



# Man's Programs or God's Presence?

*by Pastor Steve*

I was leading worship in a local church a few years ago when we went through an incredible season of visitation from the Lord. Each Sunday morning during our worship service God poured out his spirit in visible ways. The congregation was so enraptured with his presence that they didn't want the worship to end. Father was there and desired our undivided attention.

After a month or so of such visitation the pastors decided to change the way we were structuring the morning service. In a staff meeting they shared with me that the congregation was so mesmerized by the presence of God that they didn't hear a word of the sermon. They shared they were finding it difficult to preach. They had studied and prepared for a message that they knew God had given them for the people, but the people weren't hearing it.

The pastors decided to begin the service with one song to bring the people together then have a few announcements before the sermon. When the sermon was finished and the invitation given we would end the service with worship. Guess what happened to our visitation? After the sermon was completed the people were ready to go home. Our visitation of God's presence could have led to a habitation of God's presence had we properly discerned the season of the Spirit instead of allowing man's agenda to get in the way.

In no way is it my intention to undermine the preaching of the word. Preaching and teaching are valuable gifts in the Body of Christ and are necessary for the growth of the body. However, if we take an honest look at our Sunday morning meetings we will find that most of them are geared more toward man than toward God. Man's programs, more often than not, get in the way of God's presence. Whom are we seeking to please? I believe many Sundays that we leave church full, but God is still hungry.

If Father comes in his manifest presence people will repent. If the Father shows up people will be healed and delivered from demons. How do we get Father to show up in our meetings? Worship. He inhabits the worship of repentant and broken worshipers. The main goal of worship, however, is not to seek the hands of God but to seek his face. Although God desires for us to have all his gifts, the true worshiper seeks God more than he seeks his stuff. The Father is actively seeking such people to worship him.

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