

Three Activities Of The Holy Spirit At The End Of This Age *“What The Spirit Is Saying To The Church”*

I) Introduction

- A) Jesus is presently moving among the nations in an unprecedented way joining many movements, streams, denominations and groups together to accomplish His purposes at the end of this age.
- B) But in the midst of an increase of light, we are also experiencing a great increase of darkness. And it's in the midst of this darkness that God is equipping forerunners to speak clearly and boldly.

II) The Global Exaltation Of Jesus

- A) God the Father has purposed that His Son will be exalted in every tribe, tongue, people and nation by the power of the Holy Spirit. Right now throughout the earth, God is raising up a global worship and prayer movement that is centered on night and day singing of the worth of Jesus.
- B) The Old Testament closes with a staggering verse from **Malachi 1:11** that speaks of a future, global worship movement that's exalting Jesus night and day *in every place*.
 - 1) **Malachi 1:11** *“For from the rising of the sun, even to it's going down, My name shall be great among the gentiles; in EVERY PLACE incense SHALL be offered to My name, for My name SHALL be great among the nations says the Lord of hosts.”*
- C) Although night and day prayer meetings are springing up in every continent and in thousands of cities, this isn't the new “Church Growth” model; it's the shadow of a heavenly substance. Night and day worship on earth is about what's currently going on in heaven (25,000+ Houses Of Prayer 2013).
 - 1) **Matthew 6:9-10** *“In this manner, therefore pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed by Your name. Your Kingdom come. Your Will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”*
- D) It's critical that as we labor to build the Church, we don't build primarily related to what's taking place on earth, but what's taking place in heaven.
 - 1) **Revelation 4:6-8** *“The...four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back...each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within and do not rest day or night saying: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, who was, and is and is to come!”*
- E) Night and day worship is our response to the indescribable worth of Jesus Christ. The Church must recover her once lofty view of the glory of God in order to deliver Christians from boredom within the Church and move them into fascination with the Man Christ Jesus.
- F) Night and day worship isn't something that's legislated by God either in heaven or on earth. It's the created order's response to True Beauty. Jesus knows the power of voluntary love, therefore God the Father sets His Son on display and the people's response is singing and wholehearted love towards Him (**John 12:32**).
- G) Isaiah first prophesied about the House of prayer, but it was Jesus, in the New Testament that restated this prophetic passion of God's heart. Both at the start of His ministry (**John 2:13-17**) and at the close during the Passion Week (**Matthew 21:12-17**) Jesus made it clear that His Father's house is to be called a House Of Prayer.
 - 1) **Isaiah 56:7** *“Even them (Gentiles) I WILL bring to My holy mountain, and make them (Gentiles) joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices SHALL be accepted on My altar; for My house SHALL be called a house of prayer for all nations.”*

Evangel Christian Fellowship —Longview, WA

- H) The House Of Prayer is about the first commandment (**Matthew 22:34-40**) being restored to first place. This prophecy means that before we are called a house of counseling, a house of preaching, a house of healing, a house of outreach or a house of giving, we are called a house of prayer.
- I) The house of prayer is about Christian communities all over the earth that share Jesus' presence with people prior to programs. It means that our gatherings are marked with His presence and His power, even as we clothe and feed people.
- J) God's promise to the nations of the earth is that the Branch of the Lord (Jesus Christ) would be seen as beautiful in all the earth.
 - 1) **Isaiah 4:2** *"In that day the Branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious..."*

III) The Maturity Of The Church

- A) Jesus' aim for the Church worldwide is that she would live in fellowship with the Godhead, resulting in love for other believers, and eventually loving those outside the Church in the same way that Jesus has loved us. This threefold cord appears in **John 15-17**.
 - 1) God loves believers in the same way that God loves God—**John 15:9** *"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love."*
 - 2) God commands believers to love other believers—**John 15:12** *"This is My commandment that you love one another as I have loved you."*
 - 3) God shows His love to non-believers through loving believers—**John 17:23** *"I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."*
- B) The Bible is clear in many places that the Church at the end of this age is the premiere picture of where God is taking the corporate body of Christ. This doesn't speak of a city, a region or just a nation, but the entire global body of Christ at a place of full maturity.
 - 1) **Ephesians 4:13-15** *"...till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children...but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the Head—Christ."*
 - 2) **Ephesians 5:26-27,32** *"...that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of the water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish...this is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the Church."*
 - 3) **Revelation 12:11** *"And they (the people of God) overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death." This is a mature, corporate martyr witness that's standing in earth's darkest hour.*
 - 4) **Revelation 19:7** *"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His wife has made herself ready."*
- C) John, in **Revelation 2-3** makes it clear that Jesus is committed to trimming the wick's of the Church and pruning both dead and fruitful branches to bring forth a fully mature people in the earth. These 2 chapters give us great clarity into what God considers a successful/fruitful ministry.

Evangel Christian Fellowship —Longview, WA

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1) Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7) | Bad Shape |
| 2) Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11) | Great Shape |
| 3) Pergamos (Revelation 2:12-17) | Struggling |
| 4) Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29) | Struggling |
| 5) Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6) | Struggling |
| 6) Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-13) | Great Shape |
| 7) Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22) | Bad Shape |

- D) The two ministries that looked *significant* to the natural eye (Ephesus, Laodicea) were in the worse shape and the two ministries that looked *insignificant* to the natural eye (Smyrna, Philadelphia) were in the best shape.
- E) Five out of the seven Churches that Jesus addressed in **Revelation 2-3** were in danger of receiving His judgment (Ephesus, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis and Laodicea). And 3 out of the 7 Churches were building ministries, growing and garnering the praise of man, but were totally disconnected from Jesus at the heart level (Ephesus, Sardis and Laodicea).
- F) **Acts 2:14-21** was a down payment of what God would do in fullness prior to His return. There are two primary generations where the body of Christ has and will walk in unity with the Holy Spirit. The early Church and the Church prior to Jesus' return. And it's from this place that we start building the body of Christ.
- 1) **Revelation 22:17** *"The Spirit and the bride say come."*
- G) In our partnership with God we are called to both individually and corporately reach for mature Christianity. But according to God the issue isn't whether or not we attain full maturity, but that we are earnestly reaching for it.
- 1) **Philippians 3:12-14** *"Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected (mature); but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead..."*

IV) The Evangelization Of The World

- A) Today God is breathing on the subject of missions in an unprecedented way among the body of Christ. The world's largest evangelical missions organizations suggest that by 2020 we will have translated the Gospel into every known language in the earth.
- B) God the Father has purposed that prior to His Son's return, every tribe, tongue, people and nation (**Rev. 5:9**) would not only hear the Gospel of the Kingdom, but there would be a remnant in each area that accept His sacrifice.
- 1) **Matthew 24:14** *"And this Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end (of this age) will come."*
- C) Prior to Jesus' accession, He made it clear that written into the Old Testament was God's plan to take the Gospel of the Kingdom into every nation.
- 1) **Luke 24:46-49** *"Then He said to them, thus it was written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem...Behold, I send the promise of the Father...tarry...until you are endued with power from on high (Psalm 22:27)."*
- D) Through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, God is going to thrust (*Ekkballo*) forth (**Luke 9:1-6**) labors fueled by the worth of Christ to go the hardest and darkest places on the earth.

Evangel Christian Fellowship —Longview, WA

- E) John G. Paton (1824-1907) was a missionary among cannibals for 40+ years in the New Hebrides Islands in the South Pacific. Upon moving there at 19 he was criticized by an elder who said;
- 1) *"The cannibals! You will be eaten by cannibals." John replied, "Mr. Dickson, you are advanced in years now, and your own prospect is soon to be laid in the grave, there to be eaten by worms; I confess to you, that if I can but live and die serving and honoring the Lord Jesus, it will make no difference to me whether I am eaten by Cannibals or by worms..."*
 - 2) John and his pregnant wife Mary arrived on the Island of Tanna on November 5th 1858 and their baby boy was born on February 12th 1859. Mary came down with a severe fever and died on March 3rd. And after one week of sickness, his baby boy (36 days old) passed away on March 20th. Within 4 ½ months of their missionary launch, he buried his wife and baby boy.
- F) Count Zinzendorf (1700-1760) was the pioneer of a 100+ year day and night prayer meeting in Hernhut, Germany. From this prayer meeting they launched one of the first Western Missions movements called the Moravians. Many of these young missionaries died as soon as they landed on the mission field. And as word returned back to the spiritual community, they would send another young person under the motto *"That the Lamb would receive the reward of His sufferings."*
- G) The Bible makes it clear in the **Revelation** that Jesus' prophecy in **Matthew 24:14** is successful throughout the entire globe prior to Jesus' return.
- 1) **Revelation 5:9** *"And they sang a new song saying: You are worthy to take the scroll for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation."*
 - 2) **Revelation 7:9** *"After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands..."*
- H) The night and day exaltation of Jesus will release a radical outpouring of the love of God, compelling missionaries to finish the task of global evangelization and reap the great harvest. Fervent, sustained worship and prayer (*intersession*) most always has a sending element to it (*missionaries*).
- I) In 2004 Mark and Karen Anderson (#2 Leaders in YWAM) received the same word on the same day from God saying, *"My house is a House Of Prayer, if it's not a House Of Prayer then it's not My House."*
- J) Call2All (a ministry joining Missions leaders, Prayer Leaders, Church Planting Movements and Marketplace Leaders) gathered 600+ leaders in January 2008 and the group agreed to plant 5,000,000 new Churches and 600,000 new houses of prayer by 2020.
- K) *"Missions exists because worship doesn't."* —John Piper

V) Conclusion

- A) God has always raised up messengers over long periods of time for a short impact of ministry. And today, God is releasing the spirit of prophecy to friends of the Bridegroom, to draw them to Himself and empower them to be messengers to others (**Matthew 10:1-8**).
- 1) **Revelation 19:10** *"...For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*
 - 2) **John 3:29-30** *"He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friends of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegrooms voice."*
- B) We are in need of revelation from God related to His plans for life in this age and Paul left us with a powerful prayer that helps align our hearts with God's.

Evangel Christian Fellowship —Longview, WA

- 1) **Ephesians 1:17-18** *“...do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of our understanding being enlightened that you may know the hope of His calling, what are the riches of His inheritance in the saints.”*