

Positioned for Blessing

Or

“Getting Under the Spout Where the Glory Comes Out”

By Bill Scheidler

God desires to pour out blessing on His people (Mal. 3:10b).

“Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”

1. Some people walk in that blessing and some do not.
2. Some people experience God’s visitation and some do not.
3. Some people have positioned their lives under God’s windows (spout) and some do not.

It is possible to miss out on what God wants to do.

In the midst of the moving of God’s Spirit, there will be those who miss out.

1. Jerusalem and its leaders (for the most part) missed their day (Luke 19:41-44). Jesus wept over Jerusalem because they would not be gathered. There were, however, some exceptions to this (i.e. Anna, Simeon, Mary, Joseph, the Apostles, etc.).
2. Even among those who responded, not everyone caught the first wave.

The 120 on the day of Pentecost could have been 500, but not all of them positioned themselves to receive their day of visitation.

Experiencing the windows of heaven involves proper positioning.

It involves being at the right place at the right time—spiritually.

Illustration: Teacher’s comment to parents of a boy when in Kindergarten, “He is where he is suppose to be, when he is suppose to be there.”

Illustration: Little Johnny came in from recess all drenched on a bright and sunny day. The teacher asked, “How did you get so wet?” Johnny replied, “I was under the spout where the water comes out!”

The Bible speaks of those who were in the right place at the right time. They were people who had placed themselves under the spout where the water comes out. They were people who got wet spiritually and did not miss their day of visitation.

Let’s look at five examples:

1. Simeon (Luke 2:25-32).

The **first ones** to recognize and receive Jesus as the Messiah—Anna and Simeon.

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, 28 he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: 29 "Lord, now You are letting your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; 30 for my eyes have seen Your salvation 31 which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, 32 a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel."

Notice his qualities: a prophetic touch concerning his time and season, devout lifestyle, anxiously waiting for the Messiah, Spirit-led.

2. Anna (Luke 2:36-38).

*Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, **who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.** And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.*

Notice her qualities: continual prayer, fasting, anxiously waiting.

3. 120 in Upper Room (Acts 1:4-5, 12-14; 2:1-13).

The **first ones** to experience the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Acts 1:4-5

*Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. These all continued with **one accord in prayer and supplication**, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. Acts 1:12-14*

*When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with **one accord** in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 And there*

were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, **devout men**, from every nation under heaven.

Acts 2:1-5

Notice their qualities: unity, prayer, devout lifestyle.

4. Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-31; 35-38).

The **first man** from Africa to experience salvation.

*Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. 27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, 28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was **reading Isaiah the prophet**. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." 30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 And he said, "**How can I, unless someone guides me?**" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. Acts 8:26-31*

*Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. 36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. **What hinders me from being baptized?**" 37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Acts 8:36-38*

Notice his qualities: humility, open hearted, willing and obedient to the Word of God.

5. Cornelius (Acts 10:1-4; 44-48).

The **first Gentile household** to experience the outpouring of the Spirit.

*There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, 2 **a devout man** and one who **feared God with all his household**, who **gave alms generously** to the people, and **prayed to God always**. 3 About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!" 4 And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?" So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God." Acts 10:1-4*

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, 47 "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days. Acts 10:44-48

Notice his qualities: devout lifestyle, fear of God, persistent prayer, alms giving.

How to get under the spout or the windows of heaven

Seven qualities in God's people that will position them for blessing

As believers today we can follow the faith of those who have gone before us. If we possess the same qualities that they possessed, we can position ourselves under the spout.

1. Humility (Matthew 5:3)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Regardless of his station in life, the Ethiopian was humble before the Word of God. The Ethiopian was humble, teachable, open and wanting more.

Many Pharisees missed out because the message came through Galileans or because it came through John (Luke 3:1-2), not through them and their rabbinical schools.

God is not obligated to come through the avenues that we expect or the way in which we expect. We must be open. We must be willing to adapt to God's ways rather than expecting God to adapt to our way. We must become as little children.

2. Prayer/Fasting (I Peter 4:7)

But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

Anna, Simeon, Cornelius, the Apostles all had this in common. They didn't just sit by and say, "Whatever will be, will be."

Even though prophecies had been given about what was to take place, these pillars of faith were not going to take anything for granted. They would ask for what had been promised. They would "ask for rain in the time of the latter rain," as Zechariah declared (Zech. 10:1).

The end time church is to have the spirit and power of Elijah upon it. Elijah prayed for rain (James 5:17). He didn't just pray once, but he prayed seven times or until he got results.

3. Devout Life (I Timothy 4:8)

For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. –NIV

Cornelius, Simeon and the Jews who received Christ on the Day of Pentecost, all were said to have had a devout or circumspect life.

This word devout means that they were people who were cautious about offending God in any area of their life. The word "circumspect" means that they paid careful attention to things in all sides. They did not let their spiritual guard down even though the Messiah's coming was delayed. These people were careful to observe the commandments of the Lord. They paid attention to details in their lives, not out of a sense of legalism, but

because they sincerely wanted to please God. Not to earn salvation but because they did not want to miss out on anything that God had for them.

Quote

“It is not the Scriptures that I do not understand that bother me, it is the ones I do understand and am not practicing that really bother me.” Leonard Fox

4. Selfless Giving/Generosity (Proverbs 11:25)

The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.

Cornelius represents a man who did not store his religion on a shelf. He used the things God had blessed him with to minister to the needs of others. He was concerned about other people’s needs, not just his own.

God wants us to be others-orientated. He wants us to practice pure religion even when we have little or nothing to give. That is how He knows that we will practice this when we receive His full blessing. God blesses us to be a blessing. We need to prime the pump by giving out of our need.

God can fill the Cornelius’s of this world will abundant blessing, because He knows that they will not hoard it for themselves but will be open hearted and open handed to all in need.

5. Unity (Psalm 133:1-3) – The Psalm of Unity

For there [where God’s people dwell in unity] the LORD commanded the blessing—life forevermore. Psalm 133:3

Unity is a major principle that releases the anointing and power of God in the midst of His people

People of unity are people who are concerned about not only their relationship to God, but also their relationship to others. Clouded relationships can obstruct the pipeline of God in our lives.

Forgiveness and reconciliation are tools that God puts into our hands to help us to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

6. Watchfulness (Hebrews 6:12b)

...imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Don’t drag your feet. Be like those who stay the course with committed faith and then get everything promised to them. –MSG

Another word for “watchfulness” is “anxious anticipation”. Another word for it is “faith”. These people who got wet were people who had a spirit of faith and an anxious anticipation that God was going to move. They were looking forward to it and they didn’t want to be left behind.

They had the posture of “Expect a Miracle.” They were talking it, walking it, eating it and sleeping it.

Simeon was “waiting for the consolation of Israel”. Anna did not depart from the temple because she “looked for redemption in Israel”. Her faith kept her alive (84 years young). The 120 stayed in the upper room in anticipation. Where were the other 380?

7. Willingness to Respond (Psalm 110:3)

The Ethiopian Eunuch had the attitude that we all must cultivate. When he was confronted with truth, he didn't say, “Do I have to do this to be saved?” He said, “What hinders me from being baptized?” Or as one translation puts it, “Why can't I be baptized?”

Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power. Psalm 110:3, KJV

Your people will offer themselves freely on the day you lead your host upon the holy mountains. –RSV

Your people shall be volunteers in the day of your power. –NKJV

In that day of battle, your people will serve you willingly. –NLT

God wants a people who are willing and obedient. In Luke 8:18-21 we are given an insight into who Jesus considers His close friends when He says, “My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.”

Conclusion

God wants to open up the windows of heaven and bless His people.

God promises to move in awesome ways. He is going to do His part, BUT are you going to get wet?

Charles Finney once said, “Revival is finding out which way God is moving and moving with Him.”

I cannot make visitation happen, but I can position myself to receive it when it comes.

Altar Call

Was there a season in your life when you were better prepared for His coming in power?