

“HOSTING THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH HONOR”

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

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TEXT: Matthew 10:40 “He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. 41 He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward. 42 And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”

INTRO: My mentor and former professor at Fuller Seminary, Dr. Peter Wagner taught that there are four crucial questions to ask when you study church growth:

- 1. Why does the blessing of God rest where it does?**
- 2. Churches are not all equal. Why is it that at certain times, some churches are more blessed than others?**
- 3. Can any pattern of divine blessing be discerned?**
- 4. Do these churches that seem to be unusually blessed have any common characteristics?**

(Wagner, The New Apostolic Reformation, Regal, p.16)

I believe that the churches that are more blessed than others are churches that have hosted the Holy Spirit well.

All of us have a favorite restaurant. Most likely they are your favorite because you are treated special there. Or how many of us have visited friends and relatives’ homes where you feel special? During the month of May, I think about my mother. Yes, because Mother’s Day falls in May, but also because my mom’s birthday is May 13. My parents’ anniversary is May 20, and my mom went home to heaven on May 3, 2003. I loved to visit my parents because my mom lavished me with their love and my love language, Korean food. Conversely, we all have visited places where we really were not welcomed. Maybe people invited us out of obligation rather than a genuine love and desire for us to visit.

Well, I believe the Holy Spirit is no different. After all, we are made in the image of God, and the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity. I believe that there are churches and individuals who really honor and extend hospitality to the Holy Spirit, and there are those who have grieved and offended the Holy Spirit.

I remember hearing a story of a black man who tried to go to a white church after the Civil War. He was asked to leave the service. So, he is walking along the

road, and Jesus comes walking up to him. Jesus asks the man, “What’s wrong?” The man replies that he tried to visit a white church and they kicked him out. Jesus responds by saying, “Don’t feel bad. They kicked me out as well.” How many churches have “kicked out” the Holy Spirit without even knowing it?

In 2000, I wrote and edited a book entitled *Hosting The Holy Spirit*. How do we host the Holy Spirit? There are many ways, but today, I want to talk about one chapter in the book, “Hosting the Holy Spirit through Honor.” We want to develop a culture of honor at Harvest Rock Church. There is so much that the Bible has to say about honor, but Jesus gives an amazing statement that those who honor you are really honoring God.

In Matthew 10, Jesus sends out His apostles to various cities and gives them instruction to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom and to heal the sick and cast out demons. He explains that some will reject their message, but others will receive the good news. At the end of the detailed instructions, He tell them the good things that will happen if the townspeople receive and honor them.

Purpose Statement: In Matthew 10:40-42, Jesus shares four groups of people that we are to honor. Then I want to share two practical ways to honor one another.

I. APOSTLES

- A. Matthew 10:40 “He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”**
- B. 1 Corinthians 12:28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.**
 1. The Church is founded on apostles and prophets (Ephesians 2:20). They are the ministry gifts that Jesus gave in Ephesians 4:11.
 2. We go out of our way to honor the speakers, mostly apostles and prophets, that God brings to Harvest Rock Church. I had a unique thing happen to me after the Global Summit. I was in Dallas a week after our Global Summit conference, and I was invited by Lance and Annabelle Wallnau for dinner. Everyone invited to the dinner was also a speaker at Global Summit: Larry Sparks, Cindy Jacobs, Sam and Linda Caster. All of them said that they felt so loved and honored during the Global Summit by our church. Thank you, family.
 3. What do we do? We give them a nice hospitality basket. We give them plenty of water. If they want to rent a car, great. Or we will provide a driver. We give them a nice honorarium after they speak.



II. PROPHETS

- A. Matthew 10:41** “He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward...”
- B.** The story of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath in 1 Kings 17:8ff, and the story of Elisha and the Shunammite woman in 2 Kings 4:1ff. Both were mothers who hosted two major prophets and got blessed.
- 1. 1 Kings 17:8** Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, **9** “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and stay there; behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.” **10** So he arose and went to Zarephath, and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her and said, “Please get me a little water in a jar, that I may drink.” **11** As she was going to get it, he called to her and said, “Please bring me a piece of bread in your hand.” **12** But she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have no bread, only a handful of flour in the bowl and a little oil in the jar; and behold, I am gathering a few sticks that I may go in and prepare for me and my son, that we may eat it and die.” **13** Then Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go, do as you have said, but make me a little bread cake from it first and bring it out to me, and afterward you may make one for yourself and for your son. **14** For thus says the LORD God of Israel, ‘The bowl of flour shall not be exhausted, nor shall the jar of oil be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain on the face of the earth.’” **15** So she went and did according to the word of Elijah, and she and he and her household ate for many days. **16** The bowl of flour was not exhausted nor did the jar of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke through Elijah.

III. A RIGHTEOUS BELIEVER

- A. Matthew 10:41b** “...he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward.”
- B. Who is a righteous person?**
- 1. 2 Corinthians 5:21** He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
 - 2. Romans 12:10** Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.
 - 3.** We need to honor one another in the Body of Christ. One example of this is remembering their birthday and sending them a gift, card, or even a text.

IV. A CHILD

- A. Matthew 10:42** “And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these *little* [micro] *ones* even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”
- 1. Matthew 18:1** At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” **2** And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, **3** and said, “Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. **4** Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. **5** And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; **6** but whoever causes one of these *little ones* [same Greek words in Matthew 10:42] who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.”

V. PRACTICAL WAYS OF HONORING ONE ANOTHER

- A. Romans 12:10** Be devoted to *one another* in brotherly love; give preference to *one another* in honor. (NASB) [“outdo *one another* in showing honor.” (ESV)]
- 1.** There are over 50 *one another*’s in the New Testament. We are called to community, to be God’s family.
- B. Financial Gifts**
- 1.** The Greek word for honor is *timé*. It comes from the Greek word *тино*, “a price paid.” Honor then was used in the context of finances.
- 2. 1 Timothy 5:17** The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.
- 3.** Even in English we get the word “honorarium” from the word “honor.”
- 4.** Sue and I gave my dad and mom \$500 a month from 1992 to 2010.
- C. WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT**
- 1. Hebrews 10:24** stimulate one another to love and good deeds, **25** not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.
- 2. 1 Thessalonians 4:18** Therefore encourage *one another* with these words.

3. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage *one another* and build one another up...
4. Verbal encouragement, but also notes, texts, and thank-you notes.

CONCLUSION: Romans 13:7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. Paul reiterates what Jesus taught concerning paying taxes.

Luke 20:22 “Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” 23 But He detected their trickery and said to them, 24 “Show Me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?” They said, “Caesar’s.” 25 And He said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

You are made in the image and likeness of God. God owns you twice: He made you, and He purchased you on the cross by dying for your sins so that you may be set free. That is what redemption is all about. **Honor God by giving your life to Jesus.**