

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

Heaven Invading Earth November 14, 2017 Suzi Armstrong

God's plan for the earth, for the nations and for our neighborhood is not complicated. He is going to cover the earth with His glory as the waters cover the sea (Hab. 2.14). First He will show us His glory and fill us with His glory and then God's glory will be shown to the nations through us!



John 14.23

Jesus answered and said to him, **"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him."**

John 15.3-5

³ **You are already clean** because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ **Abide in Me, and I in you.** As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. ⁵ **I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.**

- We are taking our place as sons as we abide with Him and He abides in us.
- We live, move and have our being in Him – this is abiding. He is our source and life. He is our wisdom and strength. Our Father gives us vision and empowers us to be and do. All of this happens through Him who strengthens us.
- This is on-going vital union.
- Through this union we will bear much fruit – fruit that will benefit the nations, fruit that benefits and blesses our neighborhood.
- Apart from God this is not possible. It is Christ in us the hope of glory that brings the fruition.
 - There is much fruit – one fruit is the glory of God being revealed in the earth.

John 15.16

You did not choose Me but **I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit,** and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

- We have been chosen – called out and appointed – to bear fruit, to bring forth a harvest.
- Part of that harvest is the nations. Nations are made up of communities, cities inhabited by people. The nations and the communities belong to the Lord.

There is an invasion of heaven that is happening in our streets. Heaven is coming into Lenore Avenue, Winston Street and Woodbine Street. God has called us to spearhead this invasion that His glory would cover these streets and these families. This community will be vibrant and thrive!

“Heaven Invasion”

- H. Hunger for more
- E. Elevation of glory
- A. Advancing the Kingdom
- V. Vision of the invisible
- E. Empowered to release life
- N. Narrow pathway, open wide so many can go in the River’s flow
- I. Immerse me deeper still
- N. Now realities realized
- V. Victory is surely inevitable
- A. Affusion of the power of God (Affusion is a method of baptism and means to “pour on”)
- S. See in the Spirit that it is done
- I. Immanuel, God is with us
- O. Open and submitted hearts
- N. Nations cheering, confessing that Jesus Christ is Lord!

Christina Wilson

Heaven is invading earth. The heavens are open and God is pouring out His goodness and His tender mercies. Life is flowing in this neighborhood and many others. There is a groundswell of the glory of God arising in the earth. Bob Sorge writes in his book, Glory: When Heaven Invades Earth, “...Glory smashes in like a tidal wave, washing away the safety nets and lines of familiarity that have helped us feel secure.” When the glory of God invades the earth, everything is redefined and brought back into perspective. Hope is restored. Freedom from oppression comes. The wondrous brilliancy of God’s glory brings light and life.



Leviticus 9.23

Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting. When they came out and blessed the people, **the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people.**

- The people SAW the glory of the Lord with their physical eyes.
- The glory of the Lord was visible in Moses and Aaron.
- Moses and Aaron were filled with the glory of the Lord through intimate relationship. As they worshipped God, as they sought His face and His counsel, as they exalted Him they became filled.

We are experiencing the favor of God. His presence is strong and we are seeing His mighty arm extended in power. We are celebrating great victories and success. Push back comes during times like these. Push back wants us to settle; to come into a place of mediocrity. Push back sometimes has a soft voice that says, “You have gained so much, now you can relax”. This is very subtle. The Lord exhorts us to KNOW the times and the seasons. This is a season of expansion and the outpouring of God. Regardless of how many times God has brought expansion and filled us – we are still in the season of expansion and outpouring. We are being equipped and made strong for the future. It is important that we are vigilant to not settle and miss the fullness of what the Lord is giving to us right now in this time. So we must therefore submit to God and resist the devil.

James 4.7-8

⁷ **Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil** and he will flee from you. ⁸ **Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.** Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

- Submit means to yield, to lay down your struggle. No longer working and striving to make something happen. To submit or yield to God implies that your efforts cannot produce what is needed or the desired results. Remember, He is the vine and we are the branches – apart from God we can't accomplish anything beneficial. We can't produce blessing, peace and hope – these things come from God.
- As we yield to God we fix our eyes on Him. We look to Him as the source. The heavens and the earth are His. Times and seasons are His. He gives life and purpose. As we begin to see who God is, worship fills our heart. Gratitude fills our heart. We begin to declare His glory. Explosions of revelation begin to go off in our heart as we get glimpses of the reality of God. It is awing. It takes your breath away. And you begin to encounter the glory of God as His presence comes and inhabits your praises. Your perspective shifts. What seemed impossible is now possible. God has allowed you to perceive Him! Wow!! He is great and glorious. He is unstoppable, unbeatable, incorruptible, holy and pure. What a life-changing encounter!
 - This is what Moses and Aaron experienced. It changed them from the inside out. They no longer hungered for the old. They no longer feared their enemies because they were now aligned with God. They had chosen God.
 - Their shift was evident to the people. Moses and Aaron were no longer the same. They had changed and it was visible. Not only was their thinking changed, but they even looked different. This was visible to all who encountered Moses and Aaron.
 - The devil and his ways were no longer so enticing. Moses and Aaron resisted the devil and God filled them with His glory.

1 Chronicles 16.23-25

²³ Sing to the LORD, all the earth;

Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day.

²⁴ **Tell of His glory among the nations,**

His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.

²⁵ For **great is the LORD**, and greatly to be praised;

He also is to be feared above all gods.

- We are to *tell* the people, our families, our neighbors, each other, the cities and nations of His glory.
 - To tell means to declare, to speak about the glory of God. To share what you have seen and encountered of the glory of God. Telling others of His goodness and love and His tender mercies.
 - We are not to be silent about the glory of God. But we ascribe to God the glory due His name. To enumerate and intensely recount, share and celebrate who He is and that He is REAL! Shout it from the rooftops. Demonstrate through your passion, love and care for what is His.



We have been demonstrating the glory of the Lord to our streets by loving the people, cleaning up, speaking life and hope, knowing that God loves Detroit and Detroit has a hope and a future. This is not a future hope, but it is NOW hope. Hope is here NOW! All we need to do is lay hold of it by believing it and speaking it. We are seeing the manifestation of hope. We are stepping deeper into that hope and future and speaking those things that are not as though they were. We are experiencing transformation of our community and our city. These are the days of heaven invading earth and the demonstration of the glory of God. This is tangible and real. We see lives being changed. We see the environment being changed. Blight is being removed. Crime is reduced. Drug houses and prostitution is on the decline. This is heaven invading earth! And it is coming through the body of Christ.

We speak over Detroit, over our nation and over the nations of the earth:

Isaiah 40.1-5

¹ "Comfort, O comfort My people," says your God.

² "Speak kindly to [Detroit, to your neighbor, to yourself];
And call out to her, that her warfare [her struggle for life] has ended,
That her iniquity has been removed,
That she has received of the LORD'S hand
Double for all her sins."

³ A voice is calling,
"Clear the way for the LORD in [Detroit];
Make smooth in [Detroit] a highway for our God.

⁴ "Let every valley be lifted up,
And every mountain and hill be made low;
And let the rough ground become a plain,
And the rugged terrain a broad valley;

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
And all flesh will see *it* together

