

The Call

Following the gathering at Windmill Farms in Sept 2023, we wanted to respond to what the Lord initiated amongst the 120 who gathered, and prepare a simple overview for those interested in pursuing “heavy duty vertical bonding” (HDVB). What does that mean? Here are a few thoughts and practical guidelines to help you enter into the concept.

We believe there is an invitation and an urgency to return to the feet of Jesus in intimacy and to the first commandment of ministering to the Lord. It is a call to priestly ministry to the heart of the Lord, developing a lifestyle of abiding in Him (John 15), personally and as a Body. That we could learn to come into His Presence, wait, be still, and touch His heart. This is not “new”. This is a return and restoration of the 1st commandment: To love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. As the Lord is seeking a dwelling place, we seek to prepare our hearts for His Presence.

The Urgency

There are end times birth pangs happening all around us: wars, natural disasters, plagues, famine, and deception. How do we have peace and not be shaken in this season? Jesus warned us of the days that were coming and told us what we needed to do: Abide in Him and dwell in His presence.

Parable of the 10 Bridesmaids: It is an urgent hour to get into the presence of the Lord and get the oil of intimacy (1st commandment). In the parable in Matt 25, the oil had to be received before the Bridegroom returned. No one else can get your oil for you, but we can go get it together.

Temple of the Holy Spirit

The Body of Christ is now the temple of God. We are being jointly fit together as living stones, and together, we become His temple. Whether it was in the Garden of Eden, throughout Israel’s history, or reflected in the future reality of the new heavens and the new earth, the Lord’s desire and focus remains crystal clear: He desires to dwell with humanity. He longs to be with us, and invites us to be one with Him (see John 17, Eph 2)

The tabernacle and the temple were where the priesthood ministered primarily to the Lord. As a nation of priests, new covenant believers likewise have a primary calling to minister to the heart of the Lord. As we make regular time to corporately come before the Lord, dedicate a space to minister to His heart, and lay our agendas, opinions, petitions, and declarations down, we make room to listen and lean into His heart, prayers, and will.

Ministering to the Lord

This is a time to be with God, to focus on Him, and on touching His heart. He says where 2 or 3 are gathered He is in the midst of us. So we sing to, speak to, and gaze on Him directly. We come to Him with no agenda, no expectations, no needs. We give Him all our heart, mind, and strength... He alone is our focus, not ourselves or one another. Bible study, ministering to one another, breaking bread, fellowship, preaching, teaching etc... all are critical spiritual pursuits. They can and should happen regularly in the life of every believer. But this time is reserved to present ourselves to Him and wait to hear His heart, His desires, His instructions etc... In this way, this time is 100% vertical. It is 100% focused on giving our time, attention, and hearts to the Lord (see Matt 26:40, Luke 10:39-42)

Come out of Babylon

We are in the world, but not of it. In the days of confusion, chaos, and deception there is only one firm foundation: The Presence of the Lord. Jesus is the only viable end times strategy, and He has told us to come out from Babylon, not to fight Babylon, or try and reform Babylon. Paul tells us in Col 3:1-3 to set our minds on things above and not on this earth, as we are seated with Christ at the right hand of the Father. In Psalm 110, the people of the Lord offer themselves willingly in the day of His power, and in Rom 12:1-2 we are told to present ourselves as living sacrifices to the Lord as this is our acceptable form of worship. The call is to focus on the Lord, not the enemy, and not what is happening in the temporal realm.

The early church made a practice of making room for the Lord to move in their gatherings. At Pentecost and at Antioch, it was clear they waited for the Lord to direct, speak, and engage with His people. Now, as “world system Babylon” continues to gather strength, the Lord is calling His people to come out from the world and return to the simple pursuit of His Presence. To surrender our agendas and make room for Him to once again meet and lead His people.

Cleave to the Lord

In Deut 10:20 the Lord commanded Israel to cleave to Him. The word in Hebrew for cleave is “devakut”. It literally means to be glued or stuck to something. In this case, the Lord is calling His people to glue themselves to His Presence. As a man cleaves to His wife, so the Bridegroom longs to cleave to the Bride.

In all the preparations for the end times, the most important is often the most neglected: time in His presence. Are we willing to tarry with Him for one hour? To set aside our schedules, agendas, opinions, and pursuits in order to prioritise His heart, desires, and instructions?

He is our end times strategy. His Presence is our hope. He is our shield and dwelling in the shadow of His wings is the wisest, safest, and most blessed place to be.

The invitation is simple. A movement is emerging. A people that seek His face and engage in heavy duty vertical bonding: Priestly ministry to the Lord, and communion with Him.

What does it look like?

We do not have to have it all figured out before we start. We simply make time. Gather in small groups. And invite the Lord in and begin to adore Him and minister to Him as we sit at His feet.

We want to be careful to not be too prescriptive, but are calling the Body to make a practical priority of learning to minister to the Lord together. Our suggestion is to gather weekly with at least 2 others for 2 hours at a time to walk in this together: making an altar of worship of our hearts individually and being built together as an altar.

In general, when we gather to practice HDVB, dedicate the living room, worship space etc... to the Lord. It is not a time to pray for one another, make declarations or petitions, but rather, to wait on Him. Silence is welcome. As the Holy Spirit prompts music and worship, make a joyful offering. Develop an understanding and practice of singing and speaking directly to the Lord, as He is in the room. Set aside time after to process with those gathered to communicate anything prophetically you sensed the Lord saying or doing in your midst, but preserve the actual time allotted to being in His presence and flowing in the moment.