

# **Worship**

May 2007

*“I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, <sup>14</sup> because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. <sup>15</sup> And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.” 2 Peter 1:13-15 NIV*

This past weekend we hosted a district-wide conference on worship leadership. Our staff and a number of New Life volunteers did a remarkable job in serving the nearly 100 participants. A huge thank you to everyone who helped us serve the churches of our district. The conference speakers included Pastor Dale Evrist and two of his worship leaders: Marianne Adams and Pastor Jeff Buchanan of New Song Christian Fellowship, Brentwood, TN. Our worship team walked away somewhat in awe of all that the Lord spoke to our hearts and also with an excitement and anticipation of what lies ahead for our church family and our role in impacting our community for Christ.

On Sunday morning, Pastor Dale shared a message about the heart of welcoming/pursuing the manifest presence of God through worship. Just as Peter wrote to one of the churches he pastored that it was right for him to remind them of the words he previously spoke to them, I want to use my article this month to re-mind us of this very important message. The text is 2 Sam.6:1-23.

David desired to move the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem; a move that symbolizes the desire to have God’s presence in the center of our lives. After their ignorance about how to move the Ark of God caused Uzzah to be struck down, David and his leaders inquired of the Lord about this procedure. Three months later David and all Israel gathered to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem according to God’s written directives. This incident teaches us that....

- 1) *The pursuit.*** David wanted God’s presence in the center of the life of the nation of Israel so he made plans to bring the ark to Jerusalem. (v 1-5)
- 2) *The problem.*** Doing things man’s way leads to disaster. God’s way may not always “make sense”, but will always result in His blessing. (v 6-7)
- 3) *The presumption.*** Putting our hands to that which does not conform to divine order will always result in loss/death/barrenness. (v 6-7)
- 4) *The fear.*** “I guess I don’t know how to worship and welcome the Lord, I quit.” Once confronted with the necessity of submission to His Word and Ways, our human nature will often want to quit. (v 8-10)
- 5) *The revelation.*** Correction of the Lord is a good thing. God blesses those who authentically pursue the person and presence of God according to His will and His ways. (v 11-12)

- 6) ***The fulfillment.*** This is where we experience His presence being welcomed in an atmosphere of free and passionate worship. (vss 13-16)
- 7) ***The resistance.*** There will always be some who are offended by the unabashed devotion to God. Michal lived a barren life. (vs 16; 20)
- 8) ***The resolve.*** David chose being “even more undignified” in worship to the Lord rather than to worship his kingly robes. (vs 21-22)
- 9) ***The result.*** Fruitfulness of the worshipper / barrenness for the critic. People who practice giving God great praise will become people of great faith. (vs 23)
- 10) ***The reward.*** God’s presence and power continuously present in the life of the worshipper.

Living as a worshipper like David means living a daily of life of faith in God our Father. It is intentionally Biblical and passionately pursued: His presence to be manifest in the routine things of life. Our fruitfulness in the things of God depends upon our willingness to say, “yes” in worship.

*Pastor Dave Hendershot*