God's heart. He knew how to give his best to God. When David made a mistake by numbering the Israelites, God brought judgment on Israel. As the plague was taking place, David humbled himself put on sackcloth and ashes and began to pray and seek God. And he repented before God.

As he prayed in repentance to God in I Chron. 21:16 And David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the Lord standing between earth and heaven, and in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces. It must have been awesome. And look how he acknowledges his sin. He was even willing to take the price on himself. He said Lord don't punish the people punish me.

Look at his prayer in verse 17. And David said to God, "Was it not I who gave command to number the people? It is I who have sinned and done very wickedly. But these sheep, what have they done? Let thy hand, I pray thee, O Lord my God, be against me and against my father's house, but let not the plagues be upon the people." He knew he made a mistake. And he was willing to pay the price for his own mistake. He said, "God don't punish the people. If you have to punish, then punish me O Lord."

Verse 18-19 Then the angel of the Lord commanded Gad to say to David that David should go up and rear an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. So David went up at Gad's word, which he had spoken in the name of the Lord. And now David has come to bring a sacrifice to God. And as he came to see Ornan in verse 21 As David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David and went forth from the threshing floor, and did obeisance to David with his face to the ground. And David said to Ornan, "Give me the site of the threshing floor that I may build on it an altar to the Lord - give it to me at its full price- that the plague may be averted from the people." Then Ornan said to David, "Take it; and let my lord the king do what seems good to him; see, I give the oxen for burnt offerings, and the threshing sledges for the wood, and the wheat for a cereal offering. I give it all.

Any other ordinary man would have accepted that. Many pastors would say thank you. And then they share their testimony how God provided. But David was different. All of us have a public life and a private life. Our private life must be consistent with our public life. There is something in the heart of David that is different from other people. I want you to know that there are millions of people all over the earth worshipping God. If you know how to touch the heart of God you will make a difference. There is something about the sacrifice of worship that God bypass the millions of people and come to you. Jesus said to the woman in the well at the gospel of John chapter 4 and says that the Father seeks those who worship Him in spirit and in truth. Those who really know to worship God, God will bypass the millions of people and come to you.

I want to share with you the secret of David's worship in God. There was something different about David's life. There was something different in his heart. David doesn't take his relationship with God lightly. When he did anything for God he doesn't do it the same way that he will do it for anybody else. You can see David rejoicing when the ark was coming in. David had many happy moments. David didn't rejoice when he conquered Jerusalem. He didn't rejoice in that way. He didn't rejoice when he became king of Israel. He didn't rejoice in the same way when he conquered all his enemies. But when the ark of God enters Jerusalem David was dancing and leaping like a mad man. Some of his closest folks didn't understand David. There was something different about his life. He knew how to touch the heart of God.

Now this David said to Ornan and said I appreciate all that you have done. But Ornan this is for God. In verse 24 But King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will buy it for the full price; I will not take for the Lord what is yours, nor offer burnt offerings which cost me nothing. I don't even want a discount. I want to make sure that it costs me something to worship God. When I worship God I want God to know that this is how much I love Him. I don't want a discounted worship. I want God to know that when it comes to Him I am willing to pay a full price. It must cost me something to worship God. He knew the secret of touching the heart of God.

Turn over to the New Testament and I will show you some areas, which bring great incense and worship to God. Philip. 4:15-19 And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving except you only; for even in Thessalonica you sent me help once and again. Not that I seek the gift; but I seek the fruit which increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more; I am filled, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent me, a fragrant offering a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

God began to show me what it means by Hebrews 11:6 He says that kind of faith that they exercise cost them something. Faith that doesn't cost you anything doesn't require faith. It costs them some sacrifice and worship and love for God. When we look at this offering of the Philippians we don't get the full picture yet. We see the aroma and the things that please God.

Let me give you another picture, another angle of the same group of people called the Philippians. And why there is such powerful incense that goes to God. Turn to II Cor. 8. Remember that the Macedonians are the same group of people as the Philippians. II Cor. 8:1-2 We want you to know, brethren, about the grace of God which has been shown in the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty. Do you know that for the Philippians to give it hurts? They don't have much. They were not a very rich people. And of all people they were the people who constantly gave to the apostle Paul. And Paul says it was a sweet incense to God. You know why? It was a sacrifice of love in worship to God.

Cho Yonggi who has a congregation of 800,000, was sharing how he built his large church building. The church went into some difficulties. They didn't have enough finances and everything was so tight. They have given their house and they have moved into the uncompleted apartment next to the church. Then something happened in his church as he held on persistently to God. One Sunday after the service one very poor woman went to the front and she said, "Pastor I know what is in your heart to do

something for God.” And she gave her little bowl and a chopstick as an offering to God. Cho Yonggi knows she was a very poor woman. He said, “What are you going to eat with?” And the lady said, “I can eat out of cardboard.” Then one businessman who was sitting there saw it. He said, “I give five hundred dollars (or five thousand, I can’t remember the exact amount,) for that bowl. Because of that one incident all the church people began to start giving sacrificially to the Lord. That one little woman brought a breakthrough to the church. I am sure that woman is going to receive a very great reward in heaven. No matter how small you are if you learn how to sacrifice a sacrifice of worship you can do something great in God.

I was once talking with a pastor about his building plan. As we were talking about sacrifice of praise and worship, I said some of the greatest givers are not very rich people. Then I remembered 2 times in my life when I cried when I was given an offering. One was when I first started in the ministry and that was in 1981. We were just starting off and we didn’t have much. And there was a lady whom I know she was not too well off. And she came one day to one of our little home fellowships and she gave an envelope. And she said the Lord told me to give this. I opened it and inside I found one thousand dollars. At that time I have never received an offering as big as that. I knew she didn’t have much. She didn’t know it but that night I went to the Lord and I cried. I said God there are so many people in the world that you could use. Why of all people you choose a little woman who loves you and gives so sacrificially. Even when I was shared that incident with another pastor I still cried.

Just a few weeks ago something like that happened again. I was standing at the back and I was shaking hands with people. One of the sisters came to me and said, “Pastor I want you to know how much you have changed my life and I ask God what can I do and God told me to do this.” And she handed me a little envelope. And I know she didn’t have much. When I went back I opened the envelope and I found a thousand dollars. I said, “Lord I know this sister to a certain extend although I don’t know her that well. I know her income she don’t have much. For her to save a thousand dollars takes some time. I knew what a sacrifice that was to her.” You can feel how touching it is when people sacrifice because of their love. The Lord spoke to me and said, “Son do you know what it means to Me when those who love Me sacrifice because they love Me.”

In the gospel of Luke 7:36-38 One of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him, and He went into the Pharisee’s house, and sat at table. And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that He was sitting at table in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head, and kissed His feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

This woman loved Jesus so much. When you see some people worship the Lord because they loved Him don’t judge because you don’t understand what is going on in their heart,. Sometimes you see somebody else worshipping in their own way in their own heart. They are doing what they know best to worship God and it is from their heart, don’t judge. As long as it is love for Jesus and it is not something unscriptural leave them alone. It may be touching to God.

Verse 39-46 The Pharisee who had invited Him saw this he spoke to himself saying this man if He were as prophet would know who and what manner of woman this is

who is touching Him for she is a sinner. And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "What is it Teacher?" "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denari, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he forgave them both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, to whom he forgave more." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house, you gave me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave Me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss My feet. You did not anoint My head with oil, but she has anointed My feet with ointment.

No ordinary person would do that. But something was going on in the heart of this woman. She knew that Jesus had forgiven her sins. Jesus touched her and she wants to tell Jesus that she loved Him. I don't think that she could have been a rich woman. She may have taken all her savings and bought one bottle of perfume. People don't understand but that was her way of loving the Lord. When she saw Jesus she loved Him so much, she kept kissing His feet and kept on crying. Washing His feet with her tears, using her hair. Do you know the people around Jesus were disgusted? But this woman loved Him. It was a sacrifice. We must be careful when we tread on somebody else's love relationship with Jesus.

In my church there is a man who love to dance and worship before God. One day the Lord began to speak to me and said, "Son I wish you could do that like him." I said, "Lord it is not my character. I am not jumpy like him." That Sunday I went back and God continued to talk to me and said, "You know my servant David did that too." I said, "Lord I will do it but let me first tell my congregation so that they understand." I told my congregation and said when you see that happening that is not my personality. However since God deals with my life, I as a pastor am willing to yield. I am willing to give up my self-consciousness I am willing to give up my dignity I am willing to give up what people think of me and just let go. Just 3 weeks and the Lord began to do something that He has never done before. The Lord began to show a new presence that I never felt before in my private life. And the Lord said, "Son I want you to know that I love you for loving me that much." And something changed on my inside I could feel it. It is good to worship God in whatever way that cost you something. It is something precious to God.

Turn to the book of Numbers 16. Moses knew that the incense was precious to God. And one day trouble happened in the wilderness and the plague started among the people. People started dying like flies. Verse 41-45 But on the morrow all the congregation of the people of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron, saying, "You have killed the people of the Lord," And when the congregation had assembled against Moses and against Aaron, they turned toward the tent of meeting; and behold, the cloud cover it, and the glory of the Lord appeared. And Moses and Aaron came to the front of the tent of meeting and the Lord said to Moses, "Get away from the midst of this congregation, that I consume them in a moment."

And God's judgment started falling. Do you know that all prophecies of judgment can be conditional although the conditions may not be mentioned? When Jonah was told Nineveh should be destroyed, God never gave them a chance. But when Nineveh repented, amazingly the judgment was cancelled. God told Elijah to tell Ahab judgment is coming on him because he murdered Naboth and took over his vineyard.

Ahab was such a wicked man but when he humbled himself the Lord said because he humbled himself it will not come in his days.

Here judgment was coming but Moses knew how to touch God's heart. God didn't tell him to do this. This was something not initiated by God. This was something that Moses understood the meaning and he applied it to the situation he was facing. He knew how special the incense is to God. And Moses of his own initiative when he saw the plague he knew everybody would die if he don't do anything. And Moses said to Aaron take a censer put fire in it from the altar and put incense on it. Take it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them. The wrath has gone out from the Lord the plague has begun. Then Aaron took it as Moses had commanded. He ran into their midst. He has to run as quickly as possible because every second people are dying. When God saw the incense He was touched.

Look at what happened in verse 48 he stood between the dead and the living. Everybody in front of him died but everybody behind who were covered behind the incense lived. That incense was special. I want you to know that the sacrifice of worship is special to God. And I know that as God deals in my life God will do in your life in different ways. I ask you a few questions tonight. When was the last time that it cost you something to show your love for God? I pray that it is not too far away. May we be sensitive in the times that we are living in that God is seeking for worshippers of God. And there may be different ways that we show our love for God. May I ask you tonight what does it cost you to love Jesus? Do you know that it cost Jesus His entire life in order to love us? Eph. 5:1-2 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for fragrant offering, a sacrifice and us to God. Many times Jesus gives all out of love for God - it was a sacrifice of love. Many times God said, "This is my Son in whom I am well pleased." Can God say that of your life?