When the Sounds Stops – True Worship. Pastor Paul M Hanssen

*UNEDITED SERMON TRANSCRIPTION*

Let’s all stand and bow our heads before the Lord. How many of you got your Bibles today? Well, pick them up. Thank you Lord. Let me see them, high. Oh, don’t you love it. You can go to many churches in the country today and people do not walk in with a Bible. They might have an ipad or an iphone, that’s got everything else on it. Their banking, their text, their emails, everything. I don’t like ipads and iphones being used as Bibles in church. Hallelujah! I love this Book, that has nothing else in it, around it, except the Holy Word of God. It’s not tainted or corrupted or marred, or put out of view of any app or any problem issue that comes your way, any text message that might come through. People reading their Bible, here comes the text message. What do they do, put the Bible aside and read the message. You don’t do that when you just got the Word of God. And it’s the same when people sit in church with ipads and iphones, and they’re looking through a message comes in, an email, or whatever it might be while they’re in church, it’s distracting.

Fall in love with the written Word of God. Embrace it and love it. So, let’s exalt the written Word this morning. Come on, lift it up with me, as we pray and believe God.

Father, in your glorious, Holy, majestic and precious Name, I thank you. I thank you for this day, this time, this season, this opportunity to be in your house, Lord to come to your feet, to come to your table. Lord, we pray that you would feed your people today with the Word of God. Whether it be a crumb under the table, whether it be a slice of bread, whether it be a piece of meat or a drop of honey, or a glass of water or milk, whatever portion from your Word that you want to give us today. We receive it with joy and with gratitude and with thanksgiving. Touch your people and bless the day, we pray, as we go into your Word. Anoint your servant to give and anoint your people to receive, in Jesus Name I ask you, and everybody say, Amen.

I don’t usually give my sermons titles until after I’ve preached them, because I usually don’t know what I’m going to preach, well I know, but I don’t know, things change. I try often to put something out there on youtube, when you program for livestream, and I put a title, and I don’t know how many times I’ve had to go back and change the title, because we wandered off somewhere else and did something else. But today, I’m giving this lesson a title, and the title is, “When the sounds stop”.

I want to talk to you today, ….. something about true worship. True Worship. Now, I have a question for everybody. You’re all good, excellent Bible school students. You’ve all studied your Bible. Many of you for many years. My question is this morning, what is the ultimate purpose of God’s creation? To worship, to praise.

God created creation. He created mankind, because God desired to dwell among man. The ultimate purpose of everything God had made, and in particular mankind, is that God longs to dwell among man. I’m going to run through a few Scriptures here. And this is only a few. I will quote them, you can write them down, and go look at them later on when you are at home.

Exodus 15:17 Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.

Exodus 25:8 And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Exodus 29:46 [And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them: I am the LORD their God.](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Exodus-29-46/)

Numbers 35:34 Defile not therefore the land which ye shall inhabit, wherein I dwell: for I the LORD dwell among the children of Israel.

2 Samuel 6:2 And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubim.

Psalms 9:11 Sing praises to the LORD, which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people his doings.

Psalms 68:16,18 Why leap ye, ye high hills? this is the hill which God desireth to dwell in; yea, the LORD will dwell in it for ever. Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them.

Psalms 135:21 Blessed be the LORD out of Zion, which dwelleth at Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.

Joel 3:17,21 So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: for the LORD dwelleth in Zion.

Zechariah 2:10 Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD.

Zechariah 8:3 Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.

Ezekiel 48:35 “It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there.” (The very last verse of the book, and the last words of the book. Speaking about the Millennial Jerusalem)

2 Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

In the Word of God, there are different expressions and words that are used for God’s dwelling, or for God’s presence among man. You’ve got different words for His Glory. You’ve got *Kaw-bode*, it means a heavy weighty impressionable glory. This is the glory that was over the Ark of the Covenant. You’ve got the word Shaw-khan, which means to dwell and to reside. You’ve got the word paw-neem, which means presence or the face of God or the presence of God. In other words, if you put all of these together, the references of God’s dwelling among His people, are almost 3000. Now, put that in your pipe and smoke it. Almost 3000 references to God’s longing to dwell, to reside. Not to touch, not to visit, not to hang around for a day or two, not to be there for a little revival, not to come in seasons, but to live, reside, dwell, shaw-khan among His people. God desires that.

Well, let’s read a Scripture.

Revelation 7:15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

Listen to me saints, you or I or anybody over history, or now in the present, none of us has ever been able to, or will be able to peer into heaven, into the Throne Room of God, without seeing and hearing worship, it’s not possible. Why? God’s presence demands it. His presence demands worship. The angels worship. The cherubim worship. The seraphim worship. The host of heaven worship. The priests and the elders worship. All the saints are resurrected that stand before God, worship. In Eternity it will be worship. God’s presence demands worship. So if, or when we establish a place, prepare this place that we’re talking about, this tabernacle of David, which leads us into a temple era in our personal lives, where a temple is cleaned out, sanctified, made holy, Glory be to God, for the King to come and reside within. That demands worship.

How do you know you’re not there? Because we are lousy at worship. And I’m going to prove that to you. For the establishment of the Kingdom of God, within the core, the center, the stronghold of our being, there’s a word for worship in Hebrew. It’s an incredible word. I don’t remember how to say it in Hebrew, right now, but it is a word that means to bow. It means to prostrate yourself. Let’s read this. Let met not get ahead of myself. That’s just knock me out. Oh Jesus, help me. I was on a roll. Glory be to God. Thank you Jesus. Praise the Lamb of God.

So I’m in Revelation 7:15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

Even in Eternity Future, you see God bringing His purpose for creation into visibility. “He that sits on the throne, shall dwell”,……….. we’re talking about, “Thy Kingdom come.” We’ve talked about it for years now, establishing the Kingdom of God in the strongholds of our Zion. This Eternity, this *O-lawm*, this core of our being, that is possessed with filth, corruption, the world, demonic powers, that we need to be set free from, so that the Kingdom of God can be established within. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done. When the Throne is established, then He says, I dwell among you, and when I dwell among you, there is always………… what?........ worship. His residing presence and worship, go hand in hand. You cannot have the residing presence of God, without worship, because the worship creates the habitation. The worship makes the place in which He dwells. That is the tent, that is the temple, that is the house. God wants you and I to be living, breathing, worshippers. Hallelujah! Thank you Jesus.

In Revelation 7:11, ….. look, worship is a very fundamental practise in the life of every believer. But not only is it a fundamental practice, it is the capstone of your relationship with God. Everything, all creation, all things created, all mankind, every breath has ever been, guess what, it’s going to ultimately end up doing …….. worshipping. All Eternity, every breath will be worshipping. Every breath will be turned back to God. Every knee will bow, every tongue will confess. It doesn’t matter where you are, New Heaven, New Earth, Lake of Fire, I don’t care, you are going to worship God. God has ordained for us to be worshippers. He longs for this inner sanctum, this sanctuary that He breathed into man, when He breathed in his nostrils the breath of life. He said He put His Spirit in man. Imagine, that inner core being, that inner core part of your being, is a part of the Spirit, the Eternal *O-lawm*, perpetual, never-ending Spirit of God. You have that in you. It might be dead, it might need rekindling, it might need some fanning, it might need some cleaning up, but it’s there. And this is what Jesus said, the Kingdom of God is within you. That word within, simply means the center, the core. The Kingdom of God is in that center core of your being. The problem is, it’s got the wrong king. The Kingdom is there, but it is a false kingdom without the right king. And that is what we’re heading towards, as a people of God, toward the King. I’m talking about the Eternal Father, Hallelujah, comes to inhabit that breath, that Eternity in the core of your being, when He becomes your God.

“Oh, He is my God.” I wonder how true that statement is.

“He is my God, I will prepare Him a habitation.”

Well, you know, He is your God when you do prepare Him a habitation of worship in the middle of the pain, in the middle of the crisis, in the middle of the death, in the middle of the rejection, in the middle of the opposition, in the middle of the hate, in the middle of the scorn, in the middle of the persecution ……when you can say then,

“you are my God. I will prepare you a habitation of worship.” Then you know, He is your God.

But usually, most times probably, we find ourselves bowing down to the image of the pain, to the image of the crisis, to the image of what’s going on. Look, this country, this world, is in a crisis. And I refuse to bow down to the image that’s been set up in the world, that they are demanding that everybody bow to. I am not going to bow to that image. I will bow to one image only, His Name is Jesus, and no other image will I bow to.

So, in heaven, Revelation 7:11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

Now, what does that mean? What is worship? Worship today, in the modern church world, is classified as a style. I’ve had people asked me, when they know that I’m a pastor of a church, what is your style of worship? I’ve invited multitudes of people to come to this church over the years, and I don’t know how many times I’ve been asked, what is the style of your worship. As if worship is classified in a style. Is it classical, is it traditional, is it modern, is it contemporary. What’s the style? You know, we had a few people in this church earlier on, and you know why they left?, because the worship was not their cup of tea, they said. I’m not here to drink a cup of tea. If you can only be moved because of a style, you don’t know how to worship. Worship has got nothing to do with a style. But yet, this is what the modern church world has made it into. Well, I like the traditional, I like the classical, oh no, I like the modern. No, I’m all into the contemporary. Oh, I like the country style, I like the hip-hop. Yeah, you got hip-hop churches too. And so everybody then goes to the restaurant of their liking. Whatever tickles their fancy and enhances their senses, that’s where they go and that’s what they call worship.

Worship in the United States of America today, has become a multi-million dollar enterprise. Where you have your worship leader super stars, who don’t even know what worship means. They’re just on a stage, in front of a crowd, entertaining humanity, but not honouring God, and I’m not saying that about all of them, but you understand where I’m going. A multi-million dollar enterprise and we snap on the label “worship”, and it’s no more worship than my shoe without my foot in it, dead, lifeless entertainment. Worship becomes a stage performance. I know of a church, they were renovating their building, I know these people. They were renovating a very large building. They had a certain budget for them to do that. They put 100 000 dollars into the renovation of bathrooms and out there. They put 300 000 dollars on the stage alone. Sound equipment, lights, electrical stuff, the best microphones, everything the best that money could buy, and they attached it to this Holy word, called worship ………… “it’s for the purpose of worship” and all this hype and hip-hop and noise and clatter and sight and sound, is all produced so as to enhance the senses of the guests, so as to move them, to sway them in some way to where they can worship. I want you to imagine with me, for a moment.

Here we’ve got a Hammond organ, Roland piano, awesome piano player, by the way, awesome drummer, guitarist. Just imagine, we’ve got bass, we’ve got saxophones, trumpets, we’ve got five people singing in harmony, we’ve got awesome powerful lights, that just light up the stage and it’s like looking into the Glory of heaven. You got all that and the sound is cranked up and there’s someone back on the soundboard and he’s mixing and make sure that everything’s just coming out right. And all the sounds are billowing over the people and they’re going in waves and wrapping around people’s minds and eyes and ears and taste buds and they just feel like oh, this is so good. And people feel the tingle and goose bumps and they’re so moved and it gets their foot moving and they get to clapping and all of a sudden, the power shuts off. Where the only thing you can hear is the beat of your own heart. What kind of worship do we produce then? When there is no sound, when the sound stops, when there’s nothing to enhance or influence your senses.

Worship is not about being moved by some outward force. Worship is the beat of your own heart for God. This is worship. But so many people in the modern world, including my own church, if it’s quiet, they’re quiet. Because nothing is enhancing my senses. I wonder what would happen if the power grid, for this city, died. It is rather old. I wonder what would happen if it died or some foreign enemy came and blew it up, and we had no power for six months. What would you hear ……. from your heartbeat? How much worship is in you? When the enhancements are gone. When there is nobody at the piano or symbols or drums or strings, and when sister Gwen is not singing and pouring out her heart with her voice and there’s no speakers, and there’s no sound ….. what would we produce then?

I’ll tell you what we would produce. We would have revival. You know why we would have revival, because we would get in contact with our own hearts. We would start to hear where we lack. But it is so easy to come into the house of God where people already been working for an hour and then before that, putting songs together, and practicing music and you know, you come in and you’re stirred and you moved and …...

“well, I don’t like that song, I’m not moved by that song, as a matter of fact, I hate that song. Or, that old hymn I love it, it just puts me on the floor.”

Now, there’s nothing wrong with that, don’t misunderstand me. God has given us music. God is given us hymns, God is given us choruses. God is given us songs, God is given us that with which we are to use in worship. My question is, what kind of worship do you have, when all that stops? The early church didn’t have microphones. They didn’t have a Hammond organ. They didn’t have a piano. They might have a drum. I don’t know what they had. But you know, they worshipped, they worshipped God from here (the heart), because only worship that comes from the heart, is true worship. But in this modern day of plenty, of being spoiled, of having the comforts of modern life, we expect the best, if we’re going to give our best. And if I don’t feel, don’t get, what I feel like I deserve, or if I don’t get what enhances my awareness, then I’m not going to move.

“Well, that was a dull service. Did you hear that horrible playing, that was just bad tonight. Man, I wish sister Helen had been there. The only thing we had, was that dull old piano. Brother Drexler wasn’t even there and I just couldn’t get with it because it was just so dull.”

Of course I’m exaggerating ok? I’m doing that for a purpose of making a point. I don’t know if that ever happened, maybe it has, I don’t know. Not to my knowledge. But this is what worship become in my generation. And yet we’re talking about the re-establishing of the tabernacle of David. Oh yeah, there were instruments all right, there was 4000 of them. There were voices and singers. The thing that David had, that very few had before him, was his heart was for God. He didn’t need anything. When he was out in the desert place, when his own son Absalom ran him out of Jerusalem, away from the glory of God, away from the tabernacle, away from God’s immediate presence, and he went out into the wilderness of Judea. There he said, oh God, I praise you, thirst for you, I long for you in this dry and thirsty land, where no water is, to see thy glory as I’ve seen in the sanctuary. Still longing for God. No harps, no psalteries, no drums, no choir, no nothing, just the dry wilderness of Judea. And there his heart, when all the sound had stopped, longed for God.

I don’t think we’re there, but this is where we’re going. It’s no mark of dishonour, on one side, we’re all there, we’re all guilty, we’ve all ……. you know what I’m talking about, because this is who we are. We live motivated by so many outward circumstances, whether it be to be joyful and happy, whether it be to be sad or depressed, whether it to be lifted up in worship, so much of that, not all is motivated by external enhancing circumstances that move us, that don’t move us, that depress us or lift us up. Yeah, God uses that too. But what I’m talking about, is when the sounds stop. Don’t be shocked if we come here one Sunday and there’s no power. Don’t be shocked. Maybe the rest of the city will have power, but the churches might not. Don’t be shocked if we come in here and there’s nothing. There’s no sound. What will we do at that time. What will you see and hear when you peer upstairs, and there’s the presence of God, and the presence of God provokes, the presence of God demands that creation worship. So there’s God, the throne established, and round about the throne and over the throne, and under the throne, is worship. Isn’t that powerful? Influenced by nothing but the awareness of His presence. That blows my mind.

Can I talk to you for a second? Go with me to Genesis 18. Praise God for evermore. The word worship, *Shachah*, is the main word in Hebrew for worship. Of course there are other words, but they have different meanings like for example, when God told Adam to dress and keep the garden. That word dress is aw-bad, and it means servant and it means a worshipper. So there are those examples. But the actual word for worship in Hebrew, is *shachah*. And this word means to depress. Our first reaction………. “I don’t want to be depressed, I want to be lifted up!!!” The word depressed simply means to place at a lower level. We can all handle that, we can all handle going to a lower level.

Worship is about humbling yourself. Yes it is. It’s about depressing, depressing yourself, going down to a lower level. It means to prostrate. This is the meaning of the word *shackah* ….. worship. It means to lay stretched out, flat on the ground. I wish I could get off that keyboard and join you. You know, I’m just getting to the place where if we can’t keep on praying and keep on worshipping without the piano, then I quit. Oh so many times, I’m like oh, I just want to get out there on the floor and either shout or crawl, or get down and pray, but the few times I’ve done it, everything just goes down ……. everybody quits.

There’s no ….. nothing enhancing(boost) your senses. Why? …….. something wrong with our heartbeat. Something wrong with our heartbeat ….. towards God. Why should we need any sound, is this sound(heart) not enough? A heart that longs for Him, that longs for His presence. I hope you don’t feel like I’m beating you up….. well, I am. No, you know what I mean. I don’t mean to beat you up, but I mean to provoke you, provoke you into an a awareness, into a perception, into a reality.

This is who we are. This is what we do, this is what us human, this is how we act. This is how the church world has become. Do you know, that back in the early 1900’s, the holy roller church movements back then, thought that anything electrical was of the devil. Electric guitars, anything electrical. Now we accepts all the electrical. Now we look at the churches in the modern era, with all their smoke and their lights, and we say that’s of the devil. What’s the difference? I came to think what is difference between what they are doing with their enhancements, and what the church in the early 1900’s did with their enhancements. What’s the difference? The early church didn’t have power. Oh, don’t misunderstand me, I’m not against it, I love it. I love the Hammond, I love this, I love music, I love worship, I love songs, it’s in every fiber of my being. I live music every day. We have a piano, like a little music room downstairs at our house, and many times when I walk through that room, going to the family room, I can’t help, but I got to stop and get on the piano and worship. So there’s nothing wrong with that, not saying that. It has it’s place. But what I’m saying, is that we have become dependant on the enhancements of the modern day, without those enhancements, we cannot move …. and that’s wrong.

We will never build the tabernacle of David, in our personal lives, or as a people of God. It will never be rebuild and restore among us until the heart is alone for God. *Shachah* (worship), means to bow “self” down. It means to fall down flat, it means to do reverence, it means to stoop low. Nowhere is a song or music included in the meaning of this word. So, have we misunderstood worship? Yeah, you can worship with a song, you can worship with music, you can worship with dancing, a lot of things you can, but what’s the heart doing? If the heart is not bowing, it the heart is not prostrating itself, if the heart is not stooping low, if the heart is not depressed into a low and lower position, if the heart is not re-positioning itself before the throne of the presence of God, I don’t care what you do, it’s not worship, it’s noise, it’s a sound. Might sound good, may even give you goose bumps. Look, I can go into a bar and get goose bumps, ….. that’s right.

You hear a good old country love song….. come on, be honest with me, you’ve all felt that, oh you’re lying to me. I have, I’ve been, ……no, don’t misunderstand me, I don’t go to bars, okay? Now you’re thinking, does he go to bars. But I’ve been places in the world where I’ve been taken by others and I’ve entered into, praise God, whether knowingly or unknowingly, with worldly music going on. You can go into a restaurant and here’s this old fashioned good one singing, just a love song playing, and it’s just like, why do I have goose bumps, something in that twangs. There’s an anointing on country music, I’m sorry to say, there is. Its stolen, but there’s an anointing on it, as there are on many different forms of music. Praise God.

And so, you can do all of that, you can have the goose bumps, but if the heart is not involved, if the heart is not bowing down, and I’m not talking about coming to church, or to a prayer meeting, this is about 24/7/365. Where you’re in the middle of a circumstance, when you are in Kroger(shop), and you’re pushing your little buggy along and somebody from your past life looks at you, and if looks could kill, you’d be dead. Oh, one reason I don’t like living in this area, because I get it all the time, and you just move on. It is in moments like that……., where is your heart? Are you bowing down to the image of the hate, and of the rejection, or do you say within your heart, I bow to you. You don’t have to lay on the floor of Kroger, God help, you don’t do that, you’ll be taken out in a white jacket, but you just keep on doing your business, but in here(heart), you hear the heartbeat. The heartbeat that longs for God, doesn’t care about what man says, doesn’t care about the circumstance, my love for God.…. I bow to you God, I bow to your Will, I bow to your purpose for me. This is true worship. I hope I’m making sense.

It can be in the traffic, it can be among your family members. I’ve got a few hateful family members. What do you do? Bow to that scorn and rejection and hate…. or, listen to the heartbeat, listen for the sound. I reject that sound, I reject that scorn, I reject that rejection. My heart is beating for the Living God. Hence or therefore, I bow my knee unto my God and my Father. Thank you Jesus.

This is a practical lesson that you can take with you out of here today and you can put it in motion. And the next time we gather here in the house of God, don’t wait for a wave from some kind of enhancing move. Come in here and listen to your own heart. Isn’t that powerful! What is your heart saying. That’s where you find out whether you’re alive or dead. That’s where you find out……. am I even breathing today. Is my spirit even alive or do you just come and hope that it can all be drowned out by the sound, by the piano, by the singing, by somebody’s else’s prayer? So, in other words we surf on somebody’s else’s wave, but it’s not the wave generated from our own longing for God. We will never get to that place of David’s tabernacle without what I’m talking about. Forget the modern world, forget all this. No, we’re not going to give up, I love it. God wants us to praise Him with the organs, and the strings and the drums. This is all part of God’s plan, but with the hearts not there, we may as well go and join the bar. Because guess what, it’s just music. Because my heart is not involved, it’s just sound.

Let’s go to Genesis 18. Abraham has just been circumcised. The poor guy, he is ninety years old. There was no anesthesia. He is 90 years old and he is circumcised, and you all know what circumcision is. It’s in a very sensitive place of the male anatomy. He must have been in some kind of agony at his age. It’s bad enough for a youth, let alone and old man who heals slowly. Here he was in his house, they’d just gone through accepting the covenant of God. Imagine that. I receive the covenant and your promise to me, to make me a nation. Therefore I will be circumcised at your Word.

So God leads us through the circumcision of our heart, to cut away the foreskins of our hearts. It is painful. And the foreskins makes your senses dull, where you cannot, you’re not aware, you’re not alert, you’re not awake, because there’s a covering over your senses, over the heartbeat. So God says, circumcise your heart. I want you to see and feel and know, and be aware of your heart. It’s so powerful. And so, here’s Abraham in the natural, we’re talking Spiritual of course, for us. But here’s Abraham, ninety years old, circumcised in agony. I’m sure he is beginning to heal. I just cannot even imagine. I can imagine, but I cannot imagine.

In Genesis 18:1, “And the LORD appeared unto him, (*That word appeared, you know what that word appeared mean? It means to have an experience. The LORD came to give him an experience. The presence of the LORD came upon Abraham, sitting in his pain, to give him an experience*), …….. in the plains of Mamre:” (*Do you know what Mamre means? Lusty, filthy, dirty ……. that’s what Mamre means. In other words, here’s this man, 90 years old, he’s just been circumcised, just entered into a covenant relationship with God and it ended into a promise with God. He’s in agony, he doesn’t see the promise coming, it’s still 10 years off. He’s sitting there in agony, and he is surrounded by filth, dirt and lust. This world that I’m in, surrounded with all the corruptions ….. we live in a Mamre, in this day and Age. Just because your heart is circumcised for God, it doesn't mean there’s no more filth and lust around you. It’s still there).*

Abraham sat right in the middle of it, in the very pain, in the very valley, in the very low place of that lusty, filthy, dirty place. Get a picture here today. “And he sat in the tent door in the nice cool breeze of the evening.” No! …. “and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;” 90 years old, circumcised, pain, in the Valleys of Mamre, filth, lust, surrounded with the world, hot…… “God, what are you doing with me? Why am I here? I’ve done what you’ve told me to do. Man, I feel like a loser. I feel like I’m in so much agony, why? Because I listened to you. I’m in so much pain because I did what you told me to do, and I don’t have an air conditioner. I don’t have anesthesia, I don’t have the comforts of the modern day.” I don’t remember seeing in these verses there was any music, there was no microphone.

You know, I came up in a church world for thirty years, where most of the ministers would never move until they have a microphone in their hand. They come to conventions, everybody, all the saints shouting, dancing, but the ministers standing over in corners, standing out in the hallway, yakking away. Standing on the platform behind the choir loft, yakking away. But give them a microphone and they’ll go crazy. I often sat back on those days, you know what I’d like to do, I’d like to stand at the door, every convention, and hand every pastor a microphone when they walk in the door, so they would be an example to their people of worshipping God, but they wouldn’t shout, they wouldn’t kink, they wouldn’t do anything unless they had a microphone. Oh it made me so sick. What kind of example is that for your people.

But you know what it was, people felt themselves above everybody, “I’m over you, I don’t need to do that, I’m beyond you,” People felt themselves above everybody. “I’m over you, I don’t need to do that, I’m beyond you.” That kind of behaviour makes God sick. No heartbeat …. no heartbeat for God. Excuse me for being blunt, but that’s how I feel.

So here is Abraham, no nothing enhancing his senses. No cool breeze, no comfort, he’s in pain. He’s surrounded with the filth of Mamre, and the presence of the Lord comes to give him an experience. And Abraham must have had his eyes down in his pain, because it goes on to say, and Abraham lifted up his eyes, above the pain, away from the heat, away from the filth, away from the surrounding circumstances, away from the noise that may influence him in an actual opposite direction. But he lifted up his eyes and he looked and he saw the three men coming, one being the Lord in person. He recognized that his heart was right with God. He was aware, he had an awareness of Who was walking to him.

It goes on to say, Abraham sat there and waited for the visitation to come where he was. No!!! It says he stood up and he ran …. he ran towards the Lord. He ran towards His presence, He ran towards his experience. He didn’t wait for somebody to come and touch him. He didn’t wait for the Lord even to speak ….. his heart was right. His heart was aware. His heart had a consciousness … “that’s my Lord, and I don’t care if it’s hot, I don’t care if I’m in pain, I don’t care if I’m surrounded by filth, I will not let go of my experience with His presence.” Nothing enhancing his mood or his move, except a heart. It goes on to say, he lift up his eyes in Gen 18 verse 2, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and he bowed himself toward the ground, (he *shaw-kah*, he worshipped). He put himself prostrate, he laid himself out before the presence of God. This is worship, saints. This is true worship. We must ….. yes, I use the word must, Jesus said, the day comes, and now is, that those that worship the Father must worship in spirit. They must, it wasn’t a choice, it wasn’t if you want to, they must worship in spirit, from the core of your being, and in sincerity, in truth. Hallelujah!

This is where we are in the time, day, season. I often feel like a fool, like a failure, with an inability to get it out there. I can’t help it, that’s the way I often feel, but I’m still believing God, that among us, there is going to be a people, and among those that are listening beyond out there in the world, there is going to be a people, who will turn off the enhancements that cause you to stomp your foot, raise your hand, or sing your song, or intercede your intercession or cry a tear, that will turn it all off, and when the sound stops, be shocked to hear, my heart beats for God ….. my heart longs for God, in spite of people, in spite of circumstances, in spite of the time, the season, the day, the corruption, the filth, in spite of my own pain, in spite of the heat and the torments of the world, in spite of it all, His presence is drawing near saints, it’s there …… are you going to run ……. toward it, or are you going to miss out on the opportunity to build a habitation.

See, Jesus took Peter, James and John to the Mount of Transfiguration one day, and He went a little further up the mountain. And when He was up there, He had a visitation of Moses and Elijah. Well, then they got excited. They got excited when the Glory was surrounding this Moses and Elijah and the splendour of heaven and the enhancements were there. Wow!!!! ......... well Jesus, let’s build three tabernacles, let’s build three habitations, because this is an enhanced experience! That didn’t make the Father very happy. So He overshadowed them, and took Moses and Elijah away, and they were left with Jesus only. No sound, no Glory, no enhancement …. there was no more mention of building a tabernacle. There was no more mention, “Jesus, sorry, forgive us, can we make you a habitation …. you are enough for me …. you are enough for me. I don’t need all that, I don’t need Moses and Elijah …. I’m sorry. I don’t need the sounds, I don’t need the glamour, I don’t need the effects, I don’t need the lights, I don’t need the strings, I love it, but I don’t need it to build you a tent, to build you a habitation, because YOU …………… are enough for me.

The sad reality in this generation, is that Jesus is not enough. We’re always looking for something to make us feel better, make us feel different. Looking for something ….. something to wave a magic wand over us and take the pain away. We’re looking an anesthesia, so we don’t have to feel it. We’re looking for a flight that would come and take us out of Mamre. We’re looking for an air conditioner to comfort us, so that we don’t have to experience the heat and the turmoils of life, because… .. He is not enough. But those who will experience the raising, the rebuilding, the restructuring, the restoring of this tabernacle of presence, this tabernacle of David, in the day season and time before the coming of the Lord, those people are going to be people who have awakened, they have been circumcised, that covering that makes their hearts dull, is gone, it is removed. A Covenant has been made with God. You are my God, all I need is you. And that was Abraham’s experience on that great memorable occasion, when he ran and bowed. And it was right thereafter, that God gave him the promise of a son …………. a son.

Let’s not go there right now, because if we do, we’ll be here till late, but you all know what I’m talking about. Thank you Jesus. What a day, what a season, that you and I live in. I’m honoured to be part of this day, and to be counted worthy by the Lord, not that I’m worthy, I’m not worthy, but to be counted worthy to handle His Holy Word, to whoever wishes to hear. I feel so blessed and I thank you all for being willing, hungry to come and listen, that the Word of God touch you and feed you.