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This month's article focuses on a present day manifestation of Jesus as He really is. We are instructed to seek after Jesus ... and to those seriously in search of His Presence will come the recognition of His appearing in the earth today.

JESUS AS HE IS.

We seek God—it has happily become our life pursuit. Yet in our earnest quest for more of God, have we settled on restoring an old copy or shadow of past manifestation and missed the more excellent ministry of His present purpose? Do we see God's presence or are we limited to investigating the telltale signs of where He has been—only hearing He was over there but never catching up with Him or experiencing being in Him?

Seeking the face of God allows us to function in what He is doing in the earth today rather than just recognizing what He has already done in the past. Today is the only dimension that we have possibility and opportunity for ministry. Moses sought the face of God in the Wilderness and saw with God's perspective and purpose. The success of Moses' ministry was dependent on being in God's presence and duplicating what he saw.

The children of Israel had a relationship with God through Moses. *God made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.* Moses saw the pattern of the heavenly Tabernacle in the face of God while most of Israel only saw its demonstration in the earthly Tabernacle. Moses had a relationship with God. He knew how to reason with Him because he knew His nature and character—therefore God listened to Moses.

The relationship Moses had with God was very personal—God spoke to him face-to-face. In reference to His relationship the Lord speaks, "*Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house. I speak with him face-to-face, even plainly, and not in dark sayings; and he sees the form of the Lord.*" Moses completely understood what God was speaking and showing him word for word and actually saw the embodiment and manifestation of the Lord.

The Tabernacle was made according to the heavenly pattern. It was the Kingdom of heaven illustrated in the earth. God spoke to Moses from above the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Testimony. The golden candlestick was the light in the Holy Place but God was the only Light in the Holy of Holies. *For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.* If His light is shining in our hearts, then the veil has been rent in us as well and we not only behold the face of Jesus but His Light manifests again in the earth through us. Just as God spoke above the Ark of the Testimony and the Mercy Seat to Moses, He speaks to us through Jesus Christ—the Testimony of God and the Mercy of God.

In the Tabernacle of Moses, the Shewbread or ‘Bread of His Presence’ was a physical manifestation of God. If we seek the face of God, we will find Him in His Word. In the New Testament the face of God was physically manifested in the fleshly form of the man Jesus—the Bread of Life and Ever Present Word—who is *the brightness of His glory and express image of His person, upholding all things by the Word of His power.*

The Lord is Ever Present in His people. We may see through a glass dimly but as the light shines brighter onto the perfect and completed day, we see face-to-face, knowing Him intimately—nothing hidden. *For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face-to-face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.* We are seeing the reflection of spiritual things and interpreting enigmas and riddles through the ‘like/as’ principle—invisible things represented by visible ... spiritual by natural ... and eternal by temporal. In the manifestation of the Kingdom *we see Him as He is* because we are dwelling in the same spiritual dimension—not in a similitude, but face-to-face.

The Lord God spoke to King David and commanded him to seek His face. David responds, ‘*When You said, “Seek My face,” my heart said to You, “Your face, Lord, I will seek. Do not hide your face from me.*’ David desperately wanted to see the face of God. In his search, he learned that it was more than the conscious eye observing God’s hand in the earth but rather a heartfelt awareness in the face of God’s present purpose.

King David longed to have the Ark, the Presence of God returned to Israel to dwell with him in Jerusalem instead of Shiloh where it had been. In his initial attempt to bring the Ark of God back to Jerusalem he expected God’s help in the great undertaking because he was doing a good thing. David had not sought the face of God though and relied on a priestly plan that had sounded good to him. David’s ignorance of the proper order for bringing God back to Israel brought disaster.

We often fail miserably because we anticipate God moving powerfully on our behalf without doing our homework to know His ways. David’s objective for the rest of his life was to first seek God’s presence. David learned to seek God’s face by searching the scripture. He discovered the proper order and procedure for returning the Ark.

In seeking the Lord’s face, David desires to build a house for God’s Presence, a resting place for the Ark of God. A heart that seeks after the presence of God will

acquire the heart and purpose of God. God testifies, *“I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.”* David earnestly searched the face of God and saw what God was seeing, a House—uncovering the blueprints for the Temple.

The Tabernacle of David is a third dimensional type. David’s Tabernacle manifests the connection of the soul and spirit of man as one. Jesus rent the veil that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies ... and a veil is lifted in us as well if the Tabernacle of David is established in our hearts. There was a span of years that the Tabernacle of David (with the Ark of God) was set up in Jerusalem while the Tabernacle of Moses (without the Ark) was still in operation at Shiloh. Both Tabernacles existed at the same time, indicative of the old church system and the risen Body of Christ standing side-by-side in our present transitional day of the Kingdom.

Today, visionaries are on the forefront of God’s purpose because they seek His Presence. If God is moving, they see it ... and because they seek His face, they also speak what is about to happen in our present time. Visionaries see the divine objective of God in heaven and speak it as direction for the chosen of the Lord in the earth. These are great leaders who see a present word of truth in the face of God. Visionaries operate in the realm of the prophetic and speak God’s Present Word of truth to His people—giving voice to God’s thoughts (things only heard in the secret places of the Almighty).

Just as David knew, *“unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain that build it,”* we likewise do not prosper unless it is ordained by God. Therefore if we ask God to bless what we are doing—our personal agendas, etc., we must remember that our success must first be written in heaven. Otherwise we are laboring in vain to bring the Presence of God back to our Churches and His power back to our ministry and fail to comprehend His bigger picture—God manifesting in His Kingdom. The Kingdom of Heaven has come to earth in Jesus. Everything we do fits into His larger plan of Kingdom Purpose.

Abraham sought *a city, which had foundations whose Builder and Maker was God ...* Moses was *divinely instructed to make all things according to the pattern shown* in the heavens and built a Tabernacle in the Wilderness ... David discovered the design for the Temple in the face of God ... and the Son of David, who was in the bosom of His heavenly Father prophetically says, *“If you destroy this temple, in three days I will raise it up.”*—predicting the risen Body of Christ, the New Jerusalem, and the Kingdom of God. We are living in the light of the third day and the restoration of all things back to His Kingdom.

God was in the Tabernacle in the Wilderness. He preserved the living oracles ... kept the heavenly seed alive ... and in our day manifests the glory of the hidden designs (the blueprints for the House of God) in the risen Body of Christ. He sketched His new prototype in the heavens and it is not only a roadmap of the City Church but also a blueprint for those desiring the manifestation of the Kingdom of heaven on earth.

The Son of David speaks a command to us, saying, “*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*” Jesus commands us in our dispensation to seek God first in His Kingdom. We are not waiting for Jesus to return—He is already here! He is waiting for us! “*They without us could not be made perfect,*” complete.

Jesus was first found working in His Father’s House but now He is found in His restored Kingdom. Those who recognize Him at His appearing, discern the Lord’s Body in the earth—seeing the manifestation of the Body of Christ in the Kingdom of God. In the Old Testament holy men sought the face of God in His Tabernacle but in the New Testament Jesus has come and dwells in our hearts and collectively in His Body. If we are seeking His presence then we see that the Kingdom of God has already come. If we desire to see Jesus, the manifestation of the heavenly Tabernacle, then we seek His new form—the Kingdom of God in the earth.

God’s presence is in His Kingdom. If we want to do the works of God then we must be with Him in His Kingdom as His Word manifests. Only those moving in the present realm of truth will minister in His Kingdom. We need to develop a Kingdom mentality, viewing the plan of God for the Body of Christ at large and not limiting Him to single portion ministries. Jesus desires to be remembered—‘put back together again’ in His Kingdom on earth as it already is in heaven.

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