**CAN WE HAVE CHURCH TODAY?**

**II Chronicles 5:13-14**

[**13**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/2-Chronicles-5-13/)**It came even to pass, as 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 musick, and praised the LORD, *saying*, For *he is* good; for his mercy *endureth* for ever: that *then* the house was filled with a cloud, *even* the house of the LORD;**

[**14**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/2-Chronicles-5-14/)**So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.**

**INTRO:**

**\*\*I have an announcement! We can have church today!**

**Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.**

**\*\*Notice what they did in II Chronicles 5:13-14 to have church and let’s do the same thing. If we have church . . .**

**1. Choose to be One**

**II Chronicles 5:13a It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers *were* as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD;**

 **a. We must come together with one Spirit.**

 **b. We must come together with one Song.**

**Illustration: If the trumpeters were in the key of C playing “Amazing Grace” and the singers were in the key of F singing “Love Lifted Me,” then it would be a terrible divided sound! We have worship service to come together as one. If we have one group over here doing their own thing and another group over there doing their own thing, then that causes division.**

**2. Choose to be Obedient**

**II Chronicles 5:13b and when they lifted up *their* voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, *saying*, For *he is* good; for his mercy *endureth* for ever: that *then* the house was filled with a cloud, *even* the house of the LORD;**

 **a. Be obedient; make a sound and the Christ will appear.**

 **b. Be obedient; make a space and the Cloud will appear.**

**\*\*Some Churches and some Christians never experience the appearance of the Christ or the Cloud in the service because they didn’t make a sound to invite Him or they didn’t make space (or room) for Him to come in!**

**3. Choose to be Overtaken**

**II Chronicles 5:14 [14](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/2-Chronicles-5-14/%22%20%5Co%20%222%20Chronicles%205%3A14%20KJV%20verse%20detail)So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.**

**\*\*The glory of the Lord overtook the house of God.**

 **a. Let’s choose to be overtaken by His Grace!**

 **b. Let’s choose to be overtaken by His Glory!**

**\*\*It does not matter who is not here today; we can have church today if we choose to be one, choose to be obedient, and choose to be overtaken by the Savior and by the Spirit!**

**\*\*So let me show you three things about having church so that we can have church today!**

**I. NOTICE THE REQUIREMENTS**

 **A. Seeking is a Requirement**

**II Chronicles 7:1 Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.**

**\*\*This is a parallel passage to our text . . . very similar. \*\*Notice Solomon sought for the Lord in prayer before the fire fell and the glory of God filled the house!**

 **1. Seek God’s Presence through Prayer.**

 **2. Seek God’s Power through Prayer.**

**\*\*More folks walk into the church with pride instead of with prayers, and we can’t have church like that!**

 **B. Submission is a Requirement**

 **1. Solomon’s submission is Humble.**

 **2. Solomon’s submission is Heartfelt.**

 **a. He looks for God’s Favor.**

**II Chronicles 6:19-20** [**19**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/2-Chronicles-6-19/)**Have respect therefore to the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and the prayer which thy servant prayeth before thee:** [**20**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/2-Chronicles-6-20/)**That thine eyes may be open upon this house day and night, upon the place whereof thou hast said that thou wouldest put thy name there; to hearken unto the prayer which thy servant prayeth toward this place.**

 **b. He looks for God’s Forgiveness**

**II Chronicles 6:21 . . . hear thou from thy dwelling place, *even* from heaven; and when thou hearest, forgive.**

**\*\*If we would submit ourselves and seek God’s favor and forgiveness with all our heart, we could have church today!**

 **C. Sacrifice is a Requirement**

**II Chronicles 7:4 Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the LORD.**

**\*\*There’s two sides to sacrificing.**

 **1. Sacrifice includes Abandonment**

 **a. Give up your stinking Pride.**

 **b. Give up your set Priorities.**

**I Corinthians 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.**

**\*\*Paul told the church here that just because they had a song on their heart or a word didn’t mean God was leading them to share it.**

**\*\* A lot of churches can’t have church because everybody in the church has made it their priority to have a song, have a scripture, have a word, or something they just have to do to be doing it! It’s not for the purpose of glorifying God, helping the service or for edifying the church – and it is wrong to do!**

**\*\* The Lord never told us in His precious word to follow our hearts! That’s what the world wants us to believe. The Lord told us to follow Him - not our Hearts!**

 **2. Sacrifice includes Authorization**

 **a. Allow God’s Will to be the Authority.**

 **b. Allow God’s Ways to be the Authority.**

**\*\*If we want to have church today, we better start seeking, submitting, and sacrificing some things!**

**II. NOTICE THE RESPONSE**

**\*\*If we meet the requirements to have church, God will respond!**

 **A. Look at the Pleasing of the Lord**

**II Chronicles 7:1 the fire came down from heaven**

 **1. Our Praise should please the Lord**

 **a. From the Soul – Praise Him for His Goodness**

 **b. From the Soul – Praise Him for His Generosity**

 **c. From the Soul – Praise Him for His Grace**

 **2. Our Passion should please the Lord**

 **a. Real Adoration pleases the Lord**

 **b. Real Affection pleases the Lord**

 **B. Look at the Presence of the Lord**

**II Chronicles 5:14 [14](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/2-Chronicles-5-14/%22%20%5Co%20%222%20Chronicles%205%3A14%20KJV%20verse%20detail)So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.**

 **1. The House of God got Foggy**

 **a. When it’s foggy, we can’t see Others.**

**We only see the foggy cloud – the Holy Spirit!**

 **b. When it’s foggy, we can’t see Ourselves.**

**We only see the foggy cloud – the Holy Spirit!**

 **2. The House of God got Filled**

 **a. The Savior fills the house.**

 **b. The Spirit fills the house.**

**\*\*We may only have 35, 45, or 60 people, but when God comes to church, you can say the house was full!**

 **C. Look at the Power of the Lord**

 **1. The Priests could not Exhort**

**II Chronicles 5:14 [14](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/2-Chronicles-5-14/%22%20%5Co%20%222%20Chronicles%205%3A14%20KJV%20verse%20detail)So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud:**

 **2. The Priests could not Enter**

**II Chronicles 7:2 And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD'S house.**

 **a. Was it because of Rejection?**

 **b. Was it because of Reverence?**

**\*\*I have no idea why they could not enter except that the power of God was so strong that it kept them out!**

**\*\*That should make you want to get to the house of God and be there when the glory of the Lord fills the house!**

**III. NOTICE THE REWARD**

 **A. Their Recognition**

 **1. Those living Spirit-filled recognize God’s presence.**

**II Chronicles 7:3 And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD**

 **2. Those living Sinful recognize God’s presence.**

**II Chronicles 6:1 Then said Solomon, The LORD hath said that he would dwell in the thick darkness.**

**\*\*In this world that is so thick with darkness, the Lord set aside this land, this building, and these grounds to come down among His people and show His presence! The sinner knows it too when the Lord shows up!**

 **B. Their Reverence**

**II Chronicles 7:3 they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement**

 **1. They show Humbleness.**

 **2. They show Honor.**

 **C. Their Rejoicing**

**II Chronicles 7:3 worshipped, and praised the LORD**

 **1. They THROW their praise to God.**

 **2. They THRUST their praise to God.**

 **a. It takes a Desire.**

 **b. It takes a Determination.**

 **c. It takes a Direction.**

 **D. Their Report**

**II Chronicles 7:3 and praised the LORD, *saying*, For *he is* good; for his mercy *endureth* for ever.**

 **1. They were excited to testify of God’s Goodness.**

 **2. They were excited to tell of God’s Grace.**

**CLOSE**

**\*\*I don’t know about you, but when I come to church, I want us to come willing to allow God to have His way in the service so that His presence and power fills this House of God!**

**Illustration: Thirty-Six years ago in June 1979, a young man made aviation history. He flew a plane that was powered by the young man pedaling the plane to fly. The plane only flew about 15 feet above the English Channel’s water. For three hours the man pedaled the plane and only went 22 miles. He finally landed the plane, and it was clear to see that the man was totally exhausted. Even though he made history with such an unusual way to power the plane, it was also clear that self-powered pedal planes were not practical.**

**Application: This applies to the message today. It is not practical for the church, from the pulpit to the pews, to try to pedal the service along based on its own power. That will exhaust me and you both and accomplish very little. It is only through the enabling of the power of Christ and His Cloud (the Holy Spirit) that the church will take off and fly higher than ever before and go further than it’s ever been!**

**\*\*My desire is that we can come together and have church . . . even this very day.**

**\*\*As I said in the beginning, if we’re going to have church today or any other Sunday, we must a) Choose to be One b) Choose to be Obedient, and c) Choose to be Overtaken.**

**\*\*The only thing I can rely on today in order for us to have church is the power and the presence of the Lord!**

**\*\*Will you come to this altar and pray that God’s power and God’s presence will be manifested and fill the Lord’s house today?**

**\*\*Will you come and ask God for His Favor and for His Forgiveness so that this House of God will experience His Filling?**

**\*\*Ask God to come and fill this place up so that all may know that we had church today!**