

Universal vs. Manifested Presence

By Jim Golden

Sometimes we speak of the manifested presence of God as that time when He shows up and we can actually feel Him in the room with us. Some people fall on the floor overcome by His presence, some jerk and shout. I lovingly call the shouters human shofars. Many receive faith to be healed or delivered all because they can feel something or see others being affected by this “manifested” presence of God.

Recently in a prayer meeting the Lord was shining His light on a favorite Scripture of mine. It is from Isaiah chapter six, where the throne room scene is described. The mighty Seraphim are crying out Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Host. The whole earth is filled with His glory. The part that I used to focus on was their cry that God was Holy. For so long I viewed it as more than just a proclamation of the truth, but also as a warning to any uninvited creature that might seek to approach His throne. Remembering that our God is a consuming fire I thought that must be their purpose. They did it day and night, without ceasing.

However, in doing so I overlooked the second part of their decree. The whole earth is filled with His glory! As the Lord began to speak to me it was as if He was telling me that the enemy of our souls, the devil, was robbing His children of His glory or manifested presence. When Solomon dedicated the temple Scripture records that the priest could not stand to minister because the glory of God laid them prostrate. God’s glory is often called the weighty presence. It is commonly called the manifested presence of God or Shekinah.

The impression I was getting from the Lord was that the mighty Seraphim had one main purpose and that was to make the people of the earth, especially the people of God’s Kingdom aware that God’s universal and manifested presence were one and the same. The only difference was our ability to perceive it. It is obvious that on different occasions we are more aware of God’s presence than at other times, but that is a mankind issue not a God issue. Jesus told Nicodemus that unless he was born from above not only could he not see the kingdom of God, but he could not enter it as well.

Once we are born again part of our salvation package is membership in God’s kingdom. As His ambassadors we are given the authority of the kingdom and at minimum when we are in our Embassy’s we are on Kingdom ground. I believe that for the child of God there is a secret place of the Most High that we may, not just visit but dwell in. As the Lord was sharing this with me I was impressed that the Seraphim’s shouts were actually punching a hole through the heavenlies from the throne room to the earth straight through the enemy’s territory because He wants us to experience His glorious presence on a regular basis.

The question is not His willingness, but our level of perceptivity. I believe that Jesus lived in this realm not because he was the Son of God, but because he was a man after God’s heart and all his passion, desire and interest was in his absolute devotion to his Father. If we would embrace the work of the cross and agree with the Seraphim then we would experience on a consistent basis the “manifested” presence of our loving heavenly Father. In closing, I saw a picture of a glass filled with water. It was filled and therefore couldn’t be filled any fuller. The earth is not

half filled or three quarters filled with God's glory. It is filled! And if it is filled then it cannot get any fuller, it's FILLED! Hallelujah!