

NO CO-MISSION WITHOUT SUB-MISSION TO THE PRIMARY MISSION

{LESSON NUMBER 17} {1-2-2011}

“THE HOUSE OF GOD IN FULFILLMENT”

- XVII. God’s initial fulfillment of the House of God was Jesus, the tabernacle of God on planet Earth.
- A. We have also concluded that Jesus became the House of God and that House operated under an “open heaven.”
1. But, it does not stop there. Jesus said in John 14:16: **“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that he may abide with you forever.”**
 2. The Apostle Paul elaborates on the Holy Spirit and His house in 1 Corinthians 3:16: **“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”**
 3. Also in Ephesians 2:19-22: **“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place in the Spirit.”**
 4. So, we the Church are saved by Christ, and have become the tabernacle of the Holy Spirit, the eternal dwelling place of God!
 5. We are living stones, according to 1 Peter 2:4-5, fitly joined together, building the eternal dwelling place of God.
 - a. Peter says, **“Come to Him [then, to that] Living Stone which men tried and threw away, but which is chosen [and] precious in God’s sight. V5, [Come] and like living stones, be yourselves built [into] a spiritual**

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house, for a holy (dedicated, consecrated) priesthood, to offer up [those] spiritual sacrifices [that are] acceptable and pleasing to God through Jesus Christ.”

- b. We have become the House of God!
- B. Jacob’s dream was not just about Jesus but about you and me and every born-again believer throughout history.
 - 1. The “House of God” under an “Open Heaven” is the picture of God’s intention for your life and for everything you do.
 - 2. First, He wants a house where He can dwell.
 - 3. Next, He wants a house with an “Open Heaven” where angels ascend and descend on assignment.
 - 4. Last, He wants a heaven that will stay open over a people who abide in Him.
 - 5. Another way of saying this is: God will (God’s will is to) invade this world with the reality of Heaven through what was purchased (the Christian) on Calvary.
- C. If we can gather this knowledge and bring it to understanding concerning our identity as the House of God, we will be able to do great things in His Name.
 - 1. Hear me, no power of darkness in any realm of creation can stop our fellowship with the Father.
 - 2. There is an “Open Heaven” over each one of us, from the newest Christian to the most mature.
 - 3. Simply because we are the “House of God” means that we have the exact authority Jesus has at the right hand of God.
 - 4. We are entitled and empowered to be His “House”, which means we are His embodiment on earth.
 - 5. Even the demoniac, as tormented as he was, couldn’t be stopped from his “God encounter” as he fell at Jesus’ feet in worship!

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6. We will never notice the lack of an “Open Heaven,” unless we become impressed with earth’s reality.
- D. The problem as I see it is that some of our ladders have not been used in quite a long time.
1. We have no angels coming or going because we haven’t stepped into the area of the supernatural.
 2. In order for us to fulfill our destiny as the House of God under an open heaven we must flow with the life, joy, healing, and peace that is normal in heaven.
 3. We must set our hearts on being a House filled with His glory.

“THE GATE OF HEAVEN”

- E. It’s time we move from the “Open Heaven” (ladders) and houses to the gate, which is mentioned in Genesis 28:17; **“This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!”**
- F. It’s very important that we define “gate” correctly in verse 17.
1. In John 10:9 AMP we are told: **“I am the Door; anyone who enters in through Me will be saved (will live). He will come in and he will go out [freely], and will find pasture.”**
 - a. This door or gate is the entrance of salvation that is made available to mankind through Jesus.
 2. The “gate” in Genesis 28:17 is not a gate or door of salvation.
 - a. The meaning here seems to mean a place of transition and access.
 3. In order to explain this I want to use a natural illustration: I walk through a gate and proceed into the front yard, then I enter the House.
 4. In the same way, when we talk about the Church (House of God) being the “gate” of heaven, we are referring to the place where the reality of His dominion becomes available for all of mankind.

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- a. This “gate” is the place that allows His world to invade ours!
- 5. Jesus talked about gates in Matthew 16:18-19: **“....on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it, And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”**

“THE GATE OF HELL”

- G. Notice in the above verse Jesus also mentioned the “gates of Hades”
 - 1. As a young Christian I misunderstood this verse and its meaning.
 - a. I use to think that it meant that **“the gates of heaven will prevail against the assault of the enemy.”**
 - b. That was my theology in my younger Christian days. Why? Because I saw the Church as a group of people grouped together pressed against the gate, thus protecting that which belonged to God until He could return, and take over.
 - 2. The truth is, Jesus gave us the exact opposite picture.
 - a. He said, **“The gates of hell will not prevail.”**
 - b. Has it ever occurred to you that as Christian warriors we are to fight on offense, not defense?
 - 3. The evil principalities and powers that set up dominions or “gates” all over the earth will not prevail against us! Why?
 - a. Because we are advancing and winning; because Jesus promised that in the end, no gate of hell will stand against the House of God
- H. Do you see the big picture yet? Where precisely are the “gates of hell located”
 - 1. Please recall, in the early part of this lesson I called the mind the gatekeeper of the Kingdom of God.
 - a. Is not the mind the place of access, transition, and power, and is this not the

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definition of “gate”.

- b. Then, we must understand that the mind of man is the gate, and thus the gates of hell are set up in people’s minds.
2. This is made clear by Jesus in Matthew 16:21-23 AMP: **“From that time forth Jesus began [clearly] to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders and the high priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised from death. V22, Then Peter took Him aside to speak to Him privately and began to reprove and charge Him sharply, saying God forbid, Lord! This must never happen to You! V23, But Jesus turned away from Peter and said to him, Get behind Me, Satan! You are in My way [an offense and a hindrance and a snare to Me]; for you are minding what partakes not of the nature and quality of God, but of men.”**
 - a. Jesus didn’t say that Peter was a devil worshiper!
 - b. He didn’t say, “You are filled with all kinds of occult practices and deceits.”
 - c. He said, “Your mind is filled with the things of man” (earth’s reality).
 - d. Pastor Bill Johnson said it this way, “A most important thing to remember is that the devil is empowered by human agreement!” I could not agree more!
 - e. Peter’s mental posture was a gate from which Satan was released to bring his destruction.