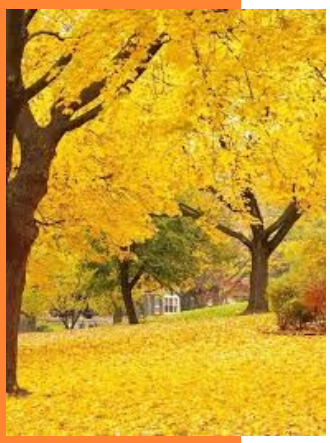
FORTRESS OF JOY CHURCH

October 2017

Is God Welcome?



In the last several years God has moved into a church or ministry somewhere in the world. I'm thinking of Brownsville and Toronto where the saints there had a move of the Spirit. I am happy for the brethren in those places but I want God to move in my place.

Exodus 3:7 The Lord said, I have seen the afflictions of My people in Egypt and I have heard their cry.

When God made a covenant with Abram, He told him that his descendants would be in bondage for four-hundred and thirty years. Why was Israel in bondage for four-hundred and thirty years? They accepted their plight and because they did, they did not cry out to God until they had enough. I am convinced that if they wouldn't have begun to cry out, God would not have sent Moses. I don't know how long they wailed but their cry moved the hand of God, they had a move of the Spirit .

Acts 12:5 Peter was locked away in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

King Herod intended to kill Peter just as he killed James. Peter's church family were committed to pray for him. I believe they prayed in the Holy Ghost. An angel was sent of the Lord to bail Peter out of the prison. When Peter was set free he went to his own company, his church family. They could not believe at first that Peter was free. What were they praying for? Thank God for the Holy Ghost that knows what we should pray for as we ought. Peter and his homies had a move of the Spirit because they prayed until He moved!

Luke 11:1 The disciples came to Jesus and said to Him, Lord teach us to pray as John also taught his disciples.

I have been reading this Scripture for years and I cannot find anywhere in the Bible where we see John teaching his disciples to pray. I have no doubt he taught them, it's just not recorded. If we key in on this part of the verse we will miss out on what God wants us to learn. Why did the disciples want Jesus to teach them about prayer? Because they watched Him pray and they watched the Father answer His prayers, now this we can find all through the Gospels. Jesus has taught all of us to pray. Jesus gave all of us the principle of success for prayer, if we will adopt this law our prayers will avail much.

Ephesians 6:17-18 Take the Word of God praying always with all prayer.

The more of God's Word you know the greater your prayer life. Some of the "stuff" some Christians pray is absolutely worthless, God has nothing to work with. Some folks don't pray, they tell God a story just to take up some time. Jesus said not to think your prayers are effective just because you pray a long time. Usually when you pray a long time you will step over to vain repetition. Prayer is a good thing but you gotta know what you're talking about.

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Moving the Hand of God

If we are to have a move of God we must be willing to pray without ceasing until God shows up.

God does not just show up without an invitation, if He did men might not recognize Him. We must know what moves the hand of God or we will come up with a bunch of silly formulas. When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, He began by saying "Our Father who art in heaven". This prayer is commonly known as the Lord's prayer but the truth is, it is the disciples prayer. Jesus taught them the prayer but Christians read only that portion of what He taught. Let's continue to read what He further said.

Luke 11:9-10 So I say ask and keep on asking, and it will be given you; seek and keep on seeking, and you will find; knock and keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who keeps on asking receives; and he who keeps on seeking finds, and he who keeps knocking, the door will be opened.

If you rightly discern the Word of God you will come to understand that He wants us to be persistent, just like Israel crying out to God to be delivered from bondage. And Peter's church family praying all night and receiving him a free man. If we are to have a move of God we must be willing to pray without ceasing until God shows up. One or two prayers won't get it done, we must commit to prayer until we have His face in our midst. This is not my idea or another man's, this is how God wants us to be towards Him.

Luke 11:13 How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask and continue to ask.

The Holy Spirit is more than speaking in tongues, He is the manifestation of God's will. That's why it's called a move of the Spirit, He comes to fulfill God's will. It was the Holy Spirit that led God's people out of Egypt, it was the Spirit that split the sea. There is more to the Holy Spirit than what meets the eye but we won't know until we ask. If you want to know what the Lord prayed, read John chapter seventeen.

John 17:1, 18 Jesus lifted His eye to heaven and began to pray. Father as you have sent Me into the world, even so I have also sent My disciples into the world.

When you read His prayer you will find that He prayed for His eleven disciples and all of us who believe what He taught His disciples. For years I searched for how He sent His disciples into the world and just recently the Lord showed me. As the Father sent Jesus, Jesus has sent us.

Acts 10:38 God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him.

Jesus anointed us with the Holy Spirit so we could go about doing good and healing **ALL** who are oppressed of the devil. As God was with Jesus, He is with us.

There is Much More

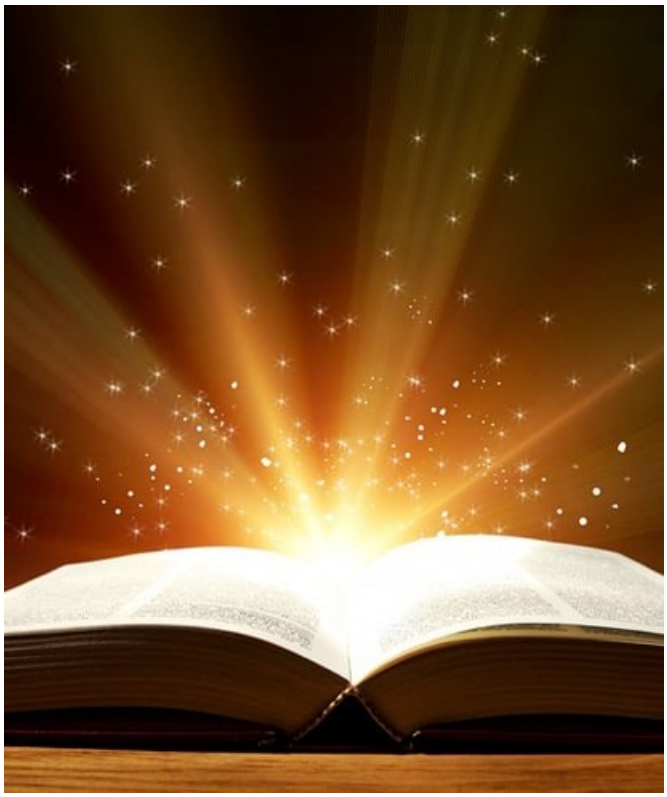
From the day Adam sinned and lost everything God gave him we have been in the process of restoration. God wants us to have everything He gave to Adam but we have been taking what we can get. The Lord said through the prophet Isaiah that His people were not confessing restoration. (Isaiah 42:22) God has more for us than what we have because we have been looking with our natural eye and not the eye of our spirit. God spoke through the prophet Joel and told us what we could have and how to have it.

Acts 2:16,18 This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel. On My servant and on My handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit and they shall prophecy.

The servants and handmaidens in this text are referring to those Christians who have made Jesus Lord of their lives. He goes on to say He will pour out His Spirit in those days. What are those days? The days He can get His people to speak what He wants in the earth. The Holy Spirit has been poured out of heaven, He is talking about the Holy Spirit being poured out of His servants and handmaidens. These are men and women He has entrusted with speaking His will and intention into the earth.

Acts 2:19 And I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath.

When God's servants and handmaidens prophecy He will confirm their word with signs and wonders. We can't just wait for something to happen, we must speak out what God wants to accomplish. Every prophecy I have read concerning God's plans for us this day have made reference to the prayers of the people. If we will commit to pray for a move of the Spirit and we don't faint, we will see the hand of God.



Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Everyone of this present world will be made aware of God's glory, they may not believe it but they will know of it. The knowledge of His glory is not yet known over the whole world so we know there is more to come. God needs someone He can pour out His glory upon, someone who He can entrust His Spirit to. No church or ministry that compromises God's Word will see the glory, they will have knowledge of it but not be partakers. The glory of God once filled the temple of Israel until they compromised and then it lifted.

Ephesians 5:27 Jesus desires to present to Himself a glorious church, without having spot, wrinkle or any such thing.

A glorious church is one that is full of the glory, this is the church He is returning for, not a compromising church. The glory here is the work of the Spirit, it is the healing and deliverance of the people. This is where you will find the servants and handmaidens, where God confirms their words with signs and wonders. There is much more and we can pray for the move that God wants us to have.

When God's servants and handmaidens prophecy He will confirm their word with signs and wonders.

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The Magnification Principle

Every day of the world attention, in one form or another, is given to the sodomites and lesbians. They are hailed and honored for their courage to openly proclaim their sin. They have come out and declared their lifestyle the new norm! What percentage of the world do you reckon is homosexual? It's less than one percent but their lifestyle is magnified throughout the world by the sympathetic straight population.

1 Timothy 5:22 Do not be a partaker of other men's sins.

The word partaker means to partner with. A good number of folks will be judged as sodomites having never engaged in the actual act of it. Thieves, murderers and wine bibbers know they are sinning but the sodomites are being told they have no sin because it's based on love.

Acts 19:17 Paul did special miracles and the Name of the Lord was magnified.

A few believers worked the miracles of Christ and the Name of Jesus was heard over the entire region. The devil has no originality, he counterfeits what Jesus has done. Just as the works of Christ were magnified, so the sins of the devil's seed are magnified. Homosex is the world's sacred cow and they are very protective of their idol. We must continue to magnify the Name of our Lord Jesus in the hope that some would change gods.