

Sermon Title: Hosting His Glory (Scripture is from ESV)

Scripture Reading: Habakkuk 2:14

### Introduction

Good afternoon church. It's my pleasure to bring the Word of God to you all today. Last week we had a ministry team from IHOP (International House of Prayer) visit us for the service and we experienced quite a move of the Holy Spirit here in King Bar. People were getting hit by the power of God. Some of you were laughing with joy while others were crying as they were being touched by God's love and goodness. It was a great time! God truly fills us with joy when we are in His presence (Psalm 16:11).

But although last week was good, I believe it was only a small appetizer of what God is about to unleash here in Itaewon and in Seoul. Just hours before last week's service I was sharing with Lydia about what I'm looking forward to seeing here at King Bar. That I couldn't wait to see the glory of God poured out upon us. I even mentioned some specific names of people that I really see the glory touching. Interestingly, Megan was one of those names I mentioned to Lydia and last week she got quite a dose of the glory. She was in another world for quite a while. But even though she got hit pretty strongly, I still felt there is a whole lot more for her. God's glory is going to come in an even stronger measure. Amen?

So today I felt the Lord prompting me to prepare us to be good hosts of God's glory. You guys did a great job last week. We only had a couple people walk out as things got "messy." Everyone else here stayed to remain in God's presence and I really felt God was honored among us. But with the greater measure of glory, the greater we must be prepared.

### Glory of God

So what exactly is the glory of God? Most translators term glory as referring to majesty, splendor, and beauty. But glory in the Hebrew language is "kabhode," which means "weight" or "heaviness." This term is clearly used whenever God shows up, such as when He passed by Moses or when His glory filled the temple during Solomon's reign. **So God's glory refers to His physical manifestation.** What does "manifestation" mean? It basically means for something that couldn't be seen before to suddenly become clearly perceived.

**This is important.** I need all of you to understand this term and what we should expect. What happens when God shows up and manifests Himself, i.e. reveals His glory? Thunder, lightning, fire, earthquakes, wind, tornados, dark clouds, and other powerful ways that always cause the people of God to fall in worship. When God reveals His glory, even the most righteous men like Job and Isaiah fall in repentance and reverence. When the Holy Spirit manifests His glory upon someone, often you will see them shake, cry, laugh, fall, shout, or do something else that they usually wouldn't do. This is because the Holy Spirit is touching them.

Remember, the term glory in Hebrew translates to weight or heaviness. This can help us understand why people fall down when they are prayed for or when the Spirit is clearly present. One of my favorite moments in the Bible is in John 18.

John 18:4-6 – Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, 'Whom do you seek?' They answered him, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus said to them, 'I am he.' Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, 'I am he,' they drew back and fell to the ground.

Why did all the soldiers and Pharisees suddenly fall before Jesus? When Jesus responded to them He said, "I am." I AM is the name of God. Jesus, for that moment, revealed His true identity. And

the soldiers and Pharisees, even though they had no faith in Him being God, had to fall. God's glory is that strong! This is why every knee will bow before God. His glory is too great for us!

This also explains why we see people shake as the presence of God increases around us. Have you ever tried to hold something heavy over yourself for a long time? After a while, your muscles begin to weaken and your arms begin to shake. The weight becomes too much for you. It's no wonder why the people trembled whenever God showed up in the Bible. It was not just out of reverence, but out of the weight of His presence.

What we need to understand about God's glory is that there is no clear manual for it. We have some examples in the Bible of His glory being revealed, but nearly every time God reveals His glory He does it in a new and powerful way. God is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. He is infinite in majesty. There is only so much of Him we can see. Even for all eternity we will never be able to grasp all of His glory. **With this in mind, we cannot put God in a box and expect Him to only reveal His glory in certain ways.** He is too grand for that.

But while we might not be able to fully grasp His glory, God expects us to understand how to host His presence and minister effectively in it. The disciples and Paul were such great hosts of the glory that even handkerchiefs they prayed over or their own shadow could heal people. God's presence, His glory, was thick around them.

**Habakkuk 2:14 – For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.**

There is much to learn in regards to moving in the glory of God and I believe this will be just one of a number of messages that will be given here on the subject. We have to have the glory and presence of God here in order to see a lasting change both here in King Bar and in the streets of Itaewon. Last week was nice, but we need to press in and expect far more from God.

I am going to cover two critical areas that we must grasp in order for God's glory to continually be welcome in our lives. There are many areas, but for this message I will only cover two.

### **Judging the Spirit**

Please turn with me to 1Thessalonians 5:19-21...

**1Thessalonians 5:19-21 – Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good**

**The first critical point in hosting God's glory is that we must be rid of every critical and judgmental spirit within us, particularly towards the moves of God.** The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead. He is not some sort of force or aura, He is a person and expresses emotion. Scripture always refers to the Spirit as a "He" and not an "It." Throughout the book of Acts we can read of different times when the Spirit's presence, God's glory, showed up in powerful ways. In such settings, the early believers were hosting God's presence. How they would respond to the Spirit's presence would be critical for how much the Spirit could work in them.

As a host, what is one of the quickest ways to make your guest feel unwelcome? To be critical or judgmental towards them. Point out areas about them that you don't like or don't feel comfortable with. Slander some of the ways your guest acts. That will make your guest pack up and go without a second thought.

Sadly, many Christians have been oblivious to the emotions and presence of God's Spirit. Many of us see something strange happen in the church or something we don't understand, and we are quick

to judge or just say something simple like, “I don’t want any of that.” To have these mindsets is to judge and even reject the pure moves of God. And to reject even just a part of God is to still reject who He is. We cannot expect His glory if we won’t allow Him to come as He desires.

### **My Background**

I feel it’s important for you to all know a bit about my past and where I’ve come from spiritually. I actually grew up in a church that did not believe in the spiritual gifts or teach much about the Holy Spirit. I knew pretty much nothing about the charismatic movement. I then attended Virginia Tech and got involved in different Christian fellowships. I became very committed to a fellowship that is similar to Campus Crusade. They had similar beliefs as my home church and were very loving, great people. I loved that fellowship. But one night a week I would also attend another fellowship with some other friends. This other fellowship was very similar, except that during their praise time I felt a little closer to God and I would get stirred up more during their prayer times.

I can remember during one praise night at that fellowship people began to pray a bit more intensely. God’s presence was moving among us strongly that night. I then heard someone speak in tongues for the first time in my life. And it was weird. She was someone I had known for a while and respected, and she was focused in prayer. I wasn’t sure what to think. I knew God’s presence was in this fellowship and I could see good fruit, so I just continued to focus on God in prayer and praise. Later I asked a good friend of mine who was attending another university about his thoughts, and to my surprise he told me he had also recently received the gift of tongues. He had already been on fire for God for a while and I could see good fruit in his life. The gift of tongues and the Holy Spirit were still pretty foreign to me, but I knew I wasn’t to write them off.

A while later there was another intense night of prayer and praise at the fellowship and the Spirit really began to move. People were praying passionately and worshipping. Then I saw a manifestation of the Holy Spirit for the first time. On this night one of the brothers in the fellowship who I knew began to shake a lot as he cried out to God. Once again, it was weird. I had never seen anything like it before. I actually left the meeting after seeing that. I wasn’t sure what to think. I shared about it with a friend from my other fellowship and he told me, “It’s a cult. Get out!” He was as clueless as I was about what was happening in the other fellowship, so he quickly classified it as evil. But I wasn’t so sure.

The Lord kept pressing these verses on my heart. Please turn with me to Hebrews 6...

**Hebrews 6:7-8 – For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end it to be burned.**

God is clear in saying that if we receive His Holy Spirit and bear good fruit, that we are blessed. But if we do not produce fruit, then we are cursed. Strong words. And I could see clearly that the charismatic fellowship was producing good fruit. I could see people being saved and growing in love and passion for God. I could feel His presence there. Although I couldn’t understand some of the things of the Spirit there, **I felt God telling me not to judge what was happening but to seek more understanding from God. \*Repeat\***

It took me a few years of continuing to seek and understand God more before I fully opened myself up to the Holy Spirit. I could no longer ignore all the references to the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. I could no longer ignore how often Jesus spoke of the baptism of the Spirit and how God didn’t just baptize the apostles with the Spirit but also most of the new believers in the early church. And the fact that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8) and nowhere in the Scripture does it say the Spirit was only meant for the early church.

The final push for me to ask for the Spirit happened after my second mission trip. In 2003 I helped lead a mission team of about 55 volunteers to a Buddhist town in Korea for an English mission camp. The camp was extremely difficult and taught me a ton about spiritual warfare. Weird things kept happening during the camp and I could no longer write them off as coincidence. I could see that we were clearly in a battle. And we fought hard in prayer. And while we came out of the camp okay and we saw some good fruit, I was exhausted. **I realized that if I was to face anything greater, I wouldn't have the strength.** At that point in my walk I was already spending long times in prayer with God each day and fasting once a week. In terms of spiritual discipline, there was only so much more I could do. And yet I was still lacking.

That was when God told me, "Receive the Holy Spirit." So I began to pray and ask God to baptize me with the Holy Spirit. The gift of tongues was still strange to me, but I chose to pray for it. **I understood that if the one of the greatest men of God ever, Paul, took pride in speaking in tongues more than anyone else, that I should seek the gift as well (1Corinthians 14:18).** A few months after I began praying I received the gift at a retreat. Since then God has gradually brought me deeper and deeper into the ways of His Spirit.

Through all this God convicted me to never judge the manifestations of the Spirit or His anointed ones. This is also important, the Holy Spirit will often use certain men or women of God to work through in mighty ways. For us to judge these men or women critically is to judge God's chosen people. **It's to judge God's Sovereign choice.** As I grew with God I would hear slander towards different men of God and I could feel the Spirit in me being grieved. Even when the slander was directed against men of God who had clearly sinned and done wrong, I could feel the Spirit in me being hurt and upset. God would remind me that in the chapter of faith of Hebrews 11 there are plenty of men and women listed who sinned horribly during their lives and yet God still honored them. That isn't to say their sin is to be looked over or not held accountable for, but it shows the grace of God. To slander a man of God whom God's glory has been working through is to slander God's choice. This is extremely dangerous.

The consequences of opposing the moves of God's Spirit or judging God's servants are clearly severe. In 2Kings 2 some youths jeered at the prophet Elisha and mocked him for not being taken up in the whirlwind like his mentor Elijah. Elisha is led to curse them and these youths are then mauled by two bears. In the book of Jeremiah there are multiple men who oppose Jeremiah and mock him and his words. These men are also in turn cursed. In Acts 13, Paul is opposed by a sorcerer. Led by the Spirit, Paul curses this man and the sorcerer becomes completely blind. God doesn't play around when it comes to those opposing His Spirit or slandering those whom His Spirit is working through.

Most of the prophets in the Old Testament were not understood or recognized by their people. They were strange to the people and often the people judged them or even killed them. This was the same for Jesus: He brought such a shift to the Jews' way of thinking that they judged Him and crucified Him. We cannot make the same mistake today.

If you have judged certain moves of God or certain people of God that you did not understand or simply did not like, **it is critical for you to repent.** Also, if you have referred to the Spirit as an "it," you need to repent of this as well. We may not understand every move of God, but we want to have open hearts and seek more revelation of Him. We can have peace as we see good fruit come from what He does, even if we still can't fully understand what is happening.

The greatest commandment is for us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37). We do not judge or criticize those we love, even when we don't fully understand them. The second greatest commandment is for us to love our neighbor as ourselves. This leads us to the second critical point for hosting the presence of God...

## Heart For Others

If we truly desire God's glory in our life and in our church, we must have a heart for others. Let me say that again, **"We must have a heart for others."** Jesus came not to be served, but rather to serve. And His life was marked by God's glory. As we align our hearts with the heart of Jesus, we should expect the same for our lives.

In the tenth chapter of Mark, two of Jesus' close disciples, James and John, approach Him and ask Him if they can sit on either side of Him in heaven. Basically, their request is that they be considered the greatest among the disciples. This was Jesus' reply...

**Mark 10:43b-45 – Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.**

Jesus made it clear to them that in order for them to be considered great in the Kingdom they must become a servant, or even a slave, among the people of God. This doesn't mean to view oneself as pitiful or with false humility, but it means to view others as more important. It means to seek to bless and love others even if it costs some of your own dignity.

Jesus' final act and lesson for His disciples was not a miracle or a healing or a demonstration of power. Instead, His final act and lesson for His disciples was washing their feet. This role was usually done by a servant or the lowest in the household. When Jesus and His twelve disciples entered the upper room none of His disciples thought to wash each other's feet, let alone wash their own. After humbling Himself before His disciples and loving them to the end, He gave them these commands...

**John 13:14-17 – If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, **blessed are you if you do them.****

**"Blessed are you if you do them."** For His last active lesson with the disciples Jesus doesn't say, "Blessed are you if you do mighty miracles" or "Blessed are you if you become mighty in the Spirit or get great revelations of God's Word." He says, "Blessed are you if you wash their feet." Blessed are you if you become servant of all.

Scripture is clear in saying that we are foreigners and strangers here in this world (1Peter 2:11). We are not here just to live, die, and go to heaven. We are here for a mission, to worship God and in turn proclaim His name to the nations. We are indeed all missionaries here on earth, and this is the mindset we must keep with everyday we live. No matter what our job title is, we are missionaries.

I did not come to the children's home here in Korea to be served by the children. I did not come to get blessed by them. Rather, I came because God has sent me here and because these children need to know the love of God. I am here to serve them. If ever I lose that mindset, then I am no longer of any value to the children or to Korea. I become dead weight. And then why should God bless me or strengthen me? But if I am truly seeking to love the children and bless those who are victims of injustice, then why would God not want to bless me and empower me? Of course He would want to! He wants the children to be loved as much as possible! I have then made myself more of an able host for His glory.



Moses saw no miracles in his life until he chose to accept God's commission to go to Egypt and lead God's people out of captivity. As Moses chose to obey and serve the people, God released amazing miracles that are still spoken of today. The disciples in the Bible saw no miracles in their lives until Jesus sent them out ahead of Him to proclaim the coming of God's kingdom (Luke 10). And as they obeyed God and went to proclaim the Good News and love the people, miracles abounded. There are no records of any miracles in the apostle Paul's life until after he was sent with Barnabas by the church of Antioch to preach the Gospel throughout Asia and southern Europe. The glory of God marked these peoples' lives because they were being examples of Christ in their servant hood and love.

So often we want a prophetic word or a touch from God or to see a miracle, and there is nothing wrong in desiring these things. But our motive in desiring these things must be both to love God more and to love His people more. God equips us so that we may love more. As we allow God to grow our heart for those around us, we become more and more of a temple worthy to host the presence and glory of God.

### **One Effect of the Glory**

Before I close this message, I want to warn you all of one effect of the glory. Please open your Bible to 1Samuel 19:23. King Saul is trying to pursue David to kill him, but he runs into the prophet Samuel. The glory of God falls upon him, and something interesting happens...

1Samuel 19:23-24: And he (King Saul) went there to Naioth in Ramah. And the Spirit of God came upon him also, and as he went he prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah. And he too stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before Samuel and lay naked all that day and all that night. Thus it is said, 'Is Saul also among the prophets?'

Bizarre, right? The word "naked" in the text doesn't necessarily mean he was completely stripped, but can also mean that he was only in his undergarments. Still, what is going on?

In 2Samuel 6 we have another story of a king removing his robes. It is the account of King David bringing the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem amidst much celebration. King David is so overjoyed that he takes off his kingly robes and dances in a linen ephod, a priestly garment, before the people.

While Scripture is not clear in saying it, I believe the glory of God was present both times. **And an effect of the glory of God is that it causes us to realize our true standing before God.** God is glorious. He is to be revered. He is awesome and marvelous. Saul could not wear his kingly robes before God. Even though Saul was living in disobedience, being under the glory of God he had to humble himself and strip of his royal attire before the Lord. King David on the other hand already knew his identity in God and was not ashamed. During the glorious parade of bringing back the ark, David made sure that all glory was given to God rather than himself.

I believe as we prepare ourselves to be better hosts of His glory that we are going to experience the weight of His presence like never before. And I believe that as the weight of His presence falls in King Bar and around this area, that many who were once stubborn and hardhearted before the Lord will suddenly realize their true standing before Him. They will see both how lost they are and how worthy God is of our worship. The prostitutes, Muslims, homosexuals, and others in this area will begin removing their identities in this world and taking on their true identity in Christ. The glory of God will do this. Amen?

Let me close with these verses...

Jude 1:24-25 – Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless **before the presence of his glory** with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.