

How to Keep God's Presence in your Life Part 2

In our previous section we spoke about what was inside the ark of the covenant, the three more things that were associated with God's presence according to ***Hebrews 9:4, "and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;"*** therefore the following are the things that were associated with God's presence:

1. ***The golden pot that had manna.***
2. ***Aaron's rod that budded.***
3. ***The tables of the covenant.***

We spoke about the tables of the covenant and we will proceed now to speak about:

2. Aaron's rod that budded: What is Aaron's rod, from where it came, how it budded and why it found itself in the ark of the covenant? This what we are going to discuss in this message.

When God commissioned Moses to go to Egypt and faced Pharaoh to bring His people out of Egypt. Moses asked the Lord what I will do if the Israelites would not believe that God appeared to me: ***"1 And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee. 2 And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. 3 And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. 4 And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: 5 That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee."*** (Exodus 4:1-5 KJV)

So as we read we understand that the Lord gave to Moses a sign for the Israelites to believe in him that he was sent by God. And truly God used that rod as a sign with other signs to make the Israelites to believe in Moses. ***"27 And the LORD said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mount of God, and kissed him. 28 And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him. 29 And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel: 30 And Aaron spake all the words which the LORD had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people. 31 And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped."*** (Exodus 4:27-31 KJV)

The rod that was in the hand of Moses was used by Aaron his brother when they were confronting Pharaoh who was resisting them and not allowing God's people to leave Egypt. ***"8 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, 9 When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent. 10 And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. 11 Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. 12 For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but***

Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. 13 And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said." (Exodus 7:8-13 KJV) So now clearly we can read that it was called Aaron's rod and was used to convince Pharaoh to obey God.

Furthermore Aaron's rod was used further by the Lord to perform miracles to convince Pharaoh, ***"19 And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone. 20 And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. 21 And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. 22 And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said."*** (Exodus 7:19-22 KJV)

"5 And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch forth thine hand with thy rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up upon the land of Egypt. 6 And Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up, and covered the land of Egypt. 7 And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt." (Exodus 8:5-7 KJV) So in the above two plagues the magicians made counterfeit miracles in order to oppose Aaron and nullify his rod. But in the next plague as we are going to read they were not able to counterfeit what Aaron's rod did: ***"16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt. 17 And they did so; for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice in man, and in beast; all the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt. 18 And the magicians did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not: so there were lice upon man, and upon beast."*** (Exodus 8:16-18 KJV)

What we learn here from the above, that when God called you to serve Him there will be forces, authorities and people who will be opposing you, and for all that you need to rely fully on God's presence who will go before you to defeat them. You cannot depend or rely on your own ways and power but on God and His grace and provision to face the enemy.

God continued to use that rod to do miracles in front of Pharaoh to convince him to allow His people to go out from Egypt, and finally the Israelites were able to leave Egypt. But after the Lord brought up His people out of Egypt the Israelites grumbled against God by grumbling against Moses and Aaron. In ***Numbers 11***, they grumbled by asking God to give them meat. In ***Numbers 12***, Miriam and Aaron grumbled against Moses. In ***Numbers 13***, the whole Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron after Moses sent the twelve spies to explore the land. In ***Numbers 16***, Korah, Dathan, Abiram and On grumbled against Moses and Aaron, ***"1 Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men: 2 And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown: 3 And they gathered themselves***

together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?" (Numbers 16:1-3) "4 And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face: 5 And he spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, Even to morrow the LORD will shew who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him." (Numbers 16:4-5 KJV) God finally dealt with those who rebelled and rose up against Moses.

Therefore with all the above events of grumbling God was sad about all that and He wanted to make an end of this grumbling:

"1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and take of every one of them a rod according to the house of their fathers, of all their princes according to the house of their fathers twelve rods: write thou every man's name upon his rod. 3 And thou shalt write Aaron's name upon the rod of Levi: for one rod shall be for the head of the house of their fathers. 4 And thou shalt lay them up in the tabernacle of the congregation before the testimony, where I will meet with you. 5 And it shall come to pass, that the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom: and I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel, whereby they murmur against you. 6 And Moses spake unto the children of Israel, and every one of their princes gave him a rod apiece, for each prince one, according to their fathers' houses, even twelve rods: and the rod of Aaron was among their rods. 7 And Moses laid up the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness. 8 And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds. 9 And Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD unto all the children of Israel: and they looked, and took every man his rod. 10 And the LORD said unto Moses, Bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be kept for a token against the rebels; and thou shalt quite take away their murmurings from me, that they die not. 11 And Moses did so: as the LORD commanded him, so did he." (Numbers 17:1-11 KJV) With such clear and profound result God further instructed Aaron with the following: "1 The LORD said to Aaron, "You, your sons and your father's family are to bear the responsibility for offenses against the sanctuary, and you and your sons alone are to bear the responsibility for offenses against the priesthood. 2 Bring your fellow Levites from your ancestral tribe to join you and assist you when you and your sons minister before the Tent of the Testimony. 3 They are to be responsible to you and are to perform all the duties of the Tent, but they must not go near the furnishings of the sanctuary or the altar, or both they and you will die. 4 They are to join you and be responsible for the care of the Tent of Meeting--all the work at the Tent--and no one else may come near where you are." (Numbers 18:1-4) From the above Scriptures we can learn and apply the following:

1. Don't grumble: God does not like grumbling and this is one of the sins the people of God is not much aware of. "9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door." (James 5:9 KJV) "9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging. 10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." (1 Peter 4:9-10 KJV) Therefore "14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings: 15 That ye may be

blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;" (Philippians 2:14-15 KJV)

2. God will deal with those who grumble against you and against your ministry: You also expect facing grumbling even from the body of Christ as Moses and Aaron faced from their fellow Israelites, and you need to trust God that He will be the one to deal with them, and what you need to do is to continue to serve Him.

3. Live as a royal priest: "9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;" (1 Peter 2:9 KJV) You need to live in holiness and to be a royal priest to lead your family and your children in the ways of the Lord.

4. Serve God: God's presence will continue to be in your life when you chose to be a responsible person and start to serve Him. As we lead our families in holiness then we and our households will be serving the Lord.

5. Be willing to suffer for God: "1 And the LORD said unto Aaron, Thou and thy sons and thy father's house with thee shall bear the iniquity of the sanctuary: and thou and thy sons with thee shall bear the iniquity of your priesthood." (Numbers 18:1 KJV) * When you draw near to God and start to serve Him and live according to His will you might face opposition and offences as Aaron and Moses faced, or as Paul and the rest of the apostles faced. If you are willing to suffer for God then God's presence will sure be there in your life to fight for you. * Aaron's rod that was kept in the ark of the covenant represent the presence of God's power in your life that will protect you, defend you and fight for you against the enemy and against those who will rise against you and against your ministry in serving Him. God, the Holy Spirit will speak in your behalf and will fight for you in your absence.

6. Submit to the church authority that cared for you and taught you the Word of God: Moses and Aaron were not trivial leaders to the Israelites, but they were chosen by God and had labored much for the welfare of the Israelites, therefore it was improper for the Israelites to rebel against them. In the same way those who taught you the Word of God and cared for you listen to them and heed what they are saying to you. "17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." (Hebrews 13:17 KJV)

The New Testament speaks about people who did similar to those who oppose Moses, as Paul wrote to Timothy the following:

"1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, 7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these

also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. 9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as their's also was.” (2 Timothy 3:1-9 KJV) Not only among the non believers but even among the believers and inside the body of Christ you will find evil doers who do terrible things and who will oppose the truth. They will try to live in sin and use the grace of God and the blessings of God to approve that they are right and their stand is correct, **“5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” (2 Timothy 3:5 KJV)** They are like Jannes and Jambres, the magicians who opposed Moses and tried to counterfeit the miracles that Aaron did with his rod. But the Lord will expose them and deal with them as you stand firm and rely on His presence in your life to fight the battle for you.

Paul stated further to Timothy, **“10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, 11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” (2 Timothy 3:10-13 KJV)** Your suffering is an authentication that you are walking in the ways of God and abiding in His will and presence and receiving His approval.

My dear and beloved: People cannot help you in the mid of the opposition that is around you. Only the Lord can rescue you and deliver you. Therefore cry and pray to Him and He will deliver you from your enemies, the people and the powers that are against you. Paul said, **“16 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. 17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. 18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” (2 Timothy 4:16-18 KJV)** Your power depends on the presence of God in your life. You need to fully trust God that He will be the one to defend you. You need to obey God and His Word and those who taught you His Word so that you can secure God's presence in your life. **“14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;” (2 Timothy 3:14 KJV)** The Lord is at your side and He will be the one to deal with those who are opposing you as you endeavor to keep His Word and commands to secure His presence in your life. Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that explains to me how to keep your presence in my life by obeying your Word and commands, and thank you for the assurance of your protection as I endeavor to keep your presence in my life. Lord thank you for all the teaching, the rebukes, the corrections and the admonishments we received in this message.

Repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce all your worldliness and your love for material things. Repent and renounce your grumbling and murmuring, and repent of your fights and quarrels with those who taught you the Word of God. Repent of your lack of faith and your lack of trust in God. Repent and renounce your envy and jealousy, your lust and immoralities, and the rest of the works of the flesh. Repent and renounce your being yoked with non believers, many friends, and wasting your time on games, News and Media. Repent and renounce your

disobedience to God's Word and commands. Repent and renounce your lack of daily Bible reading and lack of prayers. Repent of doing your own will and plan. Repent of your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord I repent, forgive me, I renounce the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to live in holiness and to endeavor to go on and serve you. Lord uphold me with your grace and mercy. Lord handle those people who oppose me and trouble me, Lord I cry out to you, deliver me from the following people and powers: _____. Lord help me, provide my needs, sustain me in this time of trial and testing, and provide for me to continue to serve you, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and were willing to amend their ways and obey and listen to your Word. Lord bless them and as they obey you let your presence abound in their lives. Lord as they trust fully in you, stand with them and defend them from all their enemies. Do miracles and wonders for them and let others see your presence clearly in their lives. Lord protect them and provide for them their daily needs so they will continue to serve you and be good example to others to follow you.

Lord bless us as your church and help us in our endeavor to serve you. Lord we commit ourselves to stand firm trusting that you are alone who will protect us from our enemies and those who stand to oppose us. Lord we commit ourselves to live in holiness and to continue to teach your Word and admonish our families, workers and members how to fully trust you that you are the only one who can protect them. Lord refill us once again with your Holy Spirit, and lead us to evangelize and reach new people and serve them, to make new disciples and train new workers, planting new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord prepare us for your coming to go with you when you come. Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God', Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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