



TOPIC You Are The House of God

SPEAKER Ps David Wong Kim

THEME Share The Gospel

DATE 09 Dec 2017

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Many a time, people tend to think that God only comes to us and manifests His presence when we wait on Him through spiritual worship and prayer. However, our God does not passively wait for us to prove our value before He manifests His presence. The moment we accept Him as our Lord and Saviour, He has been and will always be with and in us as a result of Jesus' redeeming work on the cross. In this sermon, Ps David Wong Kim shares what it means for us to be the house of God.

WE ARE THE HOUSE OF GOD

GOD READILY ACCEPTS ANYONE WHO COMES TO HIM

In the parable of the prodigal son, the father readily forgave and accepted his rebellious son who returned to his father after realising his mistakes (*Luke 15:11-32*). In the same way, our God will always look forward to the return of His people regardless of what they have done – all they need is to respond to Him!

Another example is Jacob, who, despite having cheated his father and brother, still encountered God in his most desperate times, not because he had the right values, but because his heart was ready for God (*Gen 28:12*).

God also revealed the greatest prophecy of Immanuel to Ahaz, the undeserving king of Judah (*Isa 7*)!

This is a reminder that it is not by our values but by God's love, mercy and grace that He is willing and ready to reveal more of Himself to us – all we need to do is to **open our hearts, go to the LORD as we are** and **He will manifest His presence** to us.

GOD'S PRESENCE REMAINS IN US AFTER WE ACCEPT HIM

After Moses' first encounter with God at the burning bush (*Ex 3*), he continued to experience God's manifested presence till the day he died.

In *Gen 28:16-17*, Jacob understood that this encounter with God was the house of God (presence of God that dwells in us) and the gate of heaven (that will always be open for all who believes in Him).

For us, this means that God is always ready to welcome us back to Him. When we **believe in Christ's finished work** on the cross, we **become One Spirit with the LORD** (1 Cor 6:17) and **His Presence will remain in us** even through difficult times (1 Jn 4:12-13, 15-16) – we become a temple of God (Jn 14:23).

GOD'S GLORY SHOULD NOT BE SEPARATED FROM HIS PRESENCE

In Ex 33:13-14, Moses was asking God to show His way but God's reply was that His Presence would go with Him and He will give him rest.

Indeed, our God is more interested in showing up personally than just providing us with answers to our questions and solutions to our problems. His Presence is a glorious Presence!

When God shows His glory, He is also showing Himself to us (Ex 33:19) all of His goodness and all of His character! Therefore, do not separate God's glory from His Presence – the manifestation of God is God Himself!

Conclusion

The moment we accept Jesus Christ as our LORD and Saviour, we are saved from eternal judgment and will come into a Spiritual union with Him. As the Holy Spirit comes upon us, His Presence will manifest outwardly from our lives as rivers of living water (Jn 7:37-38) and we will experience this manifestation for the profit of all (1 Cor 12:7).

Remember this: it is not about how good we are or the right values that we have that determines whether God will reveal Himself to us – all of us as Christians are qualified for the Holy Spirit to manifest for the benefit of all!

Therefore, take heart and know that we are all the House of God and that God's Presence is in us for as long as we live!

QUESTIONS

1. What was your first encounter with God like and how has He continued to stay true to you even through the difficult times?

2. What does it mean for us to be the House of God and what difference does it make?

3. Share with us a time or a situation when you struggled to find God's presence. How does the sermon encourage you in this area?