

INDWELLING OF GOD SERIES

THE MERCY SEAT

We are going to look at the indwelling presence of God. In the last message, we looked at the various parts of the furniture in the tabernacle. In this teaching series, we will be relating how the Outer Court represents the body. The Holy Place represents the soul. The Holy of Holies represents the spirit man. The tabernacle represents the temple of God. That was God's dwelling place in shadow in the Old Testament time. Now God's temple is corporately the church and individually our spirit, soul and body. So definitely there is a relationship between our spirit, soul and body and the Holy of Holies, the Holy Place and the Outer Court.

We are going to look at the Ark of the Covenant in Exodus 37: 1-9, Then Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood; two and half cubits was its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height. He overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside, and made a molding of gold all around it. And he cast four rings of gold to be set in its four corners; two rings on one side, and two rings on the other side of it. He made poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold. And he put the poles into the rings of the sides of the ark to bear the ark. He also made the mercy seat of pure gold; two and half cubits was its length and a cubit and a half its width. He made two cherubim of beaten gold; he made them of one piece at the two ends of the mercy seat: one cherub at one end on this side, and the other cherub at the other end on that side. He made the cherubim at the two end of one piece with the mercy seat. The cherubim spread out their wings above and covered the mercy seat and their wings. They faced one another; the faces of the cherubim were toward the mercy seat.

Just take note that the title of the throne of God on the ark is called the Mercy Seat. Moses could have named it some other names. He could have named it as the holy seat, the love seat, or the power seat or the seat of judgment. But God has a choice. The Holy Spirit has a reason for naming it the Mercy Seat.

We are just going to look at some articles in the ark before we proceed. Heb. 9:3-5, *And behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, which has a golden altar of incense and the Ark of the Covenant overlaid on all sides with*

gold, in which were the golden pot that has the manna, Aaron rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the Mercy Seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in details.

The author of Hebrews talks about the three other aspects that are contained in the ark. One is the manna. The second is Aaron's rod and the third is the tablets of the covenant. The three parts are represented here in Eph. 1:17-19 *That God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe.*

So there are three things that Paul prayed for the church to know. The first is the hope of His calling, which is also the will of God. The two tablets of the covenant represent that calling and will of God. Second is the riches of the glory of His inheritance, represented by the manna. The manna reveals God's providence for our spirit, soul and body. And thirdly, Aaron's rod represents the resurrection power of Jesus Christ. The first time that Aaron rod was brought in was because of the resurrection power. Now Aaron's rod was actually Moses' rod. Aaron was a spokesman of God. He represented God in every action of his. And he followed Moses wherever he was. The rod of God was the same rod that Moses had and it was probably a shepherd's staff. It was with him all those 40 years in the wilderness. But when he met God in Exodus chapter 2 and 3, that rod was given a new title. It was called the rod of God. And that rod was used in all the signs over Egypt. And that same rod was used when Moses crosses the Red Sea. The same rod was used throughout all those times in the wilderness until the Israelites challenged Moses' and Aaron's leadership. When the people challenged Moses and Aaron leadership, that was when God said, "All of you take your rods and put it in My presence. I will show whom I have chosen."

Sometimes human beings forget that God runs an organization based on an anointing not just on an organization. That is why when an organization grows big people try to get rid of the key leaders. When they get rid of the key leaders, they find that they have also gotten rid of God and the anointing. See God always operates through a vessel. The pattern and the mode of God's operation are fixed in the bible. God always choose vessels. Organizations are tools of God. They can change. They can be adapted. They can be reformulated. Organization represents the wine skins. What is important is the new wine. It is not the wine skin. The wine skin needs to change from time to time since an old wine bag cannot contain what God needs to do. So as God's Spirit reveals new things and new revelations and put

fresh anointing, we need to adapt and change the organization to fit God's order. We don't fit God into our organization but we fit our organization according to God. The problem is not in the system that God has ordained. The problem is sometimes the wrong people get into the top of that organization. That is when the whole system breaks down if it is based on a theocratic kind of hierarchy.

The kingdom of God is based on a theocratic hierarchy. Jesus is Lord of Lords and King of Kings. He is the final authority. But the wonderful thing is that Jesus' character enables Him to function in that role. He is the most loving creature in the universe, the most merciful of all creatures in the universe and the wisest in all the universe. He is the eternal, uncreated, pre-existed being; He is God. So, His character and His qualification suit Him to take on the top post in the universe. God has assigned that position in heaven and earth to Him.

So, the problem many times is not in the system or the structure of the organization. But if you get the wrong man into authority that is the end of the organization. It is not the system it is the people that involved in an organization that makes the whole thing go haywire. And for that reason human beings of quality are important and not the system of organization. If you can have a system running without the right people, it will not function according to God's requirements.

Today people have realized that democracy by itself will not work. When the majority vote for sin what are you going to do? When abortion, pornography, prostitution, gambling, and a host of other vices are legalized, this will corrupt the nation. The people have lost their moral standards. If the Supreme Court of a country has more unbelievers as judges, that is the end of righteousness and justice in the country. It is the law by the majority, not the law by spiritual, physical, social expedience.

So we see here that these three parts that are mentioned in the ark that will relate to our lives. The manna represents provision of God. The tablets represent the will of God, and Aaron's rod represents the resurrection power. Aaron's rod was placed in God's presence and budded. Overnight it budded. It bore flowers and a fruit. From that day onwards God said to put that rod into the ark. The other contenders became rodless, that is, powerless and God's ark had a new article, Aaron's rod. So, from that day onwards that rod became the resurrection power and the life of God.

Many times, as we try to understand God's indwelling presence in our life we stumble because we cannot conceive fully the omnipresence of God. Why is it that

we want to look at the indwelling presence of God? For this purpose, it is the indwelling presence of God that enables you to live a sinless life. When the Corinthians fell into sin, Paul reminded them, "Do you not know that your bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit?" See Paul knew that they have forgotten that their body was the temple of the Holy Spirit. He is referring to their individual bodies. Paul was implying that if the Corinthians knew and were aware that they were the temples of the Holy Spirit, they would not have sinned. So, they sinned because they forgot. They didn't realize the fact that their bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit.

It is important to understand the indwelling presence of God. How God dwells in our life today. God actually puts His presence into you. God in person actually dwells in heaven and Jesus at the right hand of God. The only person who is down here on this planet earth is the person of the Holy Spirit. From time to time God manifest Himself through the Holy Spirit where we can see Jesus in person. We can relate to the Father in person. But officially, God is in heaven and Jesus at His right hand. The Holy Spirit is the official person working on this planet earth. How is it that He is in your heart and in my heart? In our hearts here, in our church here and in many other churches on the other corners of the earth, nothing can contain the person of God. So, what God does is take a portion of His presence and put it on this earth.

In the tabernacle of Moses and in the Solomon's temple, God did not actually come in to dwell there. What God did was put His presence there. See God is in heaven. Do you mean to say that when God came to dwell in Moses' tabernacle, heaven was empty of God's presence? That cannot be. The earth cannot contain His presence. If God were to send His outriders, that would be more than enough. Do you know how many angels He has? Multitudes. So, God did not actually come down in person to dwell in the temple. I will prove it to you from the scriptures. The bible people recognized it. See Moses recognized that God is a person. But he can only relate to so much of God and the person of God.

Look at the finishing of the tabernacle in Exodus 40:16, *Then Moses did all that the Lord had commanded him.* This phrase is repeated over and over again about 21 times. Moses did according to all that the Lord commanded. Verse 17, *And it came to pass in the first month of the second year of the first day of the month, the tabernacle was raised up.* It took one year for them to build it. The whole one year it took to build the tabernacle was in the book of Leviticus. Verse 18 *So Moses raised everything, fastened its sockets, set up its boards, put in its bars and raised up its pillars.* Verse 20, *He took the Testimony and put it in it's the ark, inserted the poles through the rings of the ark, and put*

the mercy seat on top of the ark.

Everything was set up. There was no glory yet. Any Tom, Dick and Harry could carry it. I am sure you don't think Moses carried it himself. He got a few guys to help him and put them in the right place, everything in order. And everybody had a first look at the tabernacle. That is the only time they had a chance to look at it before the glory came. After the glory came, they never got to see it again. Only the high priest who enters the Holy of Holies once a year gets to the inside of the tabernacle. And he still couldn't see because of the incense. And whenever the ark was taken in travel, they covered it with a special garment. So, nobody had a chance to see it. So, when they brought the ark in and every thing set up, it was like a normal renovation work that is completed. There was no glory, no power of God and no presence yet. God was still in the pillar of cloud.

After everything was completed, notice what Moses did. Verses 23-25, *And he set the bread in order upon it before the Lord, as the Lord commanded Moses. He put the lamp stand in the tabernacle of meeting across from the table, on the south side of the tabernacle and he lit the lamp before the Lord, as the Lord commanded Moses.* I'd like you to take note of this phrase in Exodus chapter 40. They have set everything in order and anointed everything by this time. And in verse 29-33, *And he put the altar of burnt offering (That was the last piece. See he set from the inside. And from the inside he set it all ready by the time he came to burnt offering the altar was) before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, and offered upon it the burnt offering and the grain offering, as the Lord had commanded Moses. He set the laver between the tabernacle and the meeting, and put water there for washing. And Moses, Aaron and his sons would wash their hands and their feet with water from it. Whenever they went into the tabernacle of meeting, and when they came near the altar, they washed, as the Lord had commanded Moses. And he raised up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar, and hung up the screen of the court gate. So Moses finished the work.*

It was after finishing all the work that the glory cloud came in verses 34-35, *Then the cloud covered the tabernacle and the altar, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.*

And for the first time Moses could not get in. Notice that the bible says that it was not the Lord but it was the glory of the Lord. The glory of the Lord and the Lord is slightly different. The glory came from the Lord but the glory of the Lord is a part of His manifested presence that He imparts. There are different degrees of glory. And God manifested a degree so great that even Moses could not stand it. He has

not even manifested His person. His glory was placed in the tabernacle. And the glory of the Lord in verse 35 filled the tabernacle. From that day onwards, Moses' tabernacle was filled with the glory and the presence of the Lord. Not the Lord Himself but the glory, the presence of the Lord.

I'd like you to look at the temple of Solomon. Sometimes people think that God Himself came down and heaven was left empty. It was not that way. God put a measure of His presence on the tabernacle. God put a measure of His presence in the temple of Solomon. In Solomon's dedication of His temple in 2 Chron. 6: 8 *"But the Lord said to my father David, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name.'" Notice it is a temple for His name. It is for God to put His presence and name there, not for God to come and live inside. It is too small for God. It will be like an ant house for a human being. None of you live in an ant house. You can't even get in. And when God looks at man, that is what it is like to Him. God can't live inside that house. But what God can do is put a portion of His presence and glory there permanently. God presence and glory can be taken and placed in a place permanently. You can have the glory and presence of God on your life too. It's on you all the time.*

So here, we have in chapter 6 Solomon himself acknowledge as he came before God in verse 18, *"But will God indeed dwells with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less the temple which I have built!*

Verse 24, *Or if your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they have sinned against you, and return and confess Your name and pray and make supplication before You in this temple.* Solomon was asking God to hear the prayers of His people when they confess His name here.

Verse 26, *"When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them.* So, it is actually, quote and unquote, a place that God puts His name. It was not a place for God to live in. It was a place for God to place His name and to place a portion of His presence and His glory. How can God live in you in His fullness? Our body can't take it. So, He puts His presence in our life to a certain measure. What God actually put on His temple was His glory.

You can see it in 2 Chron. 5 that when the singers were as one (in verse 13) that the cloud of His glory (in verse 14) filled the temple so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud. For the glory of the Lord, it tells us there, *for the glory of the Lord has filled the whole house.* It was just His glory. It was not Him

but just a portion of His presence. That is much as we can know God on this earth according to His glory and His presence.

Now what did God place in your life when you were born again? He placed a portion of His glory in you. That is why the bible says we are being changed from glory to glory. That means that God's presence should be increasing in our life from one measure of glory to another measure of glory. God's glory is increasing in your life. We can't contain; our physical frame cannot contain the fullness of God. But God places a measure of His presence in our spirit. And what many Christians don't realize is this. That presence was not supposed to remain stagnant. That presence of God in our life is not supposed to remain stagnant. You can't just say, "Thank you God. You are with me now." That presence is to be increased day-by-day, month-by-month, and year-by-year. We can have an increasing measure of His presence.

And the indwelling presence of God can grow so much in your life that at the very presence of sin you feel uncomfortable. Do you know God feels (if you can use such a word, but human language is so limited to express the great things of the spirit realm) great discomfort in the presence of sin? Jesus felt the same thing. He did not just suffer those six hours on the cross. But all His life on the earth was a suffering because of the presence of sin. But you and I know that the people of the world don't feel such a thing about sin. In fact, some of them enjoy it. When you are born again, part of you still enjoys it. But the other part says I don't like it. So what do we do? Leave it as it is? No, what we must do is to increase the presence of God in our life until you become uncomfortable in the presence of sin. You can't stand that presence. Not that you will come out in your wrath but rather when you reached that stage, you understand what Paul meant when he said, "Know ye not that .you are the temple of God?" How can you enjoy something that you don't enjoy? The only reason Christians fall into sin is because they still enjoy it. The only reason some choose to sin is because they are still pleasurable to them. Although the pleasure is short and the condemnation is great, it's the pleasure. That is what Satan tempts you with. He tempts you with flitting pleasures that pass away. Isn't it wonderful if you could get rid of that? It is possible. The key is in the presence of God in our life.

As the presence of God fills your soul, the things that are enjoyable to the world will no more enjoyable to you. You will notice that happens in your own life as you grow as a Christian. What you enjoy two ago, things that were lawful but not expedient today you don't enjoy any more. Percy Collette went to heaven for six hours. He enjoys playing tennis a lot. But when he came back from heaven, he

couldn't enjoy playing tennis any more. You can't enjoy tennis any more when you have seen the glory of God. You ask, "What is your hobby then?" Prayer. "How do you get exercise?" Dancing in the spirit. The world needs hobbies because they don't know what to do with their time. He said that when he came back his tennis racket was untouched. He says there is no pleasure like the pleasure of being with God. It draws you into the presence of God. God placed a measure of His presence in our life. It was that presence that Adam lost. It is that presence in Jesus' life that causes Him in Heb. 1 to do what He did. He hated sin and loved righteousness.

Why is it that Christians find doing righteousness and doing the lawful things a burden? The presence of God in their life is not strong enough. It is not strong to the degree that they enjoy it. It is just like having taste buds that don't work. You won't enjoy eating food. The taste buds are there but they are not working. But when the presence of God comes into your life in fullness and increases, your taste buds for the things of heaven are restored. The things of God become pleasurable. Reading the bible is something you look forward to. I mean you could hardly take your eyes off the bible. Prayer is such an enjoyment. People ask you what is your hobby. You say, "Prayer and the Word of God." You really enjoy it. It is your leisure time. But not many Christians enjoy doing that. They do it because they have to. They are like little children. When their parents give them cod liver oil, they find all kind of excuses. But if you give them ice-cream, you don't even have to reason with them. They don't understand the value of certain food. In the same way, most of us are so young spiritually that we don't enjoy the things of God. For God to get us into the prayer closet is more difficult than dragging a stubborn donkey. We don't enjoy it. We don't run to the closet and say, "O we missed you Father." And what about reading the bible? You don't enjoy it. You don't say this is wonderful. This is food. This is life. No some of us, we get up in the morning we say, "I have got to do it. It is good for my spirit man, but I don't enjoy it."

We will reach a day that we will enjoy it. The question is how. When the presence of God increases in your life, there will be something in you that you just don't enjoy sin any more. It is the presence of God in our life that causes you to have awakened spiritual taste buds. When your taste buds are working, you can taste good food. You can also taste bad food. When your taste buds are not working and your sense of smell is not working, you wouldn't know if someone gave you smelly food. That is what the devil did. Because our spiritual taste buds are not working and we have been corrupted by the world, the devil comes and says, "This is good for you." And you go for it and say, "It is nice." But you don't realize it is awful. God doesn't like the smell of sin. What is the problem? Our spiritual taste buds are

not working. However, when the presence of God rejuvenates your spiritual taste buds, your whole being will be tuned to God and godliness.

Our spirit, soul, body need to be tuned, just like musical instruments. If a musical instrument is not tuned, you can't play the right key and hear the right note. So, you need proper tuning to have a perfect pitch. In the same manner, when our whole being, spirit, soul and body are tuned to the things of God, you begin to sense His chords stronger than before. The key is God's presence and God's glory in your life.

Turn to Exodus 33 as Moses met the Lord. Moses said in verse 18 Please show me your glory. God said, "You can't see My glory and live. But I will show you a little bit of My glory, just the ending part." You know what the ending part is like. It is just like on a National Day you have a parade of soldiers, tanks, dancers, acrobats, clowns etc marching by. And you see only the ending, which is nothing much. They always put the not so nice items at the ending. You missed the best part. And God said, "You can't see all of My glory and live. I will let you see the ending." And just the little ending caused Moses' face to shine so much. Think about what will happen if he sees the beginning. Just the ending or the tail end of God's procession when God had walked passed already was so invigorating for Moses that his skin was transformed. But that was the desire of his heart, "Show me your glory." God showed him the glory.

Exodus 34: 5, *Now the Lord descended in the cloud (that is His glory) and stood within him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord.* Remember the same thing is happening, as happened in Solomon's temple: the name of the Lord is the glory of the Lord and the presence of the Lord. For Solomon built the temple for the name of the Lord and for the glory of the Lord to dwell. God descended in the cloud. Some people don't understand what that word *cloud* mean. The bible says that Jesus is going to come in cloud of glory and take us in His cloud of glory. Some people think that those clouds are those that float about in the sky. Those are H₂O and we are not going to go up in the water vapor. We are going to up in clouds of glory, not the physical cloud that you see. But the spiritual cloud can be manifested in physical form if God wills it. We are going to go back in clouds of glory, God's wonderful transport system. Those are the clouds when he talks about the clouds of glory. So, God descended in the cloud.

Then the Lord said in verses 6-7, *And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy.* The mercy of the Lord is connected to the glory of the Lord. God said, "I will show you the back part of My glory." But the word *glory* is not mentioned after that. Instead, when God came down He mentioned His mercy, His love, and His long-suffering. That mean His glory is made up of His mercy, His graciousness, His long-suffering, His goodness and His truth. God mentioned that these five attributes of God make up the glory cloud.

That glory of God was placed in Moses' tabernacle and it is called the Mercy Seat. For God, understand that mercy and glory are one. Human beings don't understand that mercy, love and glory are one. But human beings understand that glory and power are one. When we talk about glory, what comes to people's thought? It is power, power. That is true. But it is a fringe benefit of glory. When you apply for a job, you thanked God when you have fringe benefits. But you didn't apply for the job just because of the fringe benefits. You can't live on fringe benefits only. You will die of starvation. There is your salary and everything else plus fringe benefits. You don't go for a job just for the fringe benefits. The fringe benefits may have an involvement in helping you to make a decision but they are not the main things. You decided on a job because that is the area you like to work in and you felt that God has led you and lifted you in. And you decided on the job because it pays you sufficiently well. And then only finally you consider the fringe benefits. The fringe benefits are at the ending not at the beginning. You don't put the cart before the horse.

Power is the side effect of glory. But human beings see it as the main effect. This is sad. The substance of glory is mercy and love. Mercy and glory are one. Even the throne of God in heaven is called the Mercy Seat. There are only two other times where Jesus sat on the judgment seat. In case, you don't realize it, your Revised Standard Version and New International Version removed the word *judgment seat*. Two thousand over words Christ and Lord have been removed. They followed the wrong Greek manuscript. That is why we never recommend those versions.

And we have in the book of Hebrews 4:16, *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* Now one of the attributes of glory is grace, graciousness and mercy. The author of Hebrews is not exhorting us to come to the tabernacle of Moses or to the temple of Solomon. He is telling us to come to the real throne of God in heaven. He says let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace. God could have called His throne a throne of power. Why is this so? There is no doubt about it. Human thrones are built on power but God's throne is built on grace and mercy. This is very difficult for people to understand. Think about God that is all-powerful, wise and loving; He could do what He likes and nobody could stop Him. What is the most important attribute when He deals with all others who are lesser than Him? Mercy.

Let me give a small ant bite example, something that cannot compare to God in scope. The more you know and the greater social power, status or position that you reached, the easier it is to see the mistakes of others that they don't see themselves. The more perfect you are the more you can see the mistakes of others. It is because you know and they don't know if you are perfect and you know how to do something. Let's take something in the natural. If you are the best mechanic on the planet earth, you can judge every other mechanic. And humanly when people get wiser, they become more critical, saying, "This is wrong, that is wrong." Anyone that relates to that guy is inferior. It is the easiest thing for a person to become critical. There is pride in human power, human wisdom, human authority. Paul says knowledge puffs up. The reason knowledge puffs up is because the knowledge came without the character to deal with others who have lesser knowledge. So the wiser you become, the more powerful position you hold, the more you tend to look down on others, humanly speaking. Such people are critical and self proclaimed critics.

But that is not the perfect will of God. In Christian life, the wiser you become, the more loving you should be. The more you know, the more you are patient with others who don't know. This is what we are going to teach on the indwelling in Christ. If you only understand the concept of knowledge and revelation but you don't balance it with love and mercy, you are going to be a hard taskmaster. We will not call you apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor or teacher. We have to call you a new title: Pharaoh. You become hard on people. Everybody is wrong and you are right. So, you got a right to do what you want. That is the whole problem. It is not

supposed to be that way. The more you know, the more merciful you become. For the ruler of the whole universe knows everything. And every other being even the angels are inferior to Him. What is the most important attribute? It is not power. Power is no problem. At the wave of His hand, the earth will be split open. But the more He knows, the gentler He has to deal with us. For He knows that we don't know, while we ourselves don't know that we don't know.

Mercy and wisdom are important at that realm. So as you grow more and God promotes you more, you have to ask God for more grace and more mercy. If you have promotion without more mercy, which in the world they do, you will turn out to be a perfectionist and a tyrant. The world promotes you on your ability and on your wisdom not on your love. That is why Jesus said, "The greatest among you shall be the servant of all." Jesus' kingdom promotion is different. There are a lot of people who probably know more, know better, who could have been promoted in the kingdom of God. The problem is God does not promote based on your wisdom or your knowledge. He promotes based on your love. He says, "Don't be like the Gentiles. Their leaders lord it over the others. But the greatest among you shall serve." The heart of a servant is a heart of mercy, love and compassion. He is going to promote us according to our love. And you will need that too. See the higher you go up into the ministry of God and in the things of God, there will be things you understand that people don't understand. And those who don't understand sometimes criticize and pass comments and sometimes do things that are offensive.

But the grace of God and the mercy of God is in you. You could show mercy. And the greater you develop mercy the higher God promotes you to stand close with Him at His right hand. We are already potentially there seated at the right hand. I am talking about manifestation of ministry and power. You need to have the same degree of mercy and love He had. Do you know that Christians don't love like Jesus love? No wonder they don't have power like Jesus had. You know why? If they don't love like Jesus had love and they have power like Jesus had, they will misuse it. So, God does not dispense his power on those who cannot handle it. God is wise not like human beings. Human beings are not wise. Worldly companies are not wise. They promote people not based on love. They promote people based on their abilities and their achievements. So some of them will use others as stepping-stones to climb the corporate ladder. Along the way, they will assassinate their rivals by whispering, slandering, politicking and backstabbing. But what is that to the world?

Success is the only thing they care for. So, we see that God placed His glory and presence into the temple into the tabernacle. When you were born again God placed His love in you. That is His glory and presence.

Rom. 5:5 *Now hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out in our heart by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.* That is His glory. That is His mercy. That is His presence. People have asked what is the indwelling of God like. It is the love of God in you. See many times you have to make a decision in your life. You have to check that love. There are some decisions that can be made without love. But if love is there, you will probably make a different decision. Then you will know which decision flows with the presence of God, and which does not. And the more you grow up in spiritual life, the more you learn to flow with love. There could have been hundred of decisions I could make without love in the church. Thank God for the system we organized. I mean I could say it and it is done. But because of love, we have to take the method of love.

One of my personal little values is this. When people make mistakes, we must know how to deal with them in love. But if a church is not run on the presence of God and the glory of God but is just based on human organization, this is what they do. If someone commits a small mistake, the pastor would quickly go to the pulpit and cry, "Don't fellowship with such a guy." Ninety nine percent of the congregation hears about what one percent did. What happen if God promotes you to a platform, where what you say carries effect to influence one hundred thousand people? You have to be more responsible. More love is needed. More mercy is needed. See among a group of ten, they are already imperfection. If you have a group of one thousand, you have the imperfection multiplied. It is the easiest thing in the world to be critical and to be condemning. But the higher we go up in Christian life, we have to be more merciful. More mercy is required. Think about God looking down on His whole church on this earth. I mean we are not perfected yet. The bride is sometimes not looking for the bridegroom. The wedding is near and the bride is still playing tennis. She is not preparing for the day of the bridegroom's coming. We don't kill mosquito with a cannon. I think it is an overuse of power. It is important for us to understand that we can make hundreds of decisions without love. But yet, we always have to flow with the presence of God. Which path flows with the mercy and love of God? And as you flow along, you will find the way God wants you to move in.

