

GOD'S HOUSE

I'd like to share a few thoughts and a lot of scriptures with you about the dwelling place of God.

The idea that God's people are his dwelling place is a very intriguing concept. If you've been a Christian for any length of time, like me, you've heard hundreds of sermons and teachings to that effect. I've often heard Christians professing that it is so, with very little, if any evidence that it's true. The following scriptures are some of the basis for this truth.

Acts 7:48

The most high does not dwell in houses made with hands, as the prophet says, Heaven is my throne, and Earth is the footstool of my feet, what kind of house will you build for me? Says the Lord or what place is there for my repose? Was it not my hand which made all these things?

1 Peter 2:4

Coming to him as to a living Stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 6:16

For we are the Temple of the Living God, just as God said, I will dwell in them and walk among them, and I will be their God and they shall be my people.

Then in verse 19 it says

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body.

Ephesians 2:19 states

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the Saints, and are of God's household, having been built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the Cornerstone, and whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy Temple in the Lord, and whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the spirit.

These scriptures seem to very clearly state God's intention about his Dwelling Place. It doesn't require some strange doctrinal interpretation. It's stated in pretty plain language.

The problem is, that we can accept this as a truth, because it's in the Bible, and then live our everyday ordinary lives just like our neighbors, and never experience this incredible truth as our reality.

Here is what I believe that God is saying to me.

God actually intends to live in his people and manifest himself to the fullest through them to this world. This is and always has been his plan. We are God's supreme creation to manifest his life to all the nations of this world. This is what he created us for.

The following scriptures bear this out.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered himself up for me.

Ephesians 3:14

For this reason, I bow my knees before the father, from whom every family in heaven and on Earth derives its name, that he would Grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power through his spirit in the Inner Man, so that Christ May dwell in your hearts through faith, and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

Philippians 2:13

For it is God who is at work in you, both to Will and to work for his good pleasure.

John 14:16 says

I will ask the father, and he will give you another helper, that he may be with you forever, that is the spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not Behold Him or know him, but you know him because he abides with you, and will be in you.

Then in verse 20 it says

In that day you shall know that I am in my father, and you and me, and I in you.

Then in verse 23 Jesus says

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my father will love him, and we will come to him, and make our abode with him.

Over the years, I've heard some Christians argue that Paul was a special case, and his experience wasn't for everyone. Yet in his prayer for the Believers he prays that Christ would live in them by faith and that they would comprehend the love of Christ so that they would be filled up with all the fullness of God.

Frankly I can't even comprehend all the fullness of God, but it appears to be God's intention for his children.

A lot of people seem to think that Paul was a special case and we shouldn't expect that our life should be anything like his.

There are even more people that argue that Jesus was a special case and was in a class by Himself. They say that we shouldn't even think that we could ever walk in the life that he did. Yet the scriptures don't bear this out.

Romans 8:28 says

We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose. For whom he foreknew, he also predestined to become conformed to the image of his son, that he might be the firstborn among many Brethren, and whom he predestined, he also called, whom he called, these he also Justified, and whom he justified, these he also glorified.

God's intention was to have many sons that conform to the image of his firstborn son. It was his doing that makes it possible for us to become sons that are born of the same Spirit, by the same father.

Look at John chapter 1 verse 12

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor the will of man, but they are born of God.

Hebrews 2:10 states

For it was fitting for him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, and bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings. For both he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one father, for this reason he is not ashamed to call them brethren.

Now here's an amazing one. It's John 14:11

Believe me that I am in the father, and the father is in me, otherwise believe on account of The Works themselves. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me, the works that I do shall he do also, and Greater Works than these shall he do, because I go to the father.

If I'm being honest, I'll confess that my life doesn't resemble this kind of expression. After all of my best efforts, dedications, rededications, fasting, prayers, confessions, stewardship, Bible study, discipleship, and the myriad of other things that I've been encouraged to do and have done, I have to admit that I have never had any track record of anything like this expression in my life.

This brings me to ask, if this truly is God's intention, and he's made a perfect provision for its accomplishment, and people have actually walked in the manifestation of his life in the past, why don't we?

Why isn't the church manifesting this kind of life in the world. Why is the church, the church which is supposed to be the dwelling place of God, having so little effect on the world today?

Here is what I believe that God is saying to me.

The only one who can put you in me and manifest my life through you to reach this world with my love, is ME.

I'd like for you to open the door of your life to me and give me the run of the house. I want you to listen intently to my voice. Whatever I tell you to say, say it. Whatever I tell you to do, do it. Wherever I tell you to go, go there.
and

I will touch my people like only I can touch them and bring them into relationship with me.

God's not asking us to clean up the house, paint it, or do major remodeling on it. He's asking that we open it up to him to have the run of the place and let it be HIS Dwelling Place.

His very dwelling in us will affect every area of our life. As we fellowship with him, and get to know him, we are transformed by his life. Then what we experience of him we can then share with others as ambassadors for him.

In John 17:3 Jesus explained

This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom he has sent.

These transformations are Supernatural and all consuming.

In Matthew 13:33 Jesus spoke a parable.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like leaven, which a woman took, and hidden in three measures of dough until it was all leavened.

Revelation 3:20

Behold I stand at the door and knock, if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him, and we'll dine with him, and he with me.

If we let him in he will do all of the changing and empowering of Our Lives.

God is not looking for a better version of us. He's looking to create his life in us and have us manifest it to the world. It's not just change for change sake either. Colossians 1 says that we were created by Him and for him. He transforms us to fulfill His purpose.

2nd Corinthians 5:17

Therefore If any man is in Christ, he's a new creature, the old things have passed away, behold new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he committed to us the ministry of reconciliation.

He has made us his ambassadors for Christ to see the entire world reconciled back to him.

In the Great Commission, Jesus told us to go and make disciples of all the nations. And as he told his disciples in Matthew 10:7

As you go, preach, saying, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons, freely you have received, freely give.

It sounds pretty simple doesn't it? Simple, but not easy.

The part that I left out was that His life within us, replaces our life.

God Bless You.

Jim Fuller