

How to Keep God's Presence in your Life Part 4

In our previous sections we spoke and discussed 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.*

But if we read **2 Chronicles 5:10**, ***"10 There was nothing in the ark save the two tables which Moses put therein at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of Egypt."*** The same we read in **1 King 8:9**, ***"9 There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt."*** Here in these two Scriptures we found two things were missing when Solomon had finished building the temple and brought the ark inside the most holy place and as the following:

1. The golden pot that had manna: That represents God's provision and discipline in living a life with good stewardship.

2. Aaron's rod that budded: That represents God's power to deal with the enemies.

Solomon was rich for he had received much from his father David and he did not labor to collect all the riches that he had. Let us read how much Solomon was rich and prosperous ***"20 Judah and Israel were many, as the sand which is by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking, and making merry. 21 And Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the river unto the land of the Philistines, and unto the border of Egypt: they brought presents, and served Solomon all the days of his life. 22 And Solomon's provision for one day was thirty measures of fine flour, and threescore measures of meal, 23 Ten fat oxen, and twenty oxen out of the pastures, and an hundred sheep, beside harts, and roebucks, and fallowdeer, and fatted fowl. 24 For he had dominion over all the region on this side the river, from Tiphshah even to Azzah, over all the kings on this side the river: and he had peace on all sides round about him. 25 And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan even to Beersheba, all the days of Solomon. 26 And Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen. 27 And those officers provided victual for king Solomon, and for all that came unto king Solomon's table, every man in his month: they lacked nothing. 28 Barley also and straw for the horses and dromedaries brought they unto the place where the officers were, every man according to his charge."*** (**1 Kings 4:20-28 KJV**) As well as king Solomon had no enemies because David had dealt with all the enemies and he handed over to him the kingdom in peace, therefore Solomon did not need to go and fight any war or have any battle.

From the above we might conclude that Solomon did not learn the importance of God's presence and what that means in his life. Everything was available to him and in large amount, as well as he had peace and no threat was coming against him. That is why he was not much

aware or it was not much important for him if the golden pot that had manna and Aaron's rod that budded were not there or present inside the ark of the covenant. When a man, a Christian he is, or even one of our children receive everything freely and without labor or struggle then the following are the possibilities:-

1. Few will appreciate and value God's provision and what He gave them and start to behave wisely, and act as good steward and not to boast and waste.
2. When everything available then the material things that are available will replace God's presence. The people would start to see how much money and material things in their lives and will fail to see God and what He can do in their lives.
3. Therefore when everything available then people will be corrupted.
4. When everything available and no hardship then this will be a bad atmosphere for a man who is a Christian, or even for our children to grow, and will be more tempted to do wrong.

That is why to combat that God every now and then allow certain troubles and trials in the life of the church and His people that they will be lacking certain things which are either essential or important for their lives and such will be the reason for them to go into the following:

- A. To humble down before God.
- B. To repent of their arrogance and pride, and the rest of their sins.
- C. To make them value God and the good things that He had given to them.
- D. To start to seek God and draw near to Him.
- E. To become better spiritually when they will be lacking materials things. Because such will push them back to God in repentance, praying and fasting to Him, kneeling down, committing their lives to obey His Word and to rely fully on Him to provide for them and making their clear commitment to serve Him.

In the same way we need to deal with our children; we should neither spoil them, nor make everything available to them or pamper them so they will not be relaxed and dependent on us for their lives. As well as they will not and they should not use us to bypass the trials and the discipline that God had placed over them in order to repent, to amend their ways, to seek God, to draw near to Him and to start to serve Him.

Therefore what we need to do is the following:

1. Don't let everything available for them. There must be all the time something lacking or missing, so there will be a constant trial in their lives which would push them toward God seeking Him, praying to Him and asking from Him help.
2. Don't go with your emotions and compromise with them, because in such you are standing with them and in such you are against God. In such you are not helping them because God will not bless them as long as you not standing with God and dealing with their sins as God wants you to be. In such stand of yours with your emotions you are blocking the good plan that God had for them
3. Don't give them more what they need and don't give authority beyond what God wants them to have so that they will not have the chance to abuse nor to squander the resources.

4. Watch carefully and closely how they are living their lives and how they are using and spending their resources.
5. Always correct them, using God's Word and warn them of the consequences of sins and doing things against God's will and plan.
6. Continue to show them love, care and interest in their lives, but stand with God whenever God is disciplining them. Control your emotions and let God deal with them so they will be better children, fruitful and growing in His grace in the good plans that He has for them.

Let us continue the message: *"21 And all king Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold; none were of silver: it was nothing accounted of in the days of Solomon."* (1 Kings 10:21 KJV) You may ask this question and say: 'If God is blessing us then why we cannot spend as Solomon spent?' We will answer your question in this way: All the money that Solomon had it came from his father David, so if it is right for you to spend like Solomon then it would be right for David to spend lavishly and without leaving anything to Solomon. David did not spend lavishly; in addition he bore much pain to collect for the building of the temple. David was not selfish, but his heart and mind was with God and with His plan and will. David said, *"14 Now, behold, in my trouble I have prepared for the house of the LORD an hundred thousand talents of gold, and a thousand thousand talents of silver; and of brass and iron without weight; for it is in abundance: timber also and stone have I prepared; and thou mayest add thereto."* (1 Chronicles 22:14 KJV) So now what you think about yourself; are you going to follow the steps of Solomon or the steps of King David? Sure to follow the steps of David to prepare and spend wisely in order to keep for your children and the next generation.

Solomon built the temple of God in Jerusalem but he did many other things that show he was not appreciative or careful to keep God's presence in His life.

A. Building houses (palaces): Solomon spent seven years to build the temple of God, *"37 In the fourth year was the foundation of the house of the LORD laid, in the month Zif: 38 And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it."* (1 Kings 6:37-38 KJV) *"1 But Solomon was building his own house thirteen years, and he finished all his house."* (1 Kings 7:1) *"7 Then he made a porch for the throne where he might judge, even the porch of judgment: and it was covered with cedar from one side of the floor to the other. 8 And his house where he dwelt had another court within the porch, which was of the like work. Solomon made also an house for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had taken to wife, like unto this porch."* (1 King 7:7-8 KJV) Solomon spent to build his own houses or palaces 13 years and that was almost double the time that he spent to build the house of God. You may dedicate much of your time and money to build your own house and you spend much on it. But you may not even live in it. You may even be in debt for it and you may spend the best years of your remaining life to collect and pay for it. Remember houses and lands will not be place of refuge or a shelter to you that will replace God's presence in your life, and they cannot secure to you the future. Therefore return back to God and put your eyes on Him who can shelter you and protect you.

2. Unlawful marriages: *"1 And Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and took Pharaoh's daughter, and brought her into the city of David, until he had made an end of building his own house, and the house of the LORD, and the wall of Jerusalem round*

about." (1 Kings 3:1 KJV) Marriage can bring you to Heaven or hell. Marriage is a partnership, therefore with whom you have partnership then your destiny will be determined. Solomon had a wrong motive of marriage for he was searching for alliances. Marriage is a covenant with God and not with man. Solomon sought alliance with non believers and that brought him away from God's presence. Solomon even knew that he should not do that as we can read here: *"11 And Solomon brought up the daughter of Pharaoh out of the city of David unto the house that he had built for her: for he said, My wife shall not dwell in the house of David king of Israel, because the places are holy, whereunto the ark of the LORD hath come."* (2 Chronicles 8:11 KJV) He knew it was wrong but still he did it. The worse than this was that no one stopped him from doing such. Further more about the marriages of Solomon we can read the following: *"1 But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites: 2 Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. 3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. 4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. 6 And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. 7 Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. 8 And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. 9 And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, 10 And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded. 11 Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant."* (1 Kings 11:1-11 KJV) Refrain and repent from such marriages because such will take you from God's presence in your life. You cannot marry non believer, and you cannot chose what you want to marry, but you need to marry the person that God had prepared for you.

3. Spending on friends or people who admire you: King Solomon spent much on the queen of Sheba, *"13 And king Solomon gave unto the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, beside that which Solomon gave her of his royal bounty. So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants."* (1 Kings 10:13 KJV) *"12 And king Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, beside that which she had brought unto the king. So she turned, and went away to her own land, she and her servants."* (2 Chronicles 9:12 KJV) He gave her bountifully and more than what she gave. What for he did that? Pride! You may do the same and spent much on people or friends unnecessarily just because they are feeding your pride. That is boasting and not the true love of God. You need to spend wisely and when it is needed, and not to spend your resources for rich people who does not need such from you just for the sake to please them and to feed your boasting and pride.

4. Showing off: *"17 Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold. 18 And there were six steps to the throne, with a footstool of gold, which were*

fastened to the throne, and stays on each side of the sitting place, and two lions standing by the stays: 19 And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps. There was not the like made in any kingdom.” (2 Chronicles 9:17-19 KJV) For what Solomon spent all that for a chair to sit on? Showing off. *You might do the same and start to squander what is in your hand; just to show off you may spend much on clothes, shoes, mobiles, cars, jewels, accessories, etc. Repent from all such non sense, fear God and behave being a good steward of what God had given to you.*

My dear and beloved: The Lord had spoken to Solomon the following: ***“1 And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished the building of the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he was pleased to do, 2 That the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon. 3 And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually. 4 And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments: 5 Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel. 6 But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them: 7 Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people: 8 And at this house, which is high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and to this house? 9 And they shall answer, Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have taken hold upon other gods, and have worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath the LORD brought upon them all this evil.” (1 Kings 9:1-9 KJV)*** * The same what God had said to Solomon is saying to you and to each and every one of us, that if you will keep His Word and His commands then He will establish you and will establish your ministries, your disciples and descendents until the time that He will come to take us to Heaven. * But if you will forsake Him and His Words and commands, then He will also forsake you, and His presence shall not be with you, and all various troubles that you can read in the Scriptures or you heard in the world He may allow them to come upon you to deal with your sins and backsliding. * Lord had placed in your hands many riches and blessings and it is up to you either to squander them on yourself or abuse in using them and ruin your life and your descendants, or cherish and appreciate what the Lord had placed in your hands and be a good steward and that what God desire to see in you; in this way you will ensure your life and the life of your descendents by ensuring God's presence in your life and in the life of your disciples and descendents. 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 the abundant resources that you had placed in my life and the authority that you bestowed in my hands. Lord thank you for your Word that reminded me of your ways and how you want me to behave and act with all these resources and authority, so that to keep your presence in my life and in the life my ministry, disciples and descendents by obeying your Word and commands. Lord thank you for

your Word that teaches me what I need to follow as I walk with you. 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 your pride, you self-righteousness and taking God for granted. Repent of doing your own will and plans. Repent of wasting and squandering your money on lands and houses trusting that these and other material things can help you in your life. Repent of your unlawful marriages with non believers and your multiple marriages. Repent of spending your money on friends and on those who admire you. Repent of your boasting and showing off. Repent of your worldliness and your love for material things. Repent of your bad stewardship and your wrong principles of spending. Repent of trusting material things and friends more than God and His Word. Repent and renounce being yoked with non believers, having many friends, and wasting your time on games, News and Media. Repent of your lack of daily Bible reading and lack of prayers. 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 obedience to your instructions, to fear you, abiding in your Word, being a good steward and keeping your presence in my life. Lord make me aware and shield me from temptations and keep reminding me of your ways. Lord I commit myself to live the style of life that you want me to live. Lord I commit myself to serve you and to do your will in my life and to set good example to others to follow you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, amended their ways and committed their lives to follow your Word and trusting you that you will provide all their needs. Lord deliver them from all temptations and help them to understand your will and go through the narrow way that you had prepared for them to go through. Lord keep your presence always in their lives, protect them and continue to provide for them so they will continue to serve you.

Lord uphold us with your grace as your church to continue to proclaim your will and to do your works and to achieve the purpose of yours in our lives. Lord lead us with your Holy Spirit to do your will and the very things that you want us to do for you. Lord keep your presence in our lives, provide for us and deliver us from all the troubles that may across our lives. 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.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates

www.churchofgoduae.com
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

Note: The Bread of Life is a weekly publication from the Church of God, United Arab Emirates. For further issues and more spiritual enrichment you can visit our web site at: www.churchofgoduae.com.

Share the message with your friends.

Please share with us your view about the message and if you have any question.

If you have a prayer request, please send it to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.

Please send your tithes, your first fruit, and your various offerings to the church to this account

BANK NAME:
First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)
ACCOUNT NAME:
RAMIZ BAHNAM ABBO KHALAF
ACCOUNT NO.:
1576003753162014
IBAN:
AE380351576003753162014
SWIFT CODE:
NBADAEACPU

Or contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.

If you need counseling in area of your life, whether about family, children or finances, please be free to contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.