

Preparing Our Self for His Presence ©

By Asa S. Dockery

Acts 2:1-2 (NKJV): 1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly

After ten days of praying, there came a suddenly. I speak sometimes about how God seems to take His time and then He does a 'suddenly', but what it is, is He waits on us; and once we get into that place we have to move quickly because we are liable to forget what we were doing so He has to do a suddenly. I am beginning to figure His ways out, it takes time but you will if you wait upon Him.

Acts 2:2 (NKJV): And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

In my earlier teachings, (Referring to Can God Trust You with His Glory, and The Righteous Shall Flourish), I spoke about how God had ordained us not to be consumers but to be filled with His presence and His blessings so that we could fill the earth. This is a continuation of that theme which He has given me and He is talking here about the early church and how when they came together there was a birthing which came from prayer. It is birthed out of prayer.

As the people came together and prayed the power of God filled the whole house where they were sitting and it shook the place, and they began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:4 (NKJV): 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Think about this, since the time of Moses they have been sacrificing unto the Lord animals as was specified for various offerings, and now after Jesus has died and has risen, after He has been with them forty days since His resurrection, and now ten days after His ascension, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon man. This is fulfilling Jesus' prayer in which He told them, I am going to pray to the Father and He will send you His Spirit. He will send the Holy Spirit to you and now He has. Now imagine this, after offering up burnt sacrifices of various animals to God for thousands of years, there is this One Supreme Sacrifice which does away with all others.

Jesus Christ, Himself, gave Himself up as a sacrifice for man and God has honored His sacrifice, and has sent to earth the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the early church. And when the presence of the Holy Spirit filled the whole house in which they were sitting it shook the place. Can you imagine this? They have been use to going to dead services, pardon the pun, and now all of a sudden they are praying, and God's presence fills the atmosphere and the fire of God falls upon them and It changes everything. It was like wow!

The Holy Spirit has been speaking to my heart this week about His Holy Presence. I sense that He wants us to begin hungering and praying for His presence to fill us and the atmosphere where we are. This is a good thing, because when God is leading you and me in this direction it means He is setting us up for something. So if He is saying He wants us to hunger after, to become more sensitive to His presence and to become more attracted

to His presence that means He wants to fill that void in us. However that also means we have to create that vacuum for Him to fill, right?

His presence is holy and must be treated with reverence and awe. Let me say that again. His presence is holy and must be treated with respect and awe. We are not coming to a bar. We are coming to the house of the Living God, and there is no telling what God will do when His people humble themselves and pray. Could it be that God is repossessing His house? That is exactly what He is doing. He says I am going to complete the work which I have begun. So He has to wait upon people to come together, to get it together, and become serious about seeking Him and then He can come and repossess His house. But first He is seeking for those who will worship Him with their whole heart in spirit and in truth; because Jesus told us there in John chapter four that the Father seeks such who will worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Somewhere along the way the flesh of believers has gotten between God and His church and has quenched the Holy Spirit. Obviously the word given to us, in the teaching of The Righteous Shall Flourish, was preparation for us to set things back in order and to remove the flesh so that He could give specific instructions now as in how to invite and protect the very presence of God so that He is welcomed in our hearts and environment. When God's presence fills the house it will produce more than goose-bumps.

According to the account here in Acts, His presence shook the whole house where they were sitting and filled them with the Holy Fire of God. It is time for us, for us, - we can talk about the early church all day long, but we need to talk about the latter church which is us, - for us to lay our fleshly ways on the altar and to allow God's fire to consume us so that we can be filled with the holiness of God, and allow the power of God to shake strongholds, nations and kingdoms. It is time and it is imperative! It must happen! There are no ifs, ands and buts about it. We are living in a day and time that all we need is God's presence! His presence will set things in order, will It not?

Before this can take place, we have *to prepare our self for His presence*. God is a consuming fire and we need to have clean hands and pure hearts if we are going to be carriers of His Holy Presence. God has said, and He meant it, no flesh will glory in His' presence and that He will share His glory with no man. We are talking about preparing ourselves for His presence.

Where did we go wrong? Where did man go wrong? He went wrong all the way back in the beginning. Isn't that sad that it had to go wrong at the beginning? Couldn't man have at least gotten a few thousand years under his belt before he blew it? But no, Satan came quickly! What does it say in Revelation 12? And I saw a woman about to give birth, and the enemy was there prepared to devour her child. Satan comes and tries to get things in its infancy stage, before it has the time to grow into a mature state, into its sonship. Having said that let us now go to Genesis, chapter three, verse six.

God has warned Adam and Eve, they did not, however, heed that warning and so we get down to verse six.

Genesis 3:6-8 (NKJV): **6** So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. **7** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. **8** And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God

They hid themselves from what? They hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God. Isn't that sad? Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God.

Genesis 3:8-9 (NKJV): 8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where *are* you?"

Sin had dislocated Adam and Eve from the presence of God. Sin had separated them from the presence of God. They did not realize it until God's presence showed up. Now when they hear the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden and they sense His presence, they begin hiding themselves from His presence. Allow this to get into your spirit.

We heard in the previously referred to teachings how God wants us to walk with Him continuously, so that His presence can bless us. When His presence is on our life, blessings will be attracted to us, right? Yes. Why? ***His presence is life!*** And when life comes upon us, in us, death has to flee. Submit yourself to God, resist the devil and he will flee. So when we get the presence of God, when we honor God's presence and allow His presence to remain on us, death and Satan and his demons have to flee. Jesus didn't worry about the scribes and Pharisees having plots and plans against Him did He? He didn't have to worry about demons coming after Him did He? No, why? He walked in the presence of God. He said the Spirit is upon Me because He has anointed Me. So the life of God was upon Him and He attracted the blessings of His Father, and the blessings of God increased.

So the Lord told us in the teachings The Righteous Shall Flourish, that if we will walk continuously in His word and we will honor His word, so that His presence can bless us to the point that we become a blessing and we fill the earth with His presence and His glory, then He can start doing His will in the earth.

Satan knows what will happen when the presence of God shows up. That is why Satan entered the garden and filled Adam's and Eve's hearts with sin. You ask what does Satan know that we don't know? Satan knows that when the presence of God shows up He gets cast out. He is casted out when God's presence shows up. If you don't believe me, go over to Africa, but don't go unless you are prayed up and fired up. But when you are prayed up and fired up, and you go to Africa, you can start quoting the Twenty-third Psalms or any other scripture and demons will begin to scream out. People will start crawling on the ground. Demons will begin to manifest themselves in the bodies of individuals when the presence of God shows up because demons know they will be cast out. God says I want My presence back in My house; I want to repossess My house, because I am tired of sin and rebellion standing in My Holy Place.

Yet we see in this generation that we are living in that there is no fear for the Lord and no respect for His presence. Sin caused Adam and Eve to hide themselves from the presence of the Lord. I can't get past that. Sin messes with people; it makes them fearful of God's presence.

Allow this to get into your spirit. Why would we be afraid of God's presence when before the fall His presence made us rich and added to sorrow with It? Why would you fear that? Is anyone afraid to go into a bank and deposit a big check? No! So what is it about sin that has made us afraid of God's presence? People are afraid today of God's presence! They don't respect it, but they are afraid of It! It is sin that has done that to us and God says if you will get that sin out of your heart you will no longer be afraid of My presence! In fact, you will invite and welcome My presence because you will see My presence as what It is – your life source, It is a wellspring, and It is your ability to thrive in this fallen world! The enemy has robbed us, and God is saying

humble yourself so I can show you what the enemy has been doing to you, or against you, through your own omission.

The presence of God is a sign that holiness, or at least innocence, dwells in the temple. Did you catch that? The presence of God, when you see the presence of God, it says there is holiness, or at least innocence, which dwells in the temple and It will produce blessings in the earth.

As you can see in scripture sin separated them from God's presence and removed the blessings from their lives, and when the blessings and the Presence leaves, watch what happens. Everything about them and their lives became harder and filled with sorrow. When the Presence of God leaves and everything becomes harder that is a sign that something is wrong. It is laborious, or the scripture in Exodus says it is rigorous. It becomes burdensome; it becomes sorrowful when His presence is removed. Have you been experiencing any of those things? Anguish, anxiety, depression, sorrow of heart, these are the absence of His presence. Why are you cast down oh my soul? Why are you disquieted within me? See when the Presence left, the blessings departed from them because the blessings go with the Presence.

When His presence comes, the blessings come with the Presence. If we will attract, if we will invite the presence of God, then there is no telling what kind of blessings are going to be bestowed upon us! But immediately after they sinned, and they were getting ready to partake of the Tree of Life, the word says God drove them out of the garden. Then the word says God told Adam by the sweat of your face you will eat. And guess what Eve, you will have sorrow in giving birth, you will have desire for your husband and he will rule over you. See these things are the results of the absence of God's presence! Look at all the stuff that is going on in our society in America! It is the results of the absence of God's presence and the absence of God's blessings! Now things are becoming very hard on us, very sorrowful, and there is a lot of weight with it. It is not the weight of glory but rather it is the weight of sin; and it is breaking our backs. We need to get the Presence back!

Here in the book of Exodus, God is setting up the system or the government in place; He is setting up the form of worship into place; He is establishing how they will make atonement for their sins into place; and He is setting up the Levitical priesthood. Now let's look in Exodus 29:35, regarding this.

Exodus 29:35 (NKJV): 35 "Thus you shall do to Aaron and his sons, according to all that I have commanded you. Seven days you shall consecrate them.

Consecrate means to set apart for a purpose. In other words, Aaron and his sons were not going to go out and tend fields or take care of flocks, but they were going to be set apart for one purpose, and that was to serve God in the tabernacle or temple. But before Aaron and his sons could do this they had to be consecrated, set apart from the other people for seven days.

Exodus 29:36 (NKJV): 36 And you shall offer a bull every day as a sin offering for atonement. You shall cleanse the altar when you make atonement for it, and you shall anoint it to sanctify it.

See not only did the priests have to be cleansed, sanctified and set apart but so did the altar and the instruments that were used in the sacrifices.

Exodus 29:36-37 (NKJV): 37 Seven days you shall make atonement for the altar and sanctify it. And the altar shall be most holy. Whatever touches the altar must be holy.

The altar shall be most holy. I wonder what it is like in the churches today.

Exodus 29:38-41 (NKJV): 38 "Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two lambs of the first year, day by day continually. 39 One lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight. 40 With the one lamb shall be one-tenth of an ephah of flour mixed with one-fourth of a hin of pressed oil, and one-fourth of a hin of wine as a drink offering. 41 And the other lamb you shall offer at twilight; and you shall offer with it the grain offering and the drink offering, as in the morning, for a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD.

Aren't you glad we don't have to do church like that anymore?

Exodus 29:42-43 (NKJV): 42 This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet you to speak with you. 43 And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory.

And the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory; it shall be sanctified by My glory, please I want you to pay attention to that. He said the tabernacle shall be sanctified, set apart, distinguished as holy by My glory.

Exodus 29:44-46 (NKJV): 44 So I will consecrate the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. I will also consecrate both Aaron and his sons to minister to Me as priests. 45 I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God. 46 And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.

Now God wanted Aaron and his sons set apart for the Lord's service for seven days as preparation for His presence, for going into or entering into His presence. Do you see how much we have slipped in the church today when God commanded His priests, His servants and His people to consecrate their selves unto the Lord so that they would be ready to receive and dwell in His presence? What are you saying? Christians come to church filled with *unclean hearts* and *ask the Lord to pour a blessing upon them. If He allowed them to walk out and not to be carried out then they got their blessing.*

There is a distain in the modern church for the presence of God, contempt if you will. Do whatever you want to and come into the presence of God and say God bless me. Under the Old Covenant the high priest had to have all his I's dotted and all his t's crossed, and if he did not do it to the letter of the law, that high priest was dead. We don't know what we are showing distain about. The god of this world, Satan, has blinded us to the holiness and the presence of God and the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 11, for us to be careful when we partake of the Lord's body. See to it that you do not partake of Him unworthily for some have done it and they have fallen asleep and some are sick. There is a price that we pay when we do not honor Him; when we do not consecrate ourselves and honor His presence; when we think we can do just whatever we want to and then run into the house of God and tell Him, pour me out a blessing! God says even if you think you are getting away with it you are deceiving yourself! Look at the wreck your life is in. Look at the wreck your family and your home is in. Do you not realize these are consequences to the way you are conducting yourself, to the way you are acting and the disregard you have for My presence?

No, we are under the New Covenant, we are under the New Testament now. We are under grace. Grace has it covered. Well, according to Matthew chapter five, grace is harder; it holds you at a higher standard than the

law; because under the law you could at least lust after a woman and not get stoned; but under the New Testament if you look at her with lust you have already committed adultery with her in your heart. It is harder.

Why was God doing this? Why was He being so serious about everything, about the tabernacle, the priest and the altar, and the people sanctifying and consecrating their selves?

See when Adam was created, when he was formed, and placed in the garden with Eve, the presence of God was on them and with them. And only when they sinned did that Presence lift off of them, because the word says, and their eyes were opened, and they knew. Wait a minute, prior to that it says they saw the tree was good for food. What eyes is He talking about? He is speaking of the *eyes of their understanding*, their understanding understood good and evil; but by then they had partaken of it; now they were defiled by it and they lost that God consciousness. They lost that sensitivity, that holy reverence.

So our question was why was God being so serious about everything, about the tabernacle, the priest, the altar and about the people sanctifying and consecrating themselves? Right here it is in Exodus 33:12. God says He has to get His presence back into the earth.

Exodus 33:12-15 (NKJV): 12 Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.' 13 Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people." 14 And He said, "My Presence will go *with you*, and I will give you rest." 15 Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go *with us*, do not bring us up from here.

Moses knew something about the presence of God that the church in this age needs to learn. He said I do not want to move past this point if Your presence is not going with us. I want to stay in a position where Your presence is favorable with us.

Why did Moses do all that which has transpired earlier in this book? He did it for verse sixteen.

Exodus 33:16 (NKJV) 16 For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who *are* upon the face of the earth."

So we shall be what? We shall be separate. What will they be separate from? They will be separate from all the people who are upon the face of the earth. *The presence of God distinguishes the people of God* from all the people of all the nations of the world. His presence distinguishes us, so if we lose His presence we are just like everyone else. This is why there is so much contempt in the world for the church; we are trying to fit in with the world and the world is saying you are not of us. You were with Jesus, Simon Peter. No I wasn't, he answered and began cursing to make it appear he was one of them; that he fit in with them. But they said no, we can tell you have been with Jesus. There is still His presence on you; there is still a residue of Him on you from you being with Him. Though they denied Jesus, Jesus didn't deny them; they still had That Presence on them.

Moses said we are not going to leave from here unless Your presence goes with us for we need That Presence to distinguish and separate us, to make us different from everyone else.

Exodus 33:17 (NKJV): 17 So the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name."

God wanted His presence back in the earth and upon His people; Moses wanted God's presence upon himself and the people, so there was agreement between God and Moses. And so God's presence came upon God's people; and the nations feared Israel because of the presence of God. The nations feared God, they feared Him greatly for they had heard of and seen His mighty acts.

1 Corinthians 3:10 (NKJV): 10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation,

I have laid the foundation. What foundation? What did Paul preach? He preached Christ and Him crucified. If you get away from Christ you are getting on the wrong path, right? If you make it about the music, if you make it about the building, you have made it about the wrong thing. It is all about Jesus. In the music it is to be about worshipping and seeking Jesus and if you make it about something else you are building up something that will not stand. It must be about Jesus! It has to be about pursuing Jesus! If it becomes about a move of man it is the wrong thing and it will cause people to become bitter because it was about a man and not about The Man, the Son of Man. It has to be about Jesus! Preach Christ and Him crucified! Seek God, seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness! Get the people back to Jesus! Return unto Me!

1 Corinthians 3:10-12 (NKJV): 10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it.

Who is "the another" which can build on it? Us, we are "the another".

1 Corinthians 3:10-12 (NKJV): But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with*

Now if anyone builds on this foundation with fluff and stuff and with hype, no, then with what and what will be the outcome?

1 Corinthians 3:12-13 (NKJV): 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

We are living in that day right now. God is trying everyone's work to see who is doing the right thing, and to see those who are not.

1 Corinthians 3:14-17 (NKJV): 14 If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. 16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.

We just talked about all the consecration and about all the atonement which had to be made over there in Exodus, right? Now we are here in the New Testament and Paul says if anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him! Do you see that? God wants His presence, His holiness back in His church! He doesn't just

want it in the building, He wants it ***in us!*** He says if you defile this temple with sin God will allow sin to destroy you! Now they may be saved as yet by fire, they may smell like the smoke of hell and get saved, but God is going to allow sin to destroy them. I did not say this, He said it!

1 Corinthians 3:17 (NKJV): 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.

For the temple of God, His dwelling place is holy for He is there. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are. Wow!

If you take a fish out of water, what is going to happen? It is going to die. Did you know this, if you take a trip down into the depths of the ocean or into space without the proper life sustaining equipment you are going to die? Do you know why? If you take a fish out of the atmosphere that he is suppose to be in, and you put him into an alternative atmosphere not sustaining to his life support, he is going to die. He is going to die outside of his own atmosphere. If you take us outside of our atmosphere we are going to die.

So ***if you take one who was created for God's presence and place them in sin they are going to die.*** This is the very reason the church is sick today; this is why the church is struggling; this is why the church is weak; it is missing the presence of God! We are out of the Atmosphere that allows or enables us to live! In HIS PRESENCE IS fullness of joy; at His right hand are treasures for evermore! Can we, the church of today, grasp what He is saying to us? He wants us back into His presence so we will not die! Goshen, Christ, get into the Rock!

We must not deceive ourselves into thinking that because we are okay with sin in our lives that God is okay with it also. Sin still kills, sin still steals and sin still destroys God's people when they quench the Holy Spirit with it. Living according to the truth is the only way to build on your foundation of faith in Christ and not self-deception.

2 Corinthians 6:13-17 (NKJV): 14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." 17 Therefore

He told Moses to consecrate Aaron and his sons, set them apart, it is a therefore.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 (NKJV): 17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." 18 "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

Therefore come from among them, who are they to come out from among? Come from among the world and be separate from them. Do not touch; do not touch what is unclean. Do you laugh at sin? We are becoming so ***desensitized to sin*** we can hear someone sin or do sin and we will laugh at them. When you go on facebook and you read someone sling out these four letter words your spirit should be offended at it. It should not be funny to read garbage on anything or to see it on anything. It is because we have been desensitized by the world. God says come out from among them, be you separate, don't touch what is unclean and ***then, then, only then*** will I receive you unto Myself!

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 *And I will receive you.* " **18** "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

That sounds like you are preaching holiness, preacher. Well apart from it no one, no one shall see God. Before God can sanctify us, which means to set us apart, we must first be willing to separate ourselves from the ways of this world. If you have sin in your heart it is time you set yourself apart from it by repenting and confessing that sin to the Lord.

Something interesting takes place or transpires in 2 Samuel, chapter six.

2 Samuel 6:1-3 (NKJV): **1** Again David gathered all *the choice men* of Israel, thirty thousand. **2** And David arose and went with all the people who *were* with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called by the Name, the LORD of Hosts, who dwells *between* the cherubim. **3** So they set the ark of God on a new cart,

They got God a new cart for the ark of God. You would think that was special in the natural. A shiny new cart for the ark of God to be carried on, but what was it supposed to be carried on? It was to be carried on the shoulders of the priests. Why are they putting the presence of God upon a cart to be pulled by oxen? Why are they not honoring God and putting it upon the shoulders of the priests as God had ordained it to be carried? Someone is dishonoring God. Now when you dishonor God it usually costs someone their life.

2 Samuel 6:3-7 (NKJV): **3** So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which *was* on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart. **4** And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which *was* on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark. **5** Then David and all the house of Israel played *music* before the LORD on all kinds of *instruments of* fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals. **6** And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out *his hand* to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. **7** Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for *his error*; and he died there by the ark of God.

Now I want us to get a picture of this. Had **the priests** been walking and carrying the ark and if one of them had stumbled, the others would have stopped the ark from shifting or falling and they would have been safe. But because an ox stumbled and the ark was on the cart and Uzzah did it, God said that is it, you have crossed the line. And we read, David became angry with God, yet David was the very one who commanded the ark be transported this way.

David gets angry with the Lord regarding Uzzah. That sounds like p-r-i-d-e. He is angry at God for God doing what He said He would do when we do not do what we are supposed to do.

2 Samuel 6:8-10 (NKJV): **8** And David became angry because of the LORD's outbreak against Uzzah; and he called the name of the place Perez Uzzah to this day. **9** David was afraid of the LORD that day; and he said, "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?" **10** So David would not move the ark of the LORD with him into the City of David; but David took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.

Obed-Edom means the servant of Edom. Now allow this to get into your spirit. David has disobeyed God. He has put the ark on a cart; they are pulling it with a team of oxen; Uzzah is killed; and now David is mad. After

David gets mad, he is afraid of God, he is afraid to touch the ark and so he has the ark taken to the house of Obed-Edom.

Now the leaders of the church say, we have preached Christ and Him crucified until we have worn that story out about His death, burial and resurrection so let's preach something else. They began to draw away from the foundation of the gospel and they began to build on something else. They began to build for themselves a cart; they began to do, to preach and to teach the people something that was manmade and people began dying. However, the people who were godly began to say something is not right; somewhere along the way the true priests of God have been pushed aside. The government is beginning to dictate wrong things. Something has to be put back into order.

Now because King David did something wrong the judgment of God came upon that situation. Now you need to remind yourself the Ark of the Covenant carries the presence of God. Although David disregarded God's command, dishonored God's presence, and did this thing, God's presence never let the ark. Let me show you. Let's read on.

2 Samuel 6:11 (NKJV): 11 The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months. And the LORD blessed Obed-Edom and all his household.

For three months the ark remained in Obed-Edom's house. David left it there for three months. David left the ark there but God's presence did not leave the ark, did it? No. When there was sin - the presence of God killed; but when there was honor - the presence of God blessed. God filled Obed-Edom's house with His presence and blessings began to be attracted to Obed-Edom and to his entire household.

The blessings began to be poured out not only on Obed-Edom but it flowed over into his household. He may have not known how it all was happening but he was seeing the manifestation of it. He and his whole household were experiencing the blessings of God. We don't understand all the favor we are receiving! Oh, the favor, the favor is here because God's ark is here and where the ark is God's presence is. Not only were Obed-Edom and his household being blessed but all they had was being blessed. Their substance was blessed and increased by the honor they were showing God's presence.

But you need to also think about how Obed-Edom felt when he heard they were bringing the ark into his house. Uzzah has just been killed and David wants to store the ark in Obed-Edom's house. Do what! You know they were trembling with fear. I would be. But the King had commanded and Obed-Edom obeyed. Now look at the fruits of his obedience and honor to God and to the king being manifested to both he and his household.

2 Samuel 6:12-13 (NKJV): 12 Now it was told King David, saying, "The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that *belongs* to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness. 13 And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep.

Now King David hears how God's presence has brought blessings, instead of death, to Obed-Edom and to all that belonged to him and King David is ready to go get it. But notice how it is transferred this time; ***and those bearing the ark of the Lord***, this time it is the priests bearing the ark. David has found out what he did wrong the first time. He has searched the law; he has found out how the Lord ordained it to be borne; he has repented for his transgression and now he brings the ark home with gladness. With gladness and sacrifices unto God, David brings the ark home to the City of David.

Dishonor brought death; honor brought life.

There is our answer. God wants the people everywhere to honor Him, to love Him and when they do His presence will be with them, upon them and in them and His presence and His glory will once more fill the earth through His people. His kingdom will come and His will, will be done on earth as it is in heaven and He will bless us to be a blessing.