

### 3. Up close and personal

May 17, 2012

Any devout Christian would agree with me. If there is one thing they would like to have spiritually, it would be up close and personal relationship with the Lord. Wouldn't you? Out of all the biblical characters, there is no one, with the exception of Jesus, who had more up close and personal relationship with God than king David.

*Psalm 27:4 One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord, And to inquire in His temple.*

Even at his young age as a shepherd boy, while he was taking care of his daddy's sheep, he often played his harp and sang his praise and worship psalms from his heart to the Lord in the wilderness. And as we learn from the Book of Psalms, we see many, many psalms that were written by him. This man knew how to express his love for the Lord in words like no other. It is no wonder why he was known as Sweet Psalmist of Israel.

Right after he and his people in the City of David, Jerusalem, brought the Ark of God into the city, his heart was overwhelmed with gratitude and thanksgiving and wrote the psalm which we are going to study briefly. Then, his heart went to another direction. The Lord didn't want him to go there yet. But because his heart was pure, the Lord gently redirected his heart to the right place.

#### A. GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD

*1 Chronicles 16:8-13 Oh, (1) give thanks to the Lord! (2) Call upon His name; (3) Make known His deeds among the peoples! 9 (4) Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; (5) Talk of all His wondrous works! 10 (6) Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the Lord! 11 (7) Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face evermore! 12 (8) Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth, 13 O seed of Israel His servant, You children of Jacob, His chosen ones!*

David listed eight ways to praise and glorify the Lord in this short paragraph. Remember, all the good that we enjoy comes from the Lord.

Why did David remind us to give thanks to the Lord's greatness in eight different ways? Because most of us forget it. We will talk about doctrines, about sermons, about church government, ministries, missions, and etc. I am not saying that they are useless and not important, but they are peripheral issues to compare to realizing and acknowledging the greatness of our God.

I strongly believe that if we can remember who He is and who we are all the time, we would not have one bit of problem being obedient to Him. Our disobedient heart raises its ugly head from not remembering who our God is.

If you ever have come across some Faith Movement so-called Bible teachers on Christian TV programs, you might have heard this phrase, "Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm," to use against those who challenge their unbiblical theologies. Of course, they were quoting from KJV of 1 Chronicles 16:22 out of context.

*1 Chronicles 16:22 Saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm."*

I don't consider them God's anointed, because they are heretics who are looking for personal financial gain and boosting up their arrogant ego.

It doesn't surprise us that Jehovah's Witnesses deny that Jesus could take His own life up again. But we are surprised to see Kenneth Copeland, Kenneth Hagin, Fred Price, and the other teachers of the Word of Faith movement teach that Jesus was a helpless victim in hell, saved only by the intervention of God the Father.

Kenneth Copeland brashly pronounced God to be the greatest failure of all time, boldly proclaimed that "Satan conquered Jesus on the Cross" according to his own version of Holy Bible: Kenneth Copeland Reference Edition in 1991 and describes Christ in hell as an "emaciated, poured out, little, wormy spirit" according to what he said on his television program "Believer's Voice of Victory" that was aired by TBN April 21st, 1991.

Yet, despite such statements, his cohort Benny Hinn ominously warned that "those who attack Kenneth Copeland are attacking the very presence of God!" in his TV program that also was aired by TBN June 8th, 1992. Their favorite defensive line is "Touch not God's anointed." There is a Greek word for that: Hogwash.

## **B. IT HAS TO BE FROM GOD**

*1 Chronicles 17:1-14 Now it came to pass, when David was dwelling in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the Lord is under tent curtains." 2 Then Nathan said to David, "Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you." 3 But it happened that night that the word of God came to Nathan, saying, 4 "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: "You shall not build Me a house to dwell in. 5 For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought up Israel, even to this day, but have gone from tent to tent, and from one tabernacle to another. 6 Wherever I have moved about with all Israel, have I ever spoken a word to any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?'"' 7 Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel. 8 And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a name like the name of the great men who are on the earth. 9 Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, 10 since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel. Also I will subdue all your enemies. Furthermore I tell you that the Lord will build you a house. 11 And it shall be, when your days are fulfilled, when you must go to be with your fathers, that I will set up your seed after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom. 12 He shall build Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever. 13 I will be his Father, and he shall be My son; and I will not take My mercy away from him, as I took it from him who was before you. 14 And I will establish him in My house and in My kingdom forever; and his throne shall be established forever.'"*

Chronologically chapter 17 came after the end of the wars mentioned in chapter 18 and it should be dated about 995 B.C.

Since David was sensitive to his God, he was very uncomfortable that he lived in a plush house, yet the Ark of Covenant that represented the presence of God was in a tent. He wanted to do something spectacular for the Lord. His Chief of Staff Nathan said, "Go for it, David." It had to be from God, after all, it is for Him. What could be possibly wrong with David building a temple for God, right? He was not looking for gaining some brownie points from God, he just wanted to show his utmost gratitude to his God.

It is not unusual for us to be excited about a certain thing when we, believers in general, are planning to do something for the glory of the Lord. We talk about it, plan it, and start to work on it. We are so excited and so busy doing the project that we forget to ask the Lord if that is in His will. Actually, we didn't forget, we ASSUME that it is His will since we are doing it for Him with "a pure motive."

Yes, even a purely motivated work for the Lord can be out of His will, out of His time. We need to take everything to the Lord in prayer, no matter how godly it sounds on the surface.

*1 Thessalonians 5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.*

I like what G. Campbell Morgan said for this, "It is of the utmost importance that we should ever test our desires, even the highest and holiest of them, by His will. Work, excellent in itself, should never be undertaken, save at the express command of God. The passing of time will always vindicate the wisdom of the Divine will."

King David wanted to do more than God commanded. This is a wonderful place to be in our relationship with the Lord. Most of us are so stuck in the thinking, "How little can I do, little I pray, little I read the Bible and still please the Lord?" that we never really want to do more than God commands.

Instead of David building God a house, the Lord is going to build His servant a house – a dynasty – that will last for eternity. Until now, there was no son who inherited the kingdom from his father. King Saul committed suicide and his son Jonathan and Saul's other sons were killed in the battle field. David was the second king in Israel. The Lord was promising that his descendants will inherit the kingdom forever.

The family of David did rule over Israel for more than four centuries, but was eventually removed because of evil kings added upon evil kings. After the exile, when there was no independent kingdom of Israel and the throne of David seemed vacant. But the author of 1 Chronicles knew, by faith, that Messiah would indeed come from the seemingly dead line of David and reign forever.

*Isaiah 11:1-2 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.*

### **C. DAVID'S THANKFUL RESPONSE**

*1 Chronicles 17:15-27 According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David. 16 Then King David went in and sat before the Lord; and he said: "Who am I, O Lord God? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far? 17 And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O God; and You have also spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come, and have regarded me according to the rank of a man of high degree,*

O Lord God. 18 What more can David say to You for the honor of Your servant? For You know Your servant. 19 O Lord, for Your servant's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all this greatness, in making known all these great things. 20 O Lord, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. 21 And who is like Your people Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people--to make for Yourself a name by great and awesome deeds, by driving out nations from before Your people whom You redeemed from Egypt? 22 For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, Lord, have become their God. 23 "And now, O Lord, the word which You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house, let it be established forever, and do as You have said. 24 So let it be established, that Your name may be magnified forever, saying, 'The Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, is Israel's God.' And let the house of Your servant David be established before You. 25 For You, O my God, have revealed to Your servant that You will build him a house. Therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray before You. 26 And now, Lord, You are God, and have promised this goodness to Your servant. 27 Now You have been pleased to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; for You have blessed it, O Lord, and it shall be blessed forever."

When David received this spectacular gift, he didn't think it made him any greater. In David's eyes it made God greater. God's giving reflects the greatness of the Giver, not the receiver.

Look at David's reaction to God's refusal – so obedient. Some people who get to hear, "No," from God, boy, watch out, they get bent out of shape. They throw temper tantrum and walk away from the ministries and even God. It only shows that they had an ulterior motive behind the surfaced-godly-motive.

When we read v23-27, we can see that David's prayer was not a passive prayer, nor arrogant prayer that demands from God, rather a bold prayer that shows his utmost trust in God's promise.

This kind of prayer activates God's promise. Just because God promises does not mean that we possess. Through believing prayer like this, God promises and we activate. If we don't activate in faith, God's promise is left unclaimed.

- We may activate His promise for forgiveness.  
*1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
- We may activate His promise for peace.  
*John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*
- We may activate His promise for guidance.  
*Psalm 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.*
- We may activate His promise for growth.  
*Philippians 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*
- We may activate His promise for help.  
*Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

#### ***D. APPLICATIONS***

- 1) All the things in Christianity are peripherals to compare to worshiping and loving God.
- 2) Beware of ideas that sound good and godly right away. Beware of decisions that seem like they don't even really need prayer.
- 3) God's giving reflects the greatness of the Giver, not the receiver.
- 4) If we don't activate in faith, God's promise is left unclaimed.