

Contending for More

2Samuel 6:1-12 ESV

I. The choice.

- a. Obed-edom chose to host the Presence of God at risk to himself and his family. They were manifestly blessed beyond measure. He became addicted to the Presence of God like Asaph (Psalm 73) and Samuel (1Sam. 3:3). He just wanted to be close so he moved his family and changed his job.
- b. He and his sons became gatekeepers in the house of God. (1Chron. 26) Psalm 84:10-12 ESV “For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the **LORD** God is a sun and shield; the **LORD** bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. O **LORD** of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!”
 - i. Not Levites – they didn’t help carry the ark.
 - ii. Not priests – they didn’t get to make the sacrifices.
 - iii. Doorkeepers – if we will choose this position, each of us will experience this blessing.
- c. Not just church, but all day every day – hosting His Presence. Forgiven – our past; heaven – our future; God’s purpose for our present is to be filled with His Presence. Acts 2:17 Ephesians 5:18 ESV “Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit...”

II. The catalyst.

- a. David is stirred. Romans 11:11 ESV “So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous.”
 - i. The 30,000 chosen Israelites probably all had a chance to host the ark first, but it was this foreigner, converted Philistine, who said yes and experienced the blessing of God that provoked David to get it back.
 - ii. This is a foreshadow of the Jews being offered Christ first, and then the Gentiles coming to faith as a catalyst to bring the Jews to Christ as well.
- b. God’s calling over City Church:
 - i. My experience in November of 2005. City Church – a sign that in the end times I will use the city-wide church; a sign to you that there will be an end-times revival.
 - ii. My experience in 2009 – “You are Caleb but you’ve had some confidence knocked out of you. You are Obed-edom, you love the

Presence of God, but you'll have to be part of a team to bring the ark to the city.”

- c. City Church itself is to be Obed-edom to the greater body of Christ. *From our crafted prayer: “make us a catalyst for revival and awakening in our region.” City Church is named because God will use the city-wide church – not churches, one church working together.
- d. The Final Quest – What wisdom spoke to Rick Joyner about all those who didn’t climb with him and he had judged. We need each other and eventually we will all climb – there will be no cessationists left!
- e. Thursday night at the 2024 Intimacy with God.
 - i. Anthony believes in me and in us. (More than I do! He’s like Jonathan to David in the wilderness.) He called us to our role in this region.
 - ii. At the end I read 1Chron. 15:26 ESV which has become a promise to me from God. “And because God helped the Levites who were carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD, they sacrificed seven bulls and seven rams.” God wasn’t helping Ahio and Uzzah because they were doing it man’s way. When God’s people tried to do it His way, even though they were still regular, broken people, God helped them do their part.

III. The influence of intimacy.

- a. Obed-edom and his family changed the nation but they did it through the influence of intimacy. 2Samuel 6:12a ESV “And it was told King David, “The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God.” Someone must have asked what was going on and he gave all the credit to the Presence of God that they were hosting. *1Peter 3:15 ESV in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,
- b. Early 2000s – I was seeking to be and influence for Jesus instead of seeking Jesus Himself. “What’s at your finish line?” Influence for Jesus.
 - i. Lost my delight in God. If you only believe God delights in you when you’re having influence; how much influence do you have to have?
 - ii. Lost my delight in people. Always had an agenda so I couldn’t delight in them where they were. *God spoke: “I’m calling you to be a bride, not a PR man.” Not marketing God, intimacy.
- c. Romans 15:13 NIV “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. “ Get so filled with the Holy Spirit and the goodness of God that you overflow. Jesus said drink, and rivers will begin to flow...