

KINGDOM ADVANCING PRAYER

Mark: 1:35 & Matt: 11: 11-12

From the desk of Elder Michael Scantlebury

Cultivating The Correct Atmosphere

Atmosphere is described as a surrounding influence or environment; a dominant aesthetic or emotional effect or appeal. It is also described as the pervading tone, spirit or mood of a place, situation, or work. So then, a working definition of “atmosphere” could mean a pervading or surrounding influence, tone or spirit, a general mood or environment.

In everything that we do for the Lord, atmosphere is very important. If we cultivate the correct atmosphere the Lord will show up. As a matter of fact every church possesses a certain type of atmosphere, and we here at Dominion-Life International want to ensure that we maintain a bold, aggressive, breakthrough type of atmosphere so that the Holy Spirit can manifest in all His power and glory.

There are several things that we can do to cultivate and also maintain the correct atmosphere in which the Lord can function. In every local church there is a culture, whether spoken or not. We here at Dominion-Life International must understand what defines us. We must know what makes us who we are. A church’s culture or atmosphere is determined by the mandate or vision that the Lord has given to its visionary.

As we know, the church is not the building but the people that come together in the building or wherever they meet. As we also know, people are spirits with souls who live inside of a body, and every person has his or her own atmosphere or presence that goes with them. It is very important that we cultivate the correct atmosphere in our lives so that we can release the correct “vibes” when we come together. I am sure you have at some time in your life experienced someone with “bad vibes” or presence or atmosphere. Even though we cannot fully explain what that “atmosphere” is we can certainly experience it. In like manner, we all at some point have experienced some one with a “positive vibes” and have been encouraged and built up by that individual.

As we continue to co-labour with the Lord in building this ministry and local church, I want us to be very aware that the Lord is requiring of us the cultivation and maintenance of the correct atmosphere for Him to move in. The Apostle James declared this: “For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.” James 3:16

In essence what he was saying is that wherever you have an atmosphere [which is created by the people present] of envy and self-seeking the end result would be confusion and every evil thing. If that is true, and it is, then the opposite is also true. Wherever you have an atmosphere of love and seeking the interest of others the end result would be divine order and every good thing.

It reminds me of when Solomon built the temple to house the Ark of The Covenant and when he had created the correct atmosphere:

“So all the work that Solomon had done for the house of the LORD was finished; and Solomon brought in the things which his father David had dedicated: the silver and the gold and all the furnishings. And he put them in the treasuries of the house of God. *Now Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel*, in Jerusalem, that they might bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD up from the City of David, which is Zion. Therefore all the men of Israel assembled with the king at the feast, which was in the seventh month. So all the elders of Israel came, and the Levites took up the ark. Then they brought up the ark, the tabernacle of meeting, and all the holy furnishings that were in the tabernacle. The priests and the Levites brought them up... And it came to pass when the priests came out of the Most Holy Place **(for**

all the priests who were present had sanctified themselves, without keeping to their divisions), and the Levites who were the singers, all those of Asaph and Heman and Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, stood at the east end of the altar, clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments and harps, and with them one hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets--indeed *it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD*, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever," ***that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.***" 2 Chronicles 5:1-5, 11-14

Solomon created the correct atmosphere for the Glory of God to descend; he made sure that there was divine order by assembling all the elders and head of the tribes together in order to bring the Ark up to its place. He also made sure that all the priests [remember we are the royal priesthood of God] who were present were sanctified and that there were no divisions [envy, backbiting, self-seeking, malice, etc] among them. He made sure that the praise and worship team was united and in one accord. It was only when the correct atmosphere was created that they began to enter into a time of intimacy with the Lord and He came in all His Glory and splendour; Hallelujah!

It is similar to a man and his bride in order for true intimacy to come there must first be the setting of the atmosphere. A husband and wife cannot be truly intimate if they are having a fight or disagreement. They must first deal with the issues before true intimacy can come. In like manner we cannot have true intimacy with the Lord if the atmosphere is not correct. The moment that the atmosphere is correct He will come and manifest Himself in all His Glory and power.

As we close, let us look at two contrasting events in the life of Jesus, demonstrating the need for the correct atmosphere:

"Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! *Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" And they were offended at Him.* But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house." ***Now He could do no mighty work there***, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He marveled because of their unbelief." Mark 6:1-6

Jesus could not function in that scenario because the atmosphere was one of contempt, cynicism and unbelief.

"Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And ***the power of the Lord was present to heal them.***" Luke 5:17-18

The atmosphere was correct and the power of the Lord was present to manifest in healing and deliverance. As we read lower down in the chapter we see an awesome show of faith and belief in Jesus and a paralyzed man was healed. The point is, wherever we have the correct atmosphere the Lord will come and manifest His Glory.

As we continue building Dominion-Life International, let us cultivate the correct atmosphere – reflected by our correct lifestyle:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:1-2

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
Hebrews 12:1-2

Dominion-Life International

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