- This Year His Presence, House of Prayer
- · Cyprus, South Africa

God in My Bod!

I. The Priority of His Presence

- Ps 67:1 NIV May God be **gracious** to us and **bless** us and make his **face shine** upon us, *Selah*
- 2 that your **ways** may be **known** on earth, your **salvation** among all nations.
- 3 May the peoples **praise** you, O God; may all the peoples **praise** you.
- 4 May the nations **be glad** and **sing for joy,** for you **rule** the peoples justly and **guide** the nations of the earth. *Selah*

II. Stewarding the Mystery

A. We Can Only Steward What We Recognize

You can be a King and live like a Pauper

Connecting the dots — **Gideon**

- Judges 6:1 NLT The Israelites did evil in the LORD's sight. So the LORD handed them over to the Midianites for seven years. 2 *The Midianites were so cruel* that the Israelites made *hiding places* for themselves in the mountains, caves, and strongholds.
- 4 ... They left the Israelites with nothing to eat, taking all ...
- 6 So *Israel was reduced to starvation by the Midianites*. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help.
- 7 When they cried out to the LORD because of Midian, 8 the LORD sent a prophet to the Israelites. He said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up

out of slavery in Egypt. 9 I rescued you ... I drove out your enemies and gave you their land. 10 I told you, 'I am the LORD your God. You must not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you now live.' But you have not listened to me."

- 11 Then the angel of the LORD came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. 12 The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said, "Mighty hero, the LORD is with you!"
- 13 "Sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn't they say, 'The LORD brought us up out of Egypt'? But now the LORD has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites."

REPENTANCE ~ PARADIGM SHIFT ~ LIFE CHANGE

- 14 Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!"
- 15 "But Lord," Gideon replied, "how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!"

The power of PRESENCE ~

16 The LORD said to him, "I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man."

AND SO HE DID!

B. What We Do Not Know Can Harm Us

Do you not know? 10 times in 1 Corinthians

1. You are the Temple of God?

1 Cor 3:16 NKJV Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.

OUR **BODIES** ARE THE VESSEL OF **DEEPEST EXPRESSION**OF THE IMAGE OF THE CREATOR.

We are Divinity wrapped in Humanity!

2. A Little Leaven Leavens the Whole

1 Cor 5:6 NIV Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? 7 Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast — as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

3. We are destined to judge the world and the angels.

1 Cor 6:2 NIV Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!

4. The Unrighteous Won't Inherit the Kingdom

1 Cor 6:9 NIV Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor

- swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
- 12 "Everything is permissible for me" but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me" but I will not be mastered by anything. 13 "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food" but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

The <u>PURPOSE</u> of the BODY, written in our DNA is to <u>PARTICIPATE</u> in divinity!

5. Our Bodies are Members of Christ!

15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never!

HE HAS TAKEN INTO HIMSELF AND MADE US HIS BODY!

6. Sexual Sin Defiles the Body of Christ

- 16 Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." 17 But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.
- 18 Flee from sexual immorality. *All other sins* a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.
- Sexual Sin is in its own category BECAUSE of the dignity of the Union with Christ. In the new creation, our bodies are entirely new creation.

Beloved, NOW are we the children of God. It does not yet appear what we shall be.

7. It's not MY Body

19 Do you not know that your body is a **temple of the Holy Spirit**, who is **in you**, whom you have received
from God? **You are not your own**; 20 you were bought
at a price. Therefore honor (glorify) God with your
body.

We are bought with a VERY GREAT PRICE.

C. Learning How to STEWARD the IMAGE, TEMPLE

1 Thess 4:3 NIV It is **God's will** that you should be sanctified: that you should **avoid** (be set off, be far from, abstain) sexual immorality; 4 **that each of you should learn to control his own body** in a way that is **holy** and **honorable**,

HOLINESS & REVERENCE

Honor (reverence) is grounded in the Holy One our Bodies EXPRESS.

We are the Icons of the Creator in Creation We are New Creation

Every human has received a new definition of the Body, when Christ took his humanity into Heaven and is seated on the Throne.

5 not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; 6 and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. 7 For **God did not call us to be impure**, but **to live a holy life.** 8 Therefore, he who rejects this instruction

does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.

Purity is an ability centered on the DIGNITY of the Body.

~PASS OUT COMMUNION~

III. Living In SUPERABUNDANT GRACE!

- 1 John 1:8 NIV If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we **confess** our sins, he is **faithful** and **just** and will **forgive** us our sins and **purify** us from all unrighteousness.
- 2 Cor 9:8 NET And God is able to *make all grace overflow* to you so that because you have enough of everything in every way at all times, you will overflow in every good work.
- Rom 5:15 NIV But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and *the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow* to the many!
- Rom 15:13 NIV May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 1 Thess 3:12 NIV May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

III. God's Pleasure in Communion

The Cup of His Love "for You"

- In **communion**, we renew the **OVERFLOWING GRACE** of the Cross. We partake of His GIFT in a new and living way.
- He clears away all the debris and clutter of all the idols of our day and says, "For you."
- Luke 22:19 NKJ And He took bread, gave thanks and broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, saying, "This is My body which is **given for you**; do this in remembrance of Me."
- 20 Likewise He also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup *is* the new covenant in My blood, which is **shed for you**.
- Gal 2:20 NKJ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who **loved me** and **gave Himself for me.**
- 1 Cor 10:16 NKJ The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the **communion** of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the **communion** of the body of Christ? 17 For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.