

## ***The Vow That Changed History (Ps. 132:1-5)***

### **I. A DWELLING PLACE FOR THE FULLNESS OF GOD’S MANIFEST PRESENCE**

- A. As a young man, David made a vow to dedicate his life to find a resting place or dwelling place for God. This refers to a place where an unusual measure of God’s presence is manifest on earth.
- <sup>1</sup>LORD, remember David and all his afflictions; <sup>2</sup>How he...vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob: <sup>3</sup>“Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, or go up to the comfort of my bed; <sup>4</sup>I will not give sleep to my eyes...<sup>5</sup>Until I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.” <sup>6</sup>Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah [Bethlehem]; we found it in the fields... <sup>8</sup>Arise, O LORD, to Your resting place... (Ps 132:1–8)*
- B. David’s life work was to establish a dwelling place for God in his generation. He prayed for Jerusalem to be a city where God’s manifest presence would be released in an unusual way for an extended period of time. The result is that many people love and obey God with all of their heart and experience His power in the fullness of what God ordained for that season of history.
- C. This vow is at the heart of the end-time revival and prayer movement. Dedicated believers throughout history have embraced the spirit of this vow. The Psalmist used two terms for the same reality—a dwelling place (v. 5) or a resting place (v. 8, 14) of God’s manifest presence.
- D. God seeks a resting place on earth where His will is done as in heaven. The Spirit strives with those who resist His leadership (Gen. 6:3; Ps. 132:5, 8, 14; Isa. 11:10; 18:4-7; 63:10; Zech. 6:8).
- <sup>3</sup>The LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever...(Gen. 6:3).*
- <sup>10</sup>The Gentiles shall seek Him [Jesus], and His resting place shall be glorious. (Isa. 11:10)*
- <sup>8</sup>Arise, O LORD, to Your resting place...<sup>14</sup> This is My resting place forever... (Ps. 132:8, 14)*
- E. There are varying measures of His manifest presence—partial, substantial, and ultimate.
1. **Partial measure:** God manifests His presence through the entire body of Christ in a general way. God dwells in us as individuals (1 Cor. 6:19) and corporately (Eph. 2:18-22; 2 Cor. 6:14-18). This is a down payment of more in the age-to-come.
- <sup>13</sup>...the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee [down payment] of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession... (Eph. 1:13-14).*
2. **Substantial measure:** God will manifest Himself in His people through the nations in the millennial kingdom in a substantial measure when Jesus sits on His throne in Jerusalem.
- <sup>14</sup>For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD... (Hab 2:14)*
3. **Ultimate measure:** God will fully manifest Himself in and through His people in all the nations after the Millennium when His throne comes to earth.
- <sup>3</sup>Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them... (Rev. 21:3)*

## II. CONTENDING TO EXPERIENCE THE FULLNESS OF THE SPIRIT

- A. Paul's dramatic declaration that we have become a new creation in Christ, with all things becoming new, has vast implications. The "he" that is a new creation is our born-again spirit. All things pertaining to our spirit have become new. Our spirit was instantly made righteous.  
*<sup>17</sup>If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away...all things have become new...<sup>21</sup>that we [our spirit] might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor. 5:17-21)*
- B. Old things have passed away: We were under condemnation before God and powerless with regard to sin. We were under darkness, lacking ability to understand God and His Word, etc.
- C. All things have become new: We are fully accepted by God. We have the authority of Jesus' name and the indwelling Spirit, which enable us to effectively resist sin, sickness, and Satan.
- D. Legal position: This speaks of how God sees us and relates to us in Christ and of the benefits that He has given us because of what Jesus did *for us on the cross* and what the Spirit did *in our spirit*. At the new birth, our spirit is joined to the Spirit (1 Cor. 6:17). We have the fullness of grace in our spirit and full access to God's presence as a free gift.
- E. Living condition: This speaks of how we live—how much grace we experience as our mind and emotions are renewed by interacting with the Spirit. We can have the fullness of grace in our legal position (our spirit), and yet live in defeat in our living condition (our mind and emotions).
- F. What Jesus freely and instantly worked for us on the cross is what He progressively works in us as we relate to the Spirit's leadership in our life—referred to as abiding in Christ (Jn. 15:4-5).
- G. The gospel is the good news of salvation, of receiving God's righteousness in three tenses. Much of the misunderstanding about grace can be traced back to misunderstanding these truths. One third of our salvation is complete (the salvation of our spirit); the other two parts are not.
1. Justification: *our legal position*—we instantly received the fullness of God in our spirit
  2. Sanctification: *our living condition*—we progressively walk in a greater measure in our soul.
  3. Glorification: *our eternal exaltation*—we will experience the fullness of grace in our body.

## III. REVIVAL: A GREAT MEASURE OF THE SPIRIT'S MANIFEST PRESENCE

- A. The fullness of the Spirit will be manifest in the end-time Church (Eph. 5:27; Rev. 19:7).  
*<sup>27</sup>...that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (Eph. 5:27)*  
*<sup>7</sup>...for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. (Rev. 19:7)*
- B. Imagine, places where God's people will live under the leadership of the Spirit and who together experience an unusual measure of His power and manifest presence on a regular basis. Where communities of believers walk in the fear of the Lord with the first commandment in first place in their lives and see demonstrations of God's power so that many come to know the Lord in a deep way.

- C. The first New Testament revival was in Jerusalem.  
*<sup>2</sup>Suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. (Acts 2:1-3)*
- D. The Lord promised to send seasons of revival or times of refreshing from His presence.  
*<sup>19</sup>Repent...so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, <sup>20</sup>and that He may send Jesus Christ...<sup>21</sup>whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets... (Acts 3:19–21)*
- E. God’s power was manifest in an unusual measure in the First and Second Great Awakenings in America. There are examples of those whom the Lord anointed to preach with great conviction and/or with miracles like Jonathan Edwards, John Wesley, Charles Finney and John G. Lake, etc.
1. **Power**: John G. Lake and Charles Finney  
*<sup>10</sup>And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus.... <sup>20</sup>So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed. (Ac 19:10–20)*
  2. **Godliness**: the Church walking in unity, love, humility, and purity, etc.
  3. **Wisdom**: the Church receiving a great measure of revelation of God, fully mobilized in the New Testament order and ways (Eph. 4:11-16) with a forerunner spirit preparing others for the unique dynamics of the generation in which the Lord returns.
- F. The Holy Spirit will raise up “catalytic communities and messengers” who will stir others to join them in contending for the fullness of all that God intended to release in their generation.
- G. They will have “breakthrough theology” (legal position and living condition) backed up by a “breakthrough lifestyle.” One distinctive issue will be that of contending for fullness instead of living comfortable and content with experiencing an introductory measure of the Holy Spirit.
- H. God offers greater measures of grace for those who seek for it with all of their heart. We do not earn a greater measure but we position ourselves to freely receive it.  
*<sup>6</sup>He gives a greater grace...God...gives grace to the humble... (Jas 4:6, NAS)*  
*<sup>2</sup>Grace...be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God...<sup>18</sup>grow in grace... (2 Pet. 3:2, 18)*  
*<sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. (Mt. 5:6)*
- I. I am contending in prayer for whole cities to experience the manifest glory of God where large numbers are saved and then walk in the fear of God and obedient love for Jesus; where the Spirit establishes the first commandment in first place; where every believer operates in the gifts of the Spirit; where churches walk out kingdom community life, and where missionaries are thrust to the nations so that the glory and fame of Jesus is known in every tribe and every tongue.

#### IV. DAVID'S SACRED VOW

<sup>1</sup>LORD, remember David and all his afflictions; <sup>2</sup>How he...vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob: <sup>3</sup>“Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, or go up to the comfort of my bed; <sup>4</sup>I will not give sleep to my eyes...<sup>5</sup>Until I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.” <sup>6</sup>Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah [Bethlehem]; we found it in the fields... <sup>8</sup>Arise, O LORD, to Your resting place... (Ps 132:1–8)

- A. **David's house, bed and sleep:** He vowed to live in extravagant devotion to seek the Lord with all his resources (time, talents, and treasures). His vow included spending time in God's house (Ps. 27:4), fasting (Ps. 69:7-12), extravagant giving of his money to the kingdom (1 Chr. 22:14), and embracing God's order in worship and more.
- B. David had a higher priority than only building his own house and ministry and calling. His heart was gripped with something bigger than his personal comfort, family, ministry, and finances.
- C. David's vow was never recorded in Scripture, but it was well known to those who knew David. Psalm 69 records the heart cry of David's lifestyle in his own words. He bore reproach because of his zeal to establish God's house or resting place (dwelling place) among His people.
- <sup>7</sup>For Your sake I have borne reproach; shame has covered my face. <sup>8</sup>I have become a stranger to my brothers, and an alien to my mother's children; <sup>9</sup>Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me. <sup>10</sup>When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting that became my reproach... <sup>11</sup>I became a byword to them. <sup>12</sup>Those who sit in the gate speak against me, and I am the song of the drunkards. (Ps. 69:7-12)
- D. After David's death, God told Solomon that his father did well in seeking to build His house
- <sup>8</sup>The LORD said to my [Solomon] father David, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well in that it was in your heart. (2 Chr. 6:8)
- E. This vow changed history and continues today in those who embrace it. It is at the heart of the end-time worship movement. May the Lord raise up a million believers who walk out this vow.
- F. Find what God is doing in your generation and then throw yourself into it with all your strength.
- G. Does David's vow and vision for a dwelling place for God's presence stir your heart?
- <sup>1</sup>“Where is the place of My rest? <sup>2</sup>...On this one will I look: on him who is poor [poor in spirit] and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.” (Isa. 66:1-2)

#### V. QUESTIONS FOR SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSION (i.e., FCF FRIENDSHIP GROUPS)

1. Which point in this session would you like more understanding of?
2. Which point most inspired or challenged you? Why? What will you do differently to apply it?
3. Which point do you want to impart to a younger believer? Why? How will you elaborate on it?
4. What is one point in this session that needs to be emphasized to the larger Body of Christ? Why?