

The PRICE and POWER of the PRESENCE of GOD

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Text: Selected

■ Renewing the Church is like remodeling your house: it takes longer than you hoped, costs more than you planned, and makes a bigger mess than you ever thought possible.

-- Paul Smith in Is It OK to Call God Mother. Christianity Today, Vol. 37, no. 12.

Many say that they want the presence and the power of God to fill His house—but do they? The manifest presence and power of God is not something that takes place for our amusement or for our sense of well being. God’s manifest presence and power comes for a reason and there is a price to be paid if we will have it. It’s not just an experience; it’s a holy encounter. And no one encounters the holy without the flesh having to die. With that in mind, let me share with you the *facts* about a genuine move of God. And ask yourself, “can I take it?”

I. THE PRESENCE OF GOD WILL *BOTH* REPEL AND DRAW PEOPLE.

A. The worldly-minded does not want the presence of God.

- **Are you ready** for them to say, “It don’t take all that.”
- **Are you ready** to be “*one of those people from that church?*”
- **Are you ready** to leave the clique behind?
- **Are you ready** to

■ Revival is ... God revealing himself to man in awful holiness and irresistible power.... If we find a revival that is not spoken against, we had better look again to ensure that it is a revival.

Arthur Wallis (1928-)

-Edythe Draper, Draper's Book of Quotations for the Christian World (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1992). Entries 9743-9746.

B. But there are people who are hungry for the presence of God.

Like the prophet prayed, “O that thou would rend the heavens...”

II. THE PRESENCE OF GOD WILL *BOTH* STRESS AND STIR THE CHURCH.

A. **The presence of God will create jealousy in the hearts of the “glory stealers.”**

What, you may ask, is a “**glory stealer?**” A glory stealer is a person who must have the spotlight, the glory and the power in the church.

Glory stealers don’t like it when God starts doing things that they cannot control or get the credit for. When they start fading into the background they come out fighting.

Everything was fine before, but now they question everything done and everybody’s experience. Only they know and only they can see the truth. Put it back the way it was and they’re fine. But if you do, God’s presence will lift—because “no flesh shall glory in His presence.”

It will bring stress. But choose.

It will bring upset. But choose.

It’s God or the glory stealers!

Which one do you want?

B. **The very presence of God will rejuvenate life in the dying.**

It’s time to speak the WORD of God.

It’s time to obey the WILL of God.

It’s time to do the WORK of God.

It’s time for muscle and tissue to cover the dead dry bones of unbelief, death and defeat! **It’s time to prophesy life!**

Prophesy to the wind my brother! Say, “blow Wind!” Breathe life into the dead bodies. **Let the people live!** Raise them up on their feet Holy Spirit—an exceeding great army! **Let the people live!** Some will say, “But they’re so many and so dry!” But it’s all the more for God to get the glory!

Blow from every corner of the earth Holy Spirit. Blow into every valley, into every heart and into every soul. **Let the people live!**

CONCLUSION

■ Jesus Christ is unique, and one cannot be in his presence and not reveal the man he really is. Jesus pulls each person from behind his mask. In the exposure of that bleeding love on the cross, men become what they really are.

You may think you are wonderful until you stand in the presence of the One who is purity itself. It is the pure light of God that pierces a man. You can keep up your pretense of being holy until you stand in that light. Then immediately there is nowhere to hide, all your masks are torn away, all your hollow smiles fade. Revival means to be exposed for what we are. The presence of the Lord is revealing.

Bishop Festo Kivengere (C. 1920-)

-Edythe Draper, *Draper's Book of Quotations for the Christian World* (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1992). Entries 9741-9742.