

THE MANIFEST PRESENCE OF GOD

Apostle Mark Kauffman

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.”
Luke 13:34-35

Jerusalem had stoned the messengers that the Lord had sent unto them leaving their houses desolate and barren of the presence of God. The Lord’s intentions were to brood over them with His presence like a hen over her eggs, but they would not receive Him nor His prophets. Once again in these days the Lord desires to brood over His people causing a formation of His nature and ministry within each of us. In the last three months our local assembly has been experiencing an overshadowing of the Holy Spirit in our meetings. As we soak in the manifest presence of the Lord many changes are taking place within the body of Christ. We are experiencing dramatic healings, both physical and emotional, deliverances from drugs, alcohol and many other addictions, but most important is the fruit of spiritual growth within the believers. Many who are slain in the spirit do not get up the way they fell down, but are coming forth with a fresh passion for

the Lord Jesus. A fresh fire for the Lord and knowing Him more intimately is very common among the people. When the manifest presence of the Lord is in our midst a spiritual hunger is cultivated that cannot be quenched.

“Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off? Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? Saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? Saith the Lord.” Jeremiah 23: 23-24

This speaks of His omnipresence. He fills the heavens and the earth. There is nowhere that He is not. David said, “If I ascend into the heavens the Lord is there” or “If I make my bed in hell He also is there”. Because He is omnipresent there is nothing He does not see. Before we experience His manifest presence we must cultivate a spiritual sensitivity to His omnipresence. Even though we do not see Him, hear Him or touch Him we are to live our lives before Him knowing He is with us. As we develop this sensitivity to His omnipresence we are preparing for His manifest presence. What is His manifest presence? It’s when He makes Himself known to our five physical senses. It has always been the Lord’s greatest desire to manifest Himself to creation. In the garden, the Lord walked with Adam in the spirit of the day making Himself known to Adam. God never purposed to conceal His manifest presence in the garden but it was Adam’s sin that caused him to hide from the Lord. God called out to him by saying, “Adam where art thou?” God surely knew

where Adam was but questioned why He left the place of intimacy they once had. What we lost in Adam, the last Adam who is Jesus Christ, recovered in an intimate relationship.

“Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.” Luke 3:21-22

Adam’s sin shut the heavens like brass over mankind, but Jesus opened up the heavens once again so man could encounter God for himself. Verse 22 says, *“a voice came from heaven”*, this was the manifest presence of the Father made known to the Son. As sons and daughters of Father God we were created for His manifest presence.

“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.” John 14:21

What are the new commandments Jesus gave unto us in the new covenant? *To love the Lord with our heart, soul, mind and strength, and second to love our neighbor as ourselves.* In response to our intimacy with Christ and our love to one another Jesus said that the Father would manifest Himself to us.

Proverbs 8:17, 21 says, *“I love them that love me and those that seek me early shall find me.... That I may cause those who love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.”*

Look at the three requirements in this verse, we must love Him, seek Him and do it early. Meaning He must be first, having preeminence over our lives, and the promises of such an intimate relationship will manifest in our lives.

In Matthew 17, Jesus took Peter, James and John in a high mountain to get alone with the Father. A cloud of glory overshadowed Jesus and the Father’s voice was heard out of the cloud. Jesus spent time in the Father’s presence. This was the secret of His effectiveness in ministry. When Jesus and the three disciples came down off the mountain, Jesus found the other nine disciples trying to cast out a devil in an epileptic boy. Their rebukes and prayers were of no avail, therefore; unable to bring deliverance to the young boy Jesus rebuked the disciples for their unbelief and said, *“bring the boy unto me”*. Jesus cast out the devil and the boy was cured from that very hour. Why could the disciples not cast out the devil? Absence from the Lord’s presence made their power inoperative. We cannot remove mountains of trouble unless we have been in the mountain of His presence. Jesus said, *“apart from me you can do nothing”*. Let us learn from this lesson that apart from His presence we can do nothing. We cannot fulfill our calling without first standing in His presence.

“And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.” Exodus 3:2-4

God had chosen Moses to be a deliverer of the children of Israel. Prior to His commissioning He turned aside into God’s

presence. As we draw near to the Lord His presence draws near to us to prepare us for what He has called us to. After Moses' experience in God's manifest presence He came out empowered to lead Israel out of Pharaoh's bondage. At this present hour the Lord is raising up a company of believers who will bring deliverance to the captives, heal the brokenhearted, preach the gospel to the poor, recover the sight of the blind and set at liberty them that are bruised. The prerequisite for such ministry is to stand in the Lord's presence. His presence qualifies us to be sent forth as His representatives. The time has come for His chosen to turn aside like Moses so we can see His manifest presence and allow Him to prepare us to change our world for His glory.



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Being passionately involved in both ministry and business has brought a unique ability to equip and train marketplace ministers to link the idea of prosperity to a God given plan that will advance the kingdom of God. He also oversees Impacting the Nations Network which oversees 100 pastors and churches based in the nation of India. Kauffman is the international editor of the VACHANACHOSHANAM Newspaper in India. This newspaper not only spreads the message of the kingdom in India but throughout Asia and the Middle East.

Through the power of God and word of knowledge he sees many miraculous healings and deliverances as he ministers the Gospel of the Kingdom. His heart is to see the body demonstrate the nature and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ thus fulfilling their destiny.

He is married to Jill Kauffman, who pastors along with him, and has 3 sons Anthony, Ryan & Christian Mark and a granddaughter, Alexandra Irene.