



The Flame

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from GCCN Prayer Ministries

Pause and Ponder in Awe and Wonder

As the congregation sang, one of the phrases that was repeated several times was “Let the Spirit fill this place.” I was breathing a prayer that those words would be more than a musical bumper sticker, that He would indeed fill that place of worship.

Those words had barely crossed my lips, when I was startled by the image in my mind of people quaking in astonishment, even fear. Some fell to their knees. Others were laying fully prone on the floor, faces hidden. More than a few literally were running out the door.

Deep within me came these words: “They do not know what they are asking!”

When we think about our relationship with God, we most commonly embrace such thoughts as His promise to be closer than a brother. He calls us friends. We think of the warmth and peace from His presence.

But with all the emphasis on our relationship with our Friend, we are in danger of losing a sense of awe. When Isaiah stood in the presence of God, the only words on his lips were “Woe is me!” He saw the awesomeness of God and the contrast of his own unworthiness.

When we draw near to worship Him in prayer, the invitation to come unto Him and find rest must never be allowed to diminish the holy awe that the prophets experienced when they encountered His presence. Prayer as the evidence of our relationship with God can never be the experience it is intended to be without the sense of awe and wonder.

Taking Your Next Step

We must never take lightly the privilege of experiencing His presence. To stand in His presence even for a moment is life-altering. Pause and ponder who He is. Without this time of preparation, the practice of bringing requests to Him runs the risk of being trite.

Do not rush into your requests. Spend time reminding yourself that this is the Creator whose power is beyond anything known to mankind. Then turn to your requests with the humbling almost staggering awareness that you are in the presence of the God who longs for you to see those requests as He sees them. Our needs become redefined in the fresh light of His presence, power and grace.