



CELL GUIDE 2015

Theme	Connect with God Always
Topic	Recognising God's Visitation
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Message Summary

Spiritual Objective: Recognizing God's Visitation

In the New Testament period, there were two distinct responses of people with respect to God's visitation. There was a group of people who recognised it and their response was of fear, quietly worshipful and noisily grateful (Luke 7:16, see NKJV and MSG versions). On the other hand, there was a group of people who failed to recognise that God had visited them (Luke 19:44, see AMP version). In the same way, the same two opposing responses still occur today. Have we experienced God's visitation before? Have we failed to do so when He visited? How come God does not seem to visit us? These are some questions that we may have on our minds.

Before going into how to recognise God's visitation, it is important to understand what God's visitation really means. The English language is somewhat inadequate in capturing the various meanings of visitation used in the different passages of the Bible. Some examples of the different meanings of visitation used are as follows:

- a. Pagad – visit with a purpose in response to an invite
- b. Pequddah – care, custody, mustering
- c. Episcopos – investigation, inspection, oversight

The speaker used 5 pictures of God's visitation to help us understand the different natures of God's visitation, how not to miss them and most importantly how to respond to them.

5 Pictures of God Visitation

1. God comes as a Doctor and gives prescription

When we visit the doctor, we do not expect instant healing. Instead, we expect to receive instructions to get better. Similarly, most of the times God does not answer our prayers instantly but instead, gives us a set of instruction and requires us to obey Him. God is more interested to address the root of the problem in our lives rather than to merely miraculously remove the symptoms or physical manifestation of the root problem from us. Do be aware that God's prescription is different for every person and every situation. In short, He wants our obedience!

2. God comes as a Chiropractor and brings alignment



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The problem of not hearing God may stem from misalignment in our lives. In the example of Abraham, God brought him out of his homeland to a promised land before he could receive blessings. Are there any areas in our lives which are not aligned to God which thus prevent us from experiencing His visitation?

3. God comes as a Building Inspector

Building inspectors inspect buildings according to a certain set of guidelines and building codes to ensure the integrity of the building and its ability to fulfil its purpose. Similarly, God visits us by inspecting our lives through the lenses of Scripture. When was the last time you experienced the Holy Spirit nudging you?

4. God comes for Divine Intervention

God sometimes intervenes miraculously in our lives. For example, God visited Sarai who was barren and promised her a child even though she and her husband had passed child-bearing age. God intervenes best when all seems naturally impossible.

5. God comes as an Investor

Referring to the parable of talents (Matthew 25:1-10), God gave all of us talents and we are accountable to Him on how we manage those talents. When much is given, much is required (Luke 12:48). How have we been managing the talents and resources that He has blessed us with?

Conclusion

The speaker made an observation from 2 passages in the Bible; namely Genesis 50:24-25 and Isaiah 6:1. From these passages, God's visitation or appearing was preceded by death. It seems that something has to die before God's visitation and the "death" referred here does not imply physical death. Is there anything in our lives that needs to "die" before we can experience God's visitation. Be it pride, impatience, anger or whatever else it might be, surrender it to God.



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Questions

What are some of the ways that God can visit us as?

(Fill In Answer Here)

When was the last time you encountered God? What was the purpose of His visitation? What was your response?

(Fill In Answer Here)

Some things must “die” before we can experience God’s visitation. What is one thing in your life now that needs to “die” before you can fully experience God’s visitation? What are some ways you can do to put it away?

(Fill In Answer Here)
