

October 29, 2014

Life and the human condition are never static; they are always moving but the question is in which direction are they going? For more than two and a half years I have been on a personal pilgrimage in pursuit of the Manifest Presence of God in both my personal life and that of the church. The reason for my pursuit is that the Word of God (scriptures) indicates that the prime reason for God creating man was "For thy pleasure they were created;" *to delight and please God includes our sharing His pleasure in His presence.*

The purpose for the atoning work of Jesus was to enable us to engage in His presence but there are many hindrances preventing the breakthrough of that enjoyment. God has, in Christ removed all the roadblocks and walls preventing us from enjoying fellowship with Him. When Jesus cried from His cross, "It is finished!" the curtain of the Holy of Holies in the temple was ripped from top to bottom. *Our breakthrough involves entering the breakthrough Jesus has achieved for us.*

This is where the issue of breakdown or breakthrough is created. They seem at first to be opposites but they are actually complimentary. The biggest hindrance to God's manifest presence is me. Self stands at the door of my heart, and the only way to breakthrough is to allow God to breakdown that door; the only condition is that He will only do it with my cooperation.

If I fill my house with myself there is no room for God. What we often interpret as the tribulations of life is in fact God's process of bringing us to a place of "breakdown of self" so that we can enter the "breakthrough of His presence."

This breakthrough and breakdown experience is a process; oh, how I wish it was a one stop deal! "Unless a corn of wheat falls into the ground and dies it abides alone but if it die it brings forth much fruit."

For all who dare to come on this pilgrimage, there is a personal and corporate breakdown and breakthrough being experienced. One of the areas generating this process is the realm of private and corporate prayer; there is an ongoing release of prayer both in the Spirit and with understanding. Our call is to engage in Holy Spirit prayer encounters so that we stay tender towards the Spirit Himself. Without this continual divine encounter our hearts become like the skin that develops over paint in an open can; they quickly harden. Like Jesus, our hearts have to become as innocent as a child, free from all pride and open to hearing the Father's voice, so that "I only say what I hear the Father saying."

Our pursuit of His heart to delight and please Him is producing the breakthrough worship that we are experiencing each week and in the process we are being changed "from glory to glory."

What then is the purpose of breakthrough? It is that we might engage in God's manifest presence and bring delight to His heart. We will then become a dwelling place, a habitation for God among us. When God comes in His manifest presence He breaks out into our families, our community, our region, and to the uttermost part and it is from this position that we impart God's heart of salvation for all.

Pentecost becomes our pattern. Empowered by His Spirit, we breakout from our buildings into the community with the true heart of God. The challenge for us is that we need to experience BREAKDOWN before we achieve BREAKTHROUGH in order to enable BREAKOUT.

Shalom.

*Ron Harris*

