

LOGF NOTES 09.23.18

Ain't Nothin' Like The Real Thing

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Ephesians 2:22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Jesus is baptized & filled with the Holy Spirit

Mark 1: 9-11 10 He saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove

What was church like when Jesus preached?

Mark 1:27 The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority

People are exposed to a new reality, the kingdom of God, which brings credible, authentic life transformation!

Mark 1:27 The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him."

This kind of church is a dangerous place!

- status quo doesn't have power over God's presence
- evil spirits are threatened and commanded to yield to the spirit
- thoughts contrary to God are changed altering a life forever
- the spirit in man is revived and salvation takes place
- sickness & disease are under attack and commanded to leave
- live's are transformed

The presence of God is contagious!

Mark 1:28 News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

One of the keys for Jesus was his private prayer times of renewal and refilling.

Mark 1:35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Time alone with God in prayer and fellowship...being filled with the Spirit is the prerequisite for ministry. If it is not flowing from the Spirit, it is not flowing with life.

People will come to the presence of God

Mark 1:45 Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

Mark 2:5-7 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Who can forgive sins but God? Who can heal but God?
Both are impossible to man, but equally easy to God!

Jesus heals the paralytic

Mark 2:12 He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Doing Church ?

Nice people
Clean facilities
Excellence
Worship
Children's Ministry
Youth Ministry

Or Are we the church ?

Filled with the presence of God
His Words burning in our hearts
His forgiveness, healing and deliverance
A Contagious excitement, Amazement
joy, peace, love
Anticipation, Expectation, Wonderment

Ephesians 2:22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

We don't come into the presence of God...we bring the presence of God!

How do we foster the presence of God?

1. **Seeking**

Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

2. **Hungering & thirsting righteousness**

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

3. **Drawing near to God**

James 4:8 Come near to God and he will come near to you.

4. **Consecrating ourselves**

Joshua 3:5 Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.

How can we individually help create an environment and atmosphere on Sunday mornings where God's presence is honored and people experience forgiveness, healing and deliverance and the Word of God penetrates and transforms us?

Takeaway #1: Only God can forgive, heal and deliver.

Takeaway #2: I Need God.

Takeaway #3: Others Need God through me.

Takeaway #4: I Need to Bring the Presence of God with me.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

Life Group Discussion:

1. Discuss the memory verse together: Ephesians 2:22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.
2. How can we as individuals bring the presence of God with us?
3. What practical steps can you take to be a better carrier of God's presence?
4. What do you expect from a Sunday morning worship service? How can you help make this happen?
5. Have you ever been so excited about something that you were telling several people about it? What if our experience with God's presence was the same as that?
6. What do you think would help spark a revival?