

## Title: In Your Midst

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 5/7/23

### Zephaniah 3

We are a house of the Holy Spirit. We are nondenominational, but our goal is to be known as a Spirit filled house. We are honoring Holy Spirit, and we want to be filled with Him. That is what we are. If someone asks you what kind of church you are and you say we are a Spirit filled church, they will tell you if they do not want anything to do with a Spirit filled church and turn away. If they do want it, then they will be hungry for it. We are a Spirit filled church. This is a Spirit filled house. It is important that you understand you need to be filled with the Spirit.

As a pastor, it is my heart that you would long to be filled with the Spirit of God, because He died for that to happen. That is why He went to the cross. Not just that you would have life abundantly, but so that He could fill you, be in you, and not to come upon you, but dwell in you. In the Old Testament, Holy Spirit fell upon Moses, upon the elders, fell upon Samson, David, Saul, and Samuel. Holy Spirit, who had been falling upon people, now wants to be in you, never leaving, and increasing forever. The glory of God being in you. "Christ in you, the hope of glory." The Spirit of Jesus in you.

Some say, "I have never heard that there was a Holy Spirit." That is the great lie of the devil over the church. That Christ just died for your eternal life. No, He did not. He died so He could put His Spirit in you and fill you up with His Spirit, because that is how He lived. He said, "I do nothing without my Father." What *did He* mean? How did He have that communion with the Father? When He was baptized, *John* says, "the Spirit descended from Heaven like a dove and remained upon Him.," from that day forward, never leaving Him. That is what is for you if you want to live in this life as an overcomer. Who is He that overcomes the world? Jesus, the Spirit of Jesus within you, the Word of God. The Word made flesh comes out. That is what you are called to be as the Spirit filled church.

### Zephaniah 3:17

We have a song that Kevin McSpadden wrote, "Set Your Fire Around Us and Your Glory Within." The Lord your God is in your midst. This is the One mighty to save. The Mighty One will save. The Lord your God, in your midst. He has many faces. He has many traits. The Lord Jesus has many characteristics. He is a father. He is a king. He is a counselor. He is a mighty warrior. He is a bridegroom. He is a lover of your soul. He is the oversight of your salvation. The overseer of your soul. He is the lover of your soul. He is the One who has betrothed you. He is the Lord, the commander of army hosts. He has many faces. He is the Son, the Holy Spirit and the Father. He is the Seven Spirits of God. He is the Firstborn of the dead. He is, in this passage, the Mighty One, a Champion to save.

You have to recognize Him in all of these traits and all of these characteristics. You have to see Him in your midst, because if the King walks in and you rush up to Him as a Lover, you are out of order. You have to know the presence of God. You have to know what the Spirit is doing. Aaron, the priest's, sons ran up with their fire before God and it was out of order. They had a zeal to worship. They had a zeal to do things with vigor and with flame. But, *when they brought their* fire before God, they died. Aaron questions it, saying, they had zeal, they had passion, and they had fervor for God. Moses said, you must honor the holiness of the Holy Spirit, and of the fear of the Lord. *They* were out of order.

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Later in a passage in Joshua, there was a man who took the spear *when he* saw the plague and saw the root of it. *He* drove the spear between the woman and the man that was doing it, and it was “counted to him as righteousness.” The zeal of the Lord accomplished it. What is the difference in those passages? The timing of when you did it, and you have to be in the Spirit. You have to know when to dance, when to cry, when to sing, and when to mourn. Jesus said, even children know when to dance. Even children know when to mourn. How is it so hard for you adults to recognize the Spirit and how He moves? Jesus said these things. We are a spirit filled church. You must know the Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One to save.

There are actually several references to “in your midst,” in this passage of Zephaniah which is about end time prophecy that we have not seen all of come to pass. You can read it on your own, and it shows that the nations He has judged, reprimanded, and cut off over time have not changed their ways.

#### Zephaniah 3:7

Mankind has been doing this over and over again. God brings a merciful judgment, yet the people still get up early to go sin against Him even *more*. This passage shows up as a litmus test. The Word of God shows us we have fulfilled 70% of this. We fulfilled 80%. You can see the litmus test of how you are getting closer and closer to the end of time. This is one of those passages. It is originally in context talking about Jerusalem and the Jews, and how God will be “in her midst as the Mighty One to save.” I recognize that, but it is a prophetic book in that it can be applied to us as well as in context about the Jews and Israel, and how the nations are coming against them. God has reprimanded them, but they still keep coming. They still keep trying to kill His people. They have been deceived by the enemy. They have been deceived by Satan to kill the children of God. It has always been that way and has not changed. It is just getting closer to the end time.

#### Zephaniah 3:2

This is talking about the city of Jerusalem, but it can be applied to you. It can be applied to us. You have to hear God's heart. There are four things that have not been done. You have not obeyed. You have not received. You have not trusted, and you have not drawn near. When the Lord calls us, we often are afraid that He is going to show us what we do not want to see. As if we can hide from God, we do not want to hear what He has to say. Yet, that is your salvation. You are being saved from yourself. The greatest work that God does is to save you from your own flesh, because we were born at enmity with God.

#### Nahum 1:2

The wrath of God is against His adversaries and against His enemies. You say, “well, that is not me.”

#### Romans 8:6-8

If we have a carnal mind, we are at enmity with God, and we are His enemies. We have to have an *advocate* on our side. Jesus said, I will go and be an advocate for you. I will make this warring of your flesh against Me, settled by the blood. That is what He did. Jesus became the Savior of all, and He is the redemption of our lives. Do you understand what I am saying? The wrath of God is hidden because of Jesus.

#### Zephaniah 3:2-5

You have to recognize that the Lord is righteous in your midst. The Lord is righteous in our midst. We are now hidden in Christ, and it is not our righteousness but His righteousness. We can see ourselves. Right? It was our sin that put Jesus on the cross, because, I do not want to obey. I do not want to trust. I have not learned this obedience. The first thing you have to know

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is who is in your midst, the Righteous One. Who is He in your midst, the Righteous One. He is in your midst, there is no unrighteousness in Him. In fact, you cannot earn that righteousness. You cannot buy that righteousness. You cannot be made right. You have to recognize His righteousness *within you*.

He says, "I have a gift for you. If you will give me your life, I will make you right with God. I will make you right with Me. I will put your soul at peace where you feel guilt, condemnation, and abomination and filth. I will make that war at peace, and I will cleanse you. If you take my hand and trust me, saying that I am right and you are wrong. Then you have My righteousness." Righteousness is that God knows the right way to speak, do and act. You do not know the right way to speak or do. It is His righteousness, not yours. You have to know that He is in your midst.

#### Zephaniah 3:5-9

After a time when you know the righteousness of God in your midst and you are being worked by the Spirit of God. Then He gives you this, "for then I will restore the peoples to a pure language and they all may call on the name of the Lord and serve Him with one accord." Right now, we are praying for the move of God in our house. We have been praying for the move of God in this land. We are praying for the move of God in West Texas. We have to be "with one accord, with a pure heart, and given a pure language."

"Who can ascend the hill of the Lord, but He who has clean hands and a pure heart?" How do you get a pure heart? How do you get clean hands? Only by the blood of Jesus who makes you righteous. "Recognize the Lord your God, in your midst, is righteous." There is no unrighteousness *in Him*. He uses His justice, and gives you a pure language that you can call out to Him in one accord with that vision of His heart. Those who speak the will of God, get what they ask for. Those who ask according to His name, receive. Those who keep on asking, keep on seeking, and keep on knocking, the door will always open. They will always find, and they will always receive. You know the Scriptures.

#### Zephaniah 3:12

When we are praying in one accord, and we have recognized that the Lord is our righteousness and His justice does not fail, then we are praying with one accord with a pure language. This is what our house is doing right now. "He will make us a humble and meek people with one accord." They will trust in the Name of the Lord.

#### Acts 4:29-31

Meek does not necessarily mean weak or wimpy. Meek means that you understand your authority and power, but you choose to submit yourself. Some people think it is "letting someone win," then you pounce. That is an ungodly way of being meek. But, true meekness is a Father "allowing" their son to beat them *in a race*. True meekness is *recognizing* "I have greater strength. I have greater authority. I have greater measure of technique. I am better at all things, but I am submitting myself under your power, your authority and your technique."

Who did this? Jesus, He was meek. He served us all. He went low, not because He did not have the power, but because He served. He was the greatest leader on the Earth, because He served everyone. He was meek. He subdued His strength. That is true meekness. The one who has all control, yet submits. That is what He has called us to do. That is what it means to be "undercover." When you do not agree with authorities in your land, your state, your city, or your county, but you have the authority in Heaven. You have the declaration in your hand, but you choose to submit like a Daniel, who served some of the most wicked emperors we have seen in history.

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When the rulers are wicked, how can you serve them? How can you honor them? How can you submit to their authority? “They were meek and they humbled themselves before God and His righteousness.” You with me? “Honor what is in your midst.” We have talked about it twice now. “The Lord who is righteous is in your midst.” Now, “in your midst, He will make you a humble and meek people.”

#### Zephaniah 3:15

The Lord Jesus, He is the one that removes the judgment of the wrath of God and delivers us with His mighty hand. He judges us now. If you choose to be judged now, you do not get judged later. Some people do not want to be judged now, and they will feel the wrath of that judgment later. If you fall on the Rock now, the Rock will not fall on you later. If you can go before the King now, and receive His mercy, *then* mercy triumphs over the judgment. Mercy triumphs over your judgments. He has mercy for those who come now. “Settle your offenses quickly on the Earth.” Settle your offenses quickly *before* God. Do not wait. Do not linger, settle it. Let Him judge you now. He is the King. You hear it, “the King of Israel, is the Lord in your midst, you shall see disaster no more.” This is a beautiful prophecy for the Jews. When Jesus, the King of Israel, the Son of David steps foot into Jerusalem again, they will see disaster no more.”

The people that have seen the most disaster in the history of the world, will see disaster no more, when the King of Israel steps His foot in Jerusalem. That phrase is not just thrown in there. The King of Israel is very specific to one Man, the King of the Kingdom of Israel. Remember the disciples asked Jesus, “Are you now going to restore the Kingdom of Israel?” This is what they were looking for. A King of Israel who was going to restore the Kingdom of Israel. When this happens, “disaster will be no more for that people.” For those that were grafted in, that is you and me. That is an amazing truth. Who is this? He is in our midst, and you have to know Him as the King.” That is different than the Righteous One. Do you recognize the King in your midst? Do you recognize the Bridegroom in your midst? Do you recognize the voice of the Holy Spirit in your midst? They are all different in your Spirit filled church, and in your Spirit filled house.

#### Zephaniah 3:17

Some versions may translate it as the “Champion who saves.” Do not fear the paradox. This is a paradox. “The Lord your God, the Almighty God in your midst, the Mighty One will save,” and He does “undignified things.” He is going to “rejoice over you with gladness.” He is going to “quiet you with His love.” He is going to “exalt you with singing.” Those are not the things that a regal person does. Those are not the things that the King of all the Earth should be doing. But, it is what your Kingdom is, “His is an upside down Kingdom.” The Almighty God, the Mighty One, who created the Earth with His outstretched arm is “quieting you with His love,” as a lover.” What do you do? What are you doing? Do you recognize this One in your midst? This is One that clashes. We love this verse because it is that paradox of two truths, even though they should not be true.

The One that is Almighty and to be feared, the Lord your God in your midst, a Mighty One, to save me from the pit, is in front of me “dancing and singing with an oil of gladness beyond any of my companions.” He is singing with an extreme joy, that is what “exalt” means, extremely joyful. When you exalt somebody, that means you are extremely joyful over them. There is nothing that will abate your joy. He is exalting us with His singing. This is not just a love song. This is an extremely joyful, vibrant song that the King of all the Earth is singing to you. What are you doing, Jesus? What are you doing, Jesus? You can hear Peter when the Servant wanted to wash his feet. He said, “What are you doing Jesus? What do you do? This is not for you to be doing.”

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But, Jesus says, "If I do not do this, you do not have any part of me." If you do not recognize the "Lord in your midst," you are losing a part of Him. You are missing out on the part that you need. Being a Spirit filled people is knowing who is the One in front of you. "He will rejoice over you with gladness."

Psalms 45:7

Your God has anointed You with an oil of gladness more than your companions.

Hebrews 1:9

He is rejoicing over you with gladness. We see ourselves, and we see our need for salvation. You encounter a very real moment where you are in a conflict, because you are aware, "oh my, I am so sinful, and it killed Jesus. Yet on the other side, you see His love, His joy, and He is rejoicing and telling you who you are to be, a son, of a Kingdom of priests, kings and priests and servants to God. You *wonder* how can both of these be true? That I owe Him so much, yet He is going to bless me with so much more than I ever deserve.

That is the moment of salvation. That is the moment of lordship. That is the moment in all of your life when you realize, "I am a Christian. I am walking." He shines the light in your heart, and into a room that you had hidden to yourself. You say, "This is not me. How could that still be there?" He is gracious and merciful to "rejoice over you with singing," deliver you from it, and cleanse you from it. That is how you "work out your salvation."

Philippians 2:12-13

We are working out the salvation and the deliverance of our Lord and what He paid for. It is a beautiful thing.

Secondly, He quiets you with His love. "Perfect love casts out fear." If you are in a storm, a turmoil, a tormenting mindset, having a tormenting day, or in a place where it is chaos. In a place where it feels like an internal storm, or a place of oppression, it is His love that actually quiets it. Then you can get the symptoms dealt with or you can be healed. You can put on music, eat and drink something, and just get the symptoms taken care of momentarily.

But, if you really want it healed and for the storm to stop, you have to go into a chamber and know the King as a lover. When you actually go there, He delivers you and silences and stops the storm. It does not kick up again. This is what He is talking about. He will quiet you with His love. He will quiet you. He will cast the storm out of you. There will be no intimidation.

I John 4:18

"Perfect love casts out fear."

II Timothy 1:7

The Spirit of God has given us a sound mind, and the Spirit of God is in your midst.

I was praying with part of the Garden family in a meeting last night where all of a sudden the rush of the Holy Spirit came and everyone began speaking in tongues. No one orchestrated it, but you felt led by Him being in your midst. That is what happened yesterday, and it was my favorite part. That is what I want. When you do not have to orchestrate the tambourines, or the flags, or the songs, or the kneeling before God, that is the spiritual songs, psalms, and hymns. You do not have to orchestrate worship because you recognize the Spirit of God is in your midst. He is rejoicing over me, and He is quieting me with His love. That crazy sound I keep hearing is when He is exalting over me with extreme joy and His singing.

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That is the third thing, the exalting when He is singing over you with extreme joy. What is joy? The joy of the Lord is my strength. The joy of the Lord is my strength, and He has extreme joy. Being extremely joyful, is to exalt something. We do not run into that very often. At least not in America. Unless you go to a sports event, right?

Exalt means to be extremely joyful. "This is the One who is in your midst." This is the one who is here. This is the One that we are serving at the Garden. This is Who we are going after. This is Who I want you to know. He is in your midst. He is here. He has been here, but He wants to reveal Himself with a new face. He wants to reveal Himself with a new glory. He wants to manifest Himself with a new revelation and it is renewal. He has always been there. You just have not seen it. It is like, "Wow, this is new! I did not know that I could know You this way!"

What is it at the very end that He asks and He tells people? There are some that cast out the demons, heal the sick, and give water, but He says, "I never knew you." The question is not about what you do for God. It is about whether you know Him in your midst. The reason that He says, "Depart from me," is "I have never known you." That is what He says in Matthew, Luke and Mark. Then the ones that have known Him, they are with Him forever, because they have chosen to be judged, and "know the righteous One in our midst."

They have chosen to receive the "pure language of the Lord," in His righteousness. "Not my tongue, but Your tongue. Not my ways, but Your ways. I will be molded by the righteousness of Jesus Christ. I will come in alignment together with my family whom He has given to me. We will be a humble and meek people. Strong and full of faith, but willing to submit undercover and authority of Jesus," and who He tells us to. When we call on His name, He will answer us. We will recognize the King of Israel. We will recognize the King Jesus in our midst, and no disaster shall come upon those who cry out to the name of the Lord.

#### Psalms 91

"I will know the Mighty One, the Champion on the throne, in my midst, as the One who is singing over me with extreme joy, who is quieting me with His love, and is rejoicing with a gladness and a delight for my soul." That is what we are after.

Let's stand. If you need prayer, there will be several of us up here. If you need to know the Lord in this way, He is here. If you want to talk with somebody, you can. But, He is right here. It takes that prophetic act to kneel before Him. That is why we call it an altar. It is a place to sacrifice yourself, and give Him what you want. He wants your heart. He will take whatever you want to give Him of it.

"Holy Spirit, here we are, and we receive Your call to know the One in our midst. You are in our midst, and we are here to know You and to be known by You. To be filled with your Spirit, because Jesus died for me to have the fullness of the Spirit of God in me. In me, praise God, hallelujah, to Jesus and what He has accomplished! I say, "yes, Lord. I say, yes." You can fill me, again. I want to know you again. I want to know You are brand new. I want to be renewed. I want to see Your face like I have never seen it before. I want to know your character, your attributes, and your traits like I have never known before. I want the extremes. The extremely joyful. I want it. I am not afraid to know You. Lord, remove the fear of ourselves. Because when we see you, you show us what we are not. We remove and we give you that fear. I ask that we would relinquish the fear of seeing ourselves in need, and that you would deliver us. That we would see You only. In Jesus' mighty name we pray, amen.