

Overview: God is the God of glory and the God of the house. The goal of God's salvation is to have the building for God's dwelling place on earth. In order for the glory of God to return, to the house of God and the church, we need to deal with idles thoroughly. Also the first consideration we should have in the church life should be the Lord's glory. Paul prayed that the Father would strengthen us into our inner man so that Christ may make His home in our heart according to the riches of His glory. This implies that the glory of God would be wrought in us. In this way, the church will be built and the glory of God will return to the church.

I. God is the God of glory and the God of the house:

A. The God of glory appeared to Abraham and called him, attracted him, and enabled him to follow God; in the same principle, God calls the New Testament believers by His invisible glory—

B. The Father of glory is God expressed through His many sons:

1. The title Father implies regeneration, and the word glory implies expression.
2. The title Father of glory implies regeneration and expression; we have been regenerated by God, and we are His expression.

C. In Genesis 35:7 we have a new divine title—El-bethel, "God of the house of God":

1. Before this chapter God was the God of individuals; here He is no longer just the God of individuals but is El-bethel, the God of a corporate body, the God of the house of God.

2. Bethel signifies the corporate life, which is the Body of Christ; thus, in calling God the God of Bethel, Jacob advanced from the individual experience to the corporate experience

D. *Glory is the expression of God, and building is the corporate expression of the Triune God; thus, the glory of God and the building of God go together, for the church, as God's building, is the corporate expression of God.*

III. In the Gospel of John we see the glory of God in the building of God:

A. *Christ, the incarnated Word, is the tabernacle and the temple filled with glory.*

B. *The issue of Christ being glorified by the Father with the divine glory is the Father's house as the enlarged, universal divine-human incorporation.*

C. *According to John 17:22, the oneness of the believers is the oneness in the divine glory for the corporate expression of God; in this aspect of oneness the believers enjoy the glory of the Father as the factor of their perfected oneness and thus express God in a corporate, built-up way.*

II. In Ezekiel 43:1-7 the glory of God returned to the house:

A. *We need to see a vision of the dwelling place that God desires to have on earth and realize that God's goal is the building*

B. *The desire of God's heart is to have a dwelling place with man on earth; the goal of God's salvation is the building of His dwelling place on earth:*

1. God wants to have the church built up on earth because He desires to have a dwelling place on earth
2. He, the God of the heavens, wants to live on the earth; the place where He lives, His dwelling place, is the church

C. *"This is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever":*

1. The throne is for God's government, administration, and kingdom, and the soles of His feet are for His move on earth.
2. Apart from the temple as the place of His throne and the place of the soles of His feet, the Lord has no base for His administration and His move on earth.
3. Only the built-up church gives the Lord the standing to administrate His government and to move on earth; furthermore, the church is the place where the Lord can dwell for His rest and satisfaction.

D. *Because of the idols in the temple, the glory of God withdrew step by step, leaving first the temple, then the city, and finally the people:*

1. The departing of the glory of the Lord signifies the departing of God's manifestation from the church. 2. The departing of the glory of Jehovah from Israel was a result of God's judgment:

- a. This is the second time in Israel's history that this happened: (1) At Mount Sinai, when the tabernacle was erected, the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle (2) Later, the Ark was captured by the Philistines, and the glory of the Lord left the tabernacle; this means that God gave up the tabernacle.
- b. When the temple was built at the time of Solomon, the glory of the Lord returned to fill the temple
- c. The glory of the Lord remained in the temple until the time when Ezekiel saw it departing, leaving the temple and the city, resting on the Mount of Olives, and finally returning to the heavens; that was the departure of the glory of the Lord.

E. *The return of God's glory depends on the building of the house:*

1. In his earlier ministry Ezekiel saw the glory of the Lord leave the temple, but in his later ministry he saw the glory coming back to the house of the Lord.
2. The glory of the Lord returned because the building of God's house was completed:
 - a. The glory returned from the east—the direction of the sunrise, which signifies glory; the Lord came back from the glory.
 - b. The glory of the Lord came into the house by the east gate, which was for the glory of the Lord: (1) In the church life the most important gate is the east gate, the gate that is open to the glory of the Lord. (2) The first consideration we should have in the church life should be the Lord's glory
3. The Lord desires to come back to the earth, but for His coming back He needs a dwelling place—a place for His throne and for the soles of His feet:
 - a. His dwelling place is the church, the base of His administration and move on earth.
 - b. God's concern is not merely with salvation or with spirituality but with the Building.
 - c. If the church today corresponds to all the details of the holy building of God covered in Ezekiel and thus is built up in every aspect, God will dwell in the church gloriously.
 - d. In order for the glorious God to dwell in the church, the church must be built up to become the dwelling place of God.

IV. Ephesians 3 reveals that God is glorified in the church:

A. *Paul prayed that the Father would strengthen the saints according to the riches of His glory, implying that the glory of God can be wrought into the saints.*

B. *In verse 21 Paul says, "To Him be the glory in the church," implying that the glory of God, which has been wrought into the saints, returns to God:*

1. This glory comes to us with God and, after being worked into us, will return to God with us.
2. God's glory is wrought into the church, and He is expressed in the church.
3. To God is the glory in the church; that is, God is glorified in the church.

V. An outstanding feature of the New Jerusalem is that it has the glory of God, His expression:

A. *We have been predestinated for this glory and called to this glory:*

1. We are being transformed into this glory and will be brought into it,
2. We will be glorified with Christ and bear the glory of God for God's corporate expression in the New Jerusalem

B. *The entire New Jerusalem will bear the glory of God, which is God Himself shining out through the city:*

1. Actually, the glory of God will be the content of the New Jerusalem, for this city is filled with His glory; this indicates that the city is a vessel to contain God and express Him in a corporate way.
2. The glory of God is God Himself being manifested; the fact that the New Jerusalem is full of God's glory means that God is manifested in this city.
3. The church life today should also have God's glory, manifesting and expressing Him corporately in this marvelous divine attribute.

Day 1: Acts 7:2 ...The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was in Mesopotamia...

Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory...

Gen 35:7 And he built an altar there and called the place Elbethel, because there God had revealed Himself to him when he fled from his brother.

Day 2: Ezek 43:7 ...Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever...

1Tim 3:15 But if I delay, write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.

Day 3: Ezek 8:3 ...The Spirit...brought me to Jerusalem in the visions of God, to the entrance of the gate of the inner court that faces north, where the seat of the idol of jealousy was, which provokes to jealousy.

Ezek 10:19 And the cherubim lifted their wings and rose up from the earth in my sight when they went forth, and the wheels were next to them. And they stood at the entrance of the east gate of the house of Jehovah, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above.

11:23 The glory of Jehovah went up from the midst of the city and stood upon the mountain...east of the city.

Exo 40:34 Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of Jehovah filled the tabernacle.

Day 4: Ezek 43:2 And the glory of the God of Israel was there, coming from the way of the east, and His voice was like the sound of many waters, and the earth was illuminated with His glory.

4-5 And the glory of Jehovah came into the house through the gate which faced toward the east. And the Spirit took me up and brought me into the inner court, and just then the glory of Jehovah filled the house.

1Cor 10:31 Therefore whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Day 5: John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

2:19 Jesus answered and said to them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

2 Pet 1:16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we became eyewitnesses of that One's majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory, a voice such as this being borne to Him by the magnificent glory: This is My Son, My Beloved, in whom I delight. 18 And this voice we heard being borne out of heaven while we were with Him in the holy mountain.

Day 6: Eph 3:16-17 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, that Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love.

21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, 11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

Experience ① : Seeing the vision of the God of the house of God to experience God abundantly in the church life

In Genesis 35 we see a crucial and radical turn. However, not many children of God appreciate this. They read this chapter again and again without recognizing the radical turn contained in it. Before this chapter, God was the God of individuals. He was the God of Abel, the God of Enosh, the God of Enoch, the God of Noah, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac. But here He is no longer just the God of individuals, but El-bethel, the God of the house of God. In Hebrew, El means God. In the title El-bethel this Hebrew word for God is used twice, at both the beginning and the ending of this title. In a sense, the God of the house of God is double. We must admit that we do not yet have much experience of this. But we thank the Lord that after coming into the church life, we have had some experience of God's being God to us as a corporate body. In the church life, we do experience God corporately and not only individually. We all can testify that the God we experience in the church life is much richer and sweeter than the God we experience in our individual life. This is why we like to spend more time in the church life. Individually, we can experience the God of Abraham or the God of Isaac, but we cannot experience God as the God of Bethel. We can only experience the God of the house of God in the church life.

For junior and senior high school students

Gen 35:7 And he (Jacob) built an altar there and called the place El-bethel, because there God had revealed Himself to him when he fled from his brother.

Until Genesis 34 God was the God of individuals. However, in Genesis 35 the word El-bethel came up. It means the God of the house of God. From Genesis 35, God is the God of the house of God, because God's heart's desire is to have the church, the house of God.

You should not merely experience God personally. Enjoy God with brothers and sisters in your church life. Experiencing God in your school life will not be blessed if it is not for the church, because our God is the God of the house of God, the God of the church. There is nothing other than the church life that can touch God's heart and please God.

Eph 1:18 The eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling (that is, enjoying God in the church), and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

In your church life, you should not see the brothers and the sisters externally. You need to see clearly the vision of blessings of the God of the house of God, God in the church life, with your eyes enlightened.

There are the following blessings in the church life:

- i) With enjoyment and joy: There is also joy in the worldly enjoyment, but it is temporary and vain, and the sins are involved. So, the worldly enjoyment may result in involving fornication or violence. For example, college students like horseplay. After drinking alcohol and indulging in horseplay, their sins dwelling in their human flesh are released and so they may fall into fornication and violence. However, the enjoyment in the church life is pure and full of Christ who transforms your soul. When you enjoy the Lord, you can feel pleasure, even in the difficult environment so you will be able to live a school life positively.

Heb 11:25 Choosing rather ...than to have the temporary enjoyment of sin,

- ii) With protection: In your church life, Christ become a covering from the tempest and protect you. You will be protected from the tempest such like being bullied seriously or being neglected completely by classmates.

Isaiah 32:2 And a man will be like a refuge from the wind / And a covering from the tempest, ...

Please see clearly with the eyes of your heart that God is present in your church life, and practice your church life according to this vision. Then you will be blessed.

Experience ② : The return of the glory of God to the House of God

It is important for us to understand why the glory of the Lord came back. The glory of the Lord returned because the building of the temple was completed. This is the crucial point. How much the Lord desires to come back to the earth! Yet, for His coming back He needs a place for the soles of His feet to rest, a place upon which He can set His feet. His habitation, His house, is the place on earth where He can put His feet.

Throughout the centuries the enemy in his subtlety has kept Christians from knowing anything about the building. Christian teachers emphasize greatly the matter of salvation and to some extent the matter of spirituality, but they rarely emphasize the matter of building....The building is nothing other than the church.

Today, the Lord is not concerned merely for individual spirituality. Even if many spiritual people such as Daniel had been raised up in Babylon, the glory of the Lord would not have gone there to fill them. The Lord's recovery did not return to Danial; rather, it returned to the temple after it was rebuilt.

For young working saints

The normal church life will be fully recovered before the coming back of Lord Jesus. Now all the believers are on this ground for the building of the church. In the everyday church life, there is the need to experience Christ and build the church. Paul is praying for the building of the church in the following manner.

Eph. 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father, 16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, 17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are 19 ...that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God. 21 To Him be the glory in the church...Amen.

For the building of the church, you should experience the following in your business life and church life.

- i) First of all, your regenerated spirit is strengthened and burned: Please practice " morning revival", and to have the start with a strengthened and burning spirit. And there is the need for you to stay in the burning spirit all day. People with the burning spirit can confront the sudden changes and difficulties in business. Without the burning spirit, you will not be able to sense the big change in the environment, and you will fail, because you can only deal with them according to a common, determined routine.
- ii) Secondly Christ will build His home in your heart: after the spirit is strengthened, you need to set your mind on the spirit and allow Christ to spread from your spirit to your mind. To set your mind on the spirit is a very important key in business life. If we do not set our minds on the spirit, we cannot enjoy the abundance of Christ in business life, and cannot live out Christ. Never leave Christ behind at the meeting hall. You must go to the office with Christ. This depends on whether you open your mind and set your mind on the spirit. If you are able to set your mind on the spirit, you will be blessed because you can work on the business in the mind of Christ.
- iii) Experience Christ's breadth, length, height, and depth with all saints, unto all the fullness of God: Christ in church life is rich and cubical. Live the corporate life with the brothers and sisters. Rely on the brothers and sisters, and help them out. For the building of the church, make your business life a life with testimony. May the Lord bless your business life for the building of the church. Amen!

775番

1. 主はからだ、はなよめをあがないて、
主のゆたか満たし、主をひょうげんす。
主はしょう会のすべて、しょうかいは主述べ、
主がしみわたり、また主とえい光分かつ。
(復) 見よ、主のしろ！ えい光に満つ！
そはまったきかみのひょう現なり。
2. かみとひとが混ざり合うはおく義；
ひとが栄光に満つかみをやどすは、
かみのゆたかしめすうちゅうのうつわぞ；
きよさと混ざりつつ、うるわしき表現す。
3. 変えられしたみの生けるたい系は、
しん珠や宝せきのとうときがごと。
かみのみかたちへとかたちづくられる；
ちゅう心なる御座より生けるみずながる。
(復) キリストなるいのちの木は、
ゆたかにしん鮮な実をむすぶ。
4. せい金のしょくだい、あかりは主なり、
主はかみのえい光、聖れいで照らす。
ひとはかみに住みて、かみはひとに住む、
これぞかみの永遠のけいかく、もくてき。

775 终极的显出一圣城

1. 哦主耶稣，你的赎民是你身体并新妇，
作你丰满、作你表现，使你彰显你丰富。
你永是她一切一切，她是你恩的宣告；
你要将她完全浸透，要她有分你荣耀。
(副) 看哪，神的圣城！满了神的光明！
这是神完满的表现，永显于人性。
2. 是神与人完全相调，大哉，敬虔的奥秘；
神的荣耀，丰满、灿烂，人作神居，荣无比。
是一宇宙伟大器皿，全然表现神丰满；
完全调着神的圣洁，使神荣美得彰显。
3. 乃是神所变化的人，一个永活的组合；
如同珍珠、宝石珍贵，与神荣形相符合。
从神宝座—她的中心，流出生命的活水；
基督在此作生命树，结出鲜果，丰而美。
看哪，神的圣城！满了神的光明！
这是神完满的表现，永显于人性。
4. 是一永远精金灯台，托着基督作明灯；
神在基督作她荣光，藉着圣灵来照明。
乃是终极、完满表现，是神调人的建造；
乃是神、人互动居所，是神计划的目标。

976Ultimate Manifestation – The Holy City

1. Lord Jesus, Thy redeemed ones
Are Thy Body and Thy Bride;
As Thy fulness, Thine expression,
In her Thou art glorified.
Thou, her all in all forever,
She Thy riches doth declare;
Thou dost fully saturate her
And Thy glory with her share.
(C) Lo, the holy city,
Full of God's bright glory!
It is God's complete expression
In humanity.
2. God with man completely blended,
Mystery of godliness,
God in glory, full, resplendent,
Man, His dwelling, doth express;
'Tis a vessel universal
All God's fulness to express.
All His beauty manifesting,
Mingled with His holiness.
3. 'Tis a living composition
Of the saints He hath transformed;
As the pearls and stones most precious,
To His image they're conformed:
From the throne of God, its center,
Flows the living water free;
Christ the tree of life doth flourish,
Bearing fruit abundantly.
4. 'Tis th' eternal golden lampstand,
Holding Christ, the lamp of light;
God in Christ the light of glory
As the Spirit shineth bright!
'Tis the ultimate expression—
Man in God and God in man;
'Tis their mutual habitation,
Goal of God's eternal plan.