

Pastor Bob Sorge
Habitation Conference 2017 Day 2 -2pm
Thursday, September 21, 2017

There's been some talk in our conference so far about rain and was sharing with Patrick Kitley... When you think about former rain and the latter rain, if you impose that into an American crop cycle you miss the point. In the Israeli crop cycle - there's 6-7 months of drought. Right around November, when the ground is in preparation, **the farmers start to cry out to God for the former rain in order to soften the soil so they can plant seed.** If it doesn't come in time, you don't get the harvest. Then comes winter. December /January high rain. In Feb- March it's the growth season and the focus of the growth is on the roots and the stalk. **Just about the time that the plant is ready to produce fruit in March - April, it gets hot and the rain stops and the farmers are now desperate and say we need rain.** If we don't get rain right now we're not going to get a crop. In Feb-March - all the strength of the plant has gone into growing roots and a stalk, but **now that it's time for the harvest all the strength goes into producing fruit** - but the rain has stopped. So they cry out give us the latter rain!

Latter rains are not large in quantity - it's tailing off. The thing that's significant is the timing. The plant is now ready to take all the moisture, there's no more root/sprout development - it all goes into fruit. You could be waiting for the longest time for God to bring fruitfulness into your season. Be ok with the time it takes beloved to grow roots and stalk. Roots are symbolizing being strengthened in Truth of the Word of God. The stalk is His righteousness. Devote yourself to the latter rain. With the root system you've developed you're able to gather all the moisture and it all goes into fruit. Now you are fruitful in the season that God has called you to. We need that latter rain.

I suffered an injury to my voice 25 years ago since that time it's been very weak and painful to use. I've been saving it all day for you My voices shut down, then the the writing opened up. I've just finished book #24. Sign up in the back for my newest book Reset. It's a primer on prayer to establish people on the foundations of a consistent prayer life.

I will give a free copy to every church represented here of Following the River.

There's a trend happening in America, in the world. I have been on the planet for 60 years watching trends. **We have got more stuff available to worship ministries today than the world has ever seen.** Gadgets, tech screen, lights, productions, multi-tracks, in ear, talk back, digital sounds, hi def screens, etc. The list doesn't complete the stuff we have! Part of me goes it's fantastic! **There's another part of me that goes there's a temptation for us to lean on the arm of flesh.** Every worship ministry represented, we develop our skills and gifts because we want to be excellent stewards. When you're a 5-talent person you hardly need the Holy Spirit. It's tempting to rely on our strengths.

Romans 1:9

God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you

I serve God with my spirit. He doesn't say I serve God with my gifts, talents strengths.

One of the things that I appreciate about Habitation is you are watching a model being presented in this conference of leaders who have all of this stuff at their disposal, but they're serving God with their spirit! This is what I wish for you. Yes, cultivate your gifts, become excellent, and develop your craft and then **learn how to serve God with your spirit.**

I was at an event a few months back in a certain city. The brother who was putting the event together - it was a first time event in the city. He pulled together a worship team from a bunch of different churches. They were top caliber. He said you can have a sound check, but you're not allowed to rehearse. I happened to be backstage before the event with the worship leader but she was stressed by this stipulation. She's talking to her husband, *"I don't now where we are going? What are we doing? What is the purpose? This is so disorganized."* So when we begin the day, I've got inside information. There is frustration on the worship team. I know this. I'm just like I wonder what's gonna happen. I testify to you that on **the first line of the first song, the Holy Spirit fell in the room.** Jesus joined us that day! It was as though He was saying, *"I like this altar!"* I'm not saying don't practice or that God doesn't approve of practice. I think He was saying, *"I love that you're swimming upstream against the tendency to lean on the arm of flesh."* Learn to serve God with your Spirit.

As I've been watching things, I've identified 3 trends in worship 3 models of worship that I would identify with these 3 words:

1. 60-70's **preliminary model of worship.** Everything leading up to the sermon was preliminary to the sermon. The sermon was the main event. We didn't even call it a worship service, it was a song service.

In the 70's Judson Cornwall had a Psalm 22:3 revelation:

But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

2. **We found ourselves ushered into and invited into a presence paradigm and worship became and end in itself.** We learned that worship is something we can enter into. We can enter into the presence of God and experience Him. **Worship and the Word became equally valid in our philosophy of corporate worship.**

3. **Habitation** - God is wanting to bring the church into a habitation model of worship. When habitation comes, that's when **God comes and doesn't just visit with his presence when the people gather and leave when they disburse.** God comes and establishes a habitation amongst his people. You know it's habitation, when you can't shut the meeting off. You turn off the lights/sound of and the people don't go anywhere. We've been waiting for centuries when Jesus came and they had habitation - 3 days with no shelter, no food, and they said, we're not going anywhere, because it's habitation. Another word for it is GLORY. When God visits us with His glory. When He visits not just with his Eph 3:

2 Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, 3 that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. 4 In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. **when we see with our eyes what we have heard of him with our ears.**

I'm waiting for the day of habitation. I appreciate your lights and smoke machines, but they don't fool me. What we have now in the church is worship productions, but production is not presence, and orchestration is not habitation. I appreciate you giving it your best shot up there. My heart is longing for habitation. I want the glory of G0d.

I'd like to talk about the river of God in Ezekiel 47:

Ezekiel sees a river flowing. I believe that there is a physical, literal fulfillment of Ex 47 coming. An actual river that will flow from the river of Jerusalem into the Dead Sea. **This represents the river of corporate worship that we long to find.** Ezekiel says it starts off as a trickle and the further down you go it's get deeper and deeper. That describes our churches on Sunday am 10:00 am, but **don't despise that trickle.** That trickle has the potential and the grace of God to become the mighty torrent of everlasting life the will catch us up into the eternal affections of our LORD Jesus Christ. **Ezekiel sees it coming from the right side of the temple.** I think Mel Gibson got it right in the Passion of the Christ movie, when he has Jesus pierced on the right side - **from the right side of the crucified lamb comes a fountain of everlasting life that is a life giving river for us to flow in.** **The cross is the genesis of worship.** It all starts at the cross the flood waters of worship are to be found its the cross of Jesus Christ.

I say it to worship leaders all the time. **if you're having trouble getting altitude in a given service, take us back to the cross.** When you get to the cross the fountain head awakens the heart and open the affections. It's because of the crucified lamb that now my heart flows in a ever increasing flow of affection. Jesus you have won my heart with and now my heart is yours forever. **There are 1000s of song yet to be written about the cross of Jesus Christ. Song writers, give them to us.**

Ezekiel 47:5:

He measured off another thousand, but **now it was a river that I could not cross,** because **the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in--a river that no one could cross.**

It started off ankle, then knee, then waist deep. Then I got to a place where it was a river that cold not be crossed. This river would sweep you off your feet. You could only swim in this kind of river. The current in the river, taking you off your feet. **It wasn't an altogether pleasant experience - there was the loss of a sense of footing and sense of control.** The river is not something that every church wants. But there's something inside of me. I don't know what I'm asking for, something inside goes, it might mean my loss of control, but I am asking for the river of God that will sweep us off our feet and catch us up into the love of Christ. There is a river when the waters get deep enough it will take you off your feet.

David was with Samuel having a prayer meeting. Saul wants to kill David and sends henchmen they hit the river and down they go. He says, I need rope. He sends the bad boys, they hit the river and down they go. He sends some demonized guys same thing. Then Saul goes down himself to arrest David. He hits the river and down. Down he goes with murder in his eyes. **The River bested him. When the river is deep enough it doesn't matter what condition you are in.** Cynic, mad, sad, glad, it will catch you off your feet and carry you into the glory of God. This is the river that my heart longs for. You bring your friend to church, and ask what did you think about the worship? They say, *"It was nice."* I don't consider that a compliment. **I want the answer to be dangerous.** I want swimming depth waters to catch you of you your feet and carry you up into the affections of Jesus christ. ***If the rivers get too deep, won't we scare off the fish? I'll let you answer that.***

Trees of healing were in the depths of the river. When the river gets deep enough, miracles begin to happen signs and wonders. The river was ankle, knee, waist, now it becomes a river

to swim in. Jesus will you visit your church with swimming depth waters? May they ears open, eyes open, tumors healed, etc. **The miraculous is the domain of the worship ministry. Don't let go or relent until you have signs and wonders happening int he context of your worship ministry.**

Paul talks bout the river in the New Testament 1 Cor 14:24-25 one of my favorites on corporate worship:

24 But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, 25 as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"

Paul is talking about the river that Ezekiel is speaking of. As the river begins to rise a prophetic spirit fall in the house and God starts to read the unbeliever's mail. He's letting him know, *"I know your name, where you live, the cry of your heart, what you're reaching for. I know what you said to your friend on the phone last night."* God is there. That guy falls on his face and begins to worship God because he recognizes God is in this place. He's not even saved yet, but he's on his face. The guy leaves the meeting he goes and finds his friends. I thought I was just going to a church. I got there and GOD was there. It scared me to death. He knows my name, where I live, the cry of my heart and even what I said to you on the phone last night. **I'm telling you you go to that building! you will have a face to face with God himself.**

The litmus test for New Testament corporate worship is NOT what did the Believers say about the meeting! You can get the believers talking about it easily. Did we have church! All the believers are trying to convince each other that we had a good time. **I'm not that impressed when believers leave the meeting talking it up.** If you get a grumpy, crusty unbeliever who could care less bout God to say it, God is in that place now you've touched the river. This is what my heart longs for, and your heart too. This is what Habitation longs for...we want GOD in the room!! People are boring. You get 30 people, it's boring times 30. 300, 3000 it's boring times whatever the number is. Get God in the house, now you've got something. **When you have God in the house, you're not gonna have a problem getting people in the house.** God is the one we've been wanting all along. When God is in the house your parking lot, your building, the bathrooms are too small. This is gonna have to go to the local arena or stadiums of wealth. When God visits people in Habitation. God is with His people. They're gonna come from everywhere in their wheelchairs - pushing their wheelchairs out! We come from everywhere, we have touched the river off God. The trees of healing are sinners are saying God is in this place.

When we gather together in corporate worship,, here's a trade secret of worship leaders. We throw out a song and then we test out the waters and throw out another song. We're trying to find the river of God. When we find it we want to stay in it and go deeper. **Worship leaders are river hunters.** I was pondering that one day. I thought. **Rivers don't follow straight lines. Service orders and set-lists do.** The river of God doesn't follow straight lines.

River of God - example flows in squiggly lines

Set List - flows in straight lines

Anybody been in this meeting? You get to the 3rd song, nothing. You look at your list you want something to open underneath you and swallow you into the center of the earth. Nothing more depressing we are never going to hit anything today. I've had my quota of those kinds of services. We want to find the river and we want to stay in it and go deeper.

Or, just about the time you're about to hit water, you hear these infamous words... "**You may be seated.**"

Or this, going through the list, the atmosphere transforms and everyone in the room knows we just struck something. And.... you keep trucking with your list. **Everybody thinks they're in the river cause they're wet.** We want to find the river, stay in it, and go deeper.

Or the standardized evangelical worship service. Somebody wrote a rule that you cannot go looking for the river until 20 minutes into the meeting, it's illegal. I'd like to find that guy. If you try it earlier, the river police will come. You have to do 3 fast and 3 slow songs -then and only then will you be allowed to go river hunting. Who wrote this rule? Does anyone know where he lives.? My heart says **why can't we go looking for the river from the start?**

Or in some worship services we're in and out of the river. We get excited then it stops, then we get excited again. It's frustrating.

My point is not my target. **I see a fundamental incompatibility between the straight lines of our preparation and the flow of the river of God.** You're going through your set list you hit the river and you're in a dilemma... Do I stay with my list? or do I get out of the boat try to walk on water and stay where the river might go? Do I stay in my boat and stick with my list or get out of the boat put preparation aside and go with the river? We might get embarrassed in the process. If I just go for it right now, will I be by myself or will these people go with me? **We scope the crowd and decide not today. I'm staying in the boat with this group today.** Everyone should bring a flame thrower to the worship service. We came for the same reason you came. **Give us the river of God. If you hit water we're going with you.** The worshippers of the world of the world have a message for the worship leaders of the world. **We didn't come to the house for your setlist. We came to the house of the river of God.** If you find that river, go for the river! Go for the river, that's why we're here. We'll go with you. Let's river hunt together.

There is tension between preparation and spontaneity. I am a pro-preparation guy. I believe in rehearsals and sheets, practice, excellence, and maximizing craft. Eph 6 says put on the armor of the warrior. He said the shoes should be shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. **If you're not prepared, you're going to battle without your shoes on.** Craft a set list. Get your teaching together, and prepare your sermon. Fashion a set list and then go river hunting. We get to this place worship leaders where we say, "*We worked on this song last night for 3 hours and you WILL sing it.*" Battle is not did you practice it, it is **...will that help us find the river?** if it will help us to find the river, stay in it and go deeper ok. If you find yourself in the crossroads to flowing, you need to find something that's not on your set list and go with the river.

People don't come to listen to you, they come to watch you. Matt 11 - Jesus testifying about John the Baptist asked his disciples, "*What did you go into the wilderness to see?*" Jesus was acknowledging that they went to SEE John the Baptist, because he was a burning and shining lamp. **See how he had a burning and fire in his heart, a holy flame for God and people came from all over to see him burn.** Everybody is into a bonfire. They came not to

listen, but to watch him. **The question in your City is not -is there a church in town with a hot sound.** I think the question is...**is there a church in town where they burn with a pure flame for the church of Jesus Christ where they are alive and the word/ dwells richly and love is a burning flame in their hearts.**

If they're coming not to listen but to watch...**why are we putting our best energies into how we sound?** We practice the thing so tight. We're competing with the CD. I was just want to relieve you of that pressure. We're not coming to the house for CD quality worship. You're not competing with somebody's play list. We are coming to the house because we want the river of God.

Why not stay just stay home on Sundays? Why not put the play list on and worship God at home. You'll probably get better music. Why not stay home. **One reason is because play lists follow straight lines. You will never get the river from your play list.** What your heart longs for can only be found in the congregation. When God's people gather together, the song of the LORD begins to rise. The presence of God begins to move. **What we have come for is a living breathing organic love exchange the happens extemporaneously on the spot.** A one of a kind, never before seen encounter between the bride and the Bridegroom.

The world has never seen it and will never seen it again. An encounter with the risen Christ that history will never again see. Worship is that living, alive, breathing and romantic dance between the bride and the bridegroom and now every worshipper is weaving a thread in the tapestry of corporate worship and something begins to take place in the congregation that is beautiful, it's living, its' breathing it's why you pulled yourself out of your pajamas and came to the house of God to worship in the congregation. **You won't get the river out of a webcast.** You only get it when you're in the house.

To stay in the river of God we've got to navigate the difficult waters between the old song and the new song. The new song presents challenges, it's really turbulent. Churches have split over this. **Corporate worship is the artistic use of both old and new songs. In Heaven they have both.** They have one so old, I don't know the copyright date. **Holy Holy Holy, they've been signing that one for a long time.** Then there's a new song in Rev 5 - a new song to the Lamb. Why? because the Lamb is doing something new. The Lamb is taking the scroll from the Father - an event that has not yet taken place. When that event happens. He will then open the seals and when He opens the seal on that scroll human history as you and I have known it, human history will go to this dramatic conclusion. Jesus take the scroll and open the seals and begin the process by which His return will be prepared. When He takes the scroll all of Heaven, all of earth, everything under the earth, and all of creation will explode into a new song to the Lamb. The Lamb is doing something new. **A new song is a response to new things God is doing. When a new thing happens in your life or in your church... write a song.**

New songs and old songs. One of the qualities of old songs is truth, orthodoxy, rootedness safety and comfort. New wine, the power is in the new song. It's unnerving and we're not quite sure we like it. **Old songs gather, new songs propel!** When you're wanting to gather a room. **You need to gather the room it looks like we're all together we need to find a corporate identity.** Now you can use a new song to go places. Back and forth old song and new. SO that we can find, stay and go deeper in the river of God.

I had the privilege to personally interview someone who was a former member of an American band called the Grateful Dead. They came out of the Bay Area in the 60's. I've never been to a concert. Jerry Garcia was the godfather. They would start with their set list

they'd come to a part where they went out of the boat. Jerry on guitar, then the drummer, bass, and vocals **they'd get themselves in a riff and they'd start to push.** The whole arena knows what they're doing and they're all pushing with them. They were looking for something. What? They said when they touched it... it was spirit. They would touch a spirit realm in the concert when they touched it everyone knew they crossed the line into another dimension. It was so powerful people made the grateful dead their religions they'd follow them around.

They were touching a river. There is a counterfeit river. I was familiar with the Pentecostal Sunday night river. I had no idea that they had something like it in the world. In the 70's I listened to Casey Kasem, but I couldn't find them. What were some of their hits? They didn't have any. **The power of the band was in their live concert.** Even today, their industry is people wanting to swap cassette recordings of Grateful Dead. They don't want the studio work or cd singles, they want those concerts because that's where they felt that river. Then the people they'd start getting generous and sharing everything they had. They said, **"It's when he 7th man shows up."** It was a recognition that there was something greater going on than the sum of the six people in their band. **When there is a counterfeit, there is a real.** It was created for the Church by the LORD Jesus Christ. **I say to our shame there is more of God's intention for music in bars than our churches will allow.** They are inciting us to jealousy. We have been giving by the Holy Spirit. **Habitation - it's your inheritance. It's your legacy.**

I was born and created for a river that flows from the throne of God Daniel 7:

10A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

A river of fire. I have been born of God for the river. I am gonna stand before the throne of God and I'm gonna have a Daniel 7 river flowing into my spirit. I'm gonna stand with you on a sea of glass mingled with fire and we're gonna stand around the throne of God. I think that we can touch aspects of that river even here and now. The fullness is to come, but there are down payments that we can experience today Rev. 7:9

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

The worship of heaven is multitude driven, not platform driven. Here's how we're now working: setlist, practice, that all starts on the platform. I don't believe it's gonna stay there. There's a day coming that God's gonna lead us into multitude driven worship. This weakness tends to produce a concert culture in worship. We come to the house and it's like we ask the worship leader, **"Tell me what to do."** They say, **"Lift your hands, say it one more time, louder."** **The worshipper comes with passive posture.** We'll do almost anything the platform tells us to do for 6 seconds. I am not a spiritual automaton that comes to the house looking for the platform to tell me what to do. I am a member of the great multitude I stand on a sea of glass with fire gazing upon the Lamb in His glory! **I don't need you to tell me what to do.** Where is the great multitude? Where are the burning ones? Where are the ones that stand before the Lamb that gaze on his glory whose have angels at the river of fire? who are caught up in the excellence of Jesus Christ? Where is the great multitude? **It's time for the great multitude to arise and be counted for.**

The worship service does not belong to the platform it belongs to us, and I think it's time for us to take the worship service back.

If the worship service belongs to us, why do we always accept it when they say the song is over? Everyone on the row and the row behind us is on fire. Go ahead and finish with your old song, we've got a new song! And the worship leader is saying, "Pastor, I'm trying to put on the brakes..." but **inside the Worship leader is saying FINALLY!**

Pastor William and his team, that's not the highest anointing. **It's the one that comes on the multitude. It's not a bonfire but a forest fire!!** We are striving toward multitude driven worship. You find it at the Triumphal Entry, on the Day of Pentecost. and in Rev. 7. In the Triumphal Entry, **it was the worship service that never happened.** It was an outdoor venue which is bad because it usually becomes a worship concert because everybody can't hear. There was no sound system. There were no musical instruments. There was no worship leader. It was the worship service that shouldn't have happened. **The religious leaders said this is dangerous, because it was multitude driven.** I think this is where the LORD wants this thing to go. Why there was no worship leader in all these things around the throne of God? My theory on why no worship leader? **I think when you're standing on a standing on a sea of glass mingled with fire clothed with righteousness, the veil has been removed, you won't need a worship leader,**

A transition happens as the river begins to rise something takes place in the multitude and the energy and impetus for worship is coming from the multitude and the platform becomes the facilitators of what God is initiating in the multitude. Then you will say to yourself we had a little bit of Heaven on earth today. This is where it's going and it's all because of a river that was opened up 2000 years ago! A spear that pierced His side, wounds in his hands and feet. **They won my heart, and now I'm saying give me this river!!** Give us a release of the spirit to find the river and stay in the river and go deeper. I want to ask the LORD to release a river anointing in this room. The altar call is for the whole room.

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