

NEWS AND VIEWS
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**“Southern Baptists with the Full
Gospel for the Whole World”**

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Have you ever worshipped wide opení nothing held backí surrendered to God? Someone once said to the pastor at the end of the worship service, “Pastor, I just don’t seem to get anything out of the worship service lately.” The pastor responded, “Well, could it be that worship service is for God’s pleasure and not yours?” OUCH!!!

I could have been that pastorí I could have been that person. I have been dissatisfied and disappointed with what seems to pass for worship in our day and in our culture. Consider this passage about a worship experience in the history of God’s people.

Now when Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the house. The priests could not enter into the house of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD’S house. All the sons of Israel, seeing the fire come down and the glory of the LORD upon the house, bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave praise to the LORD, saying, “Truly He is good, truly His loving kindness is everlasting.” (2 Chronicles 7:1-3)

The temple was being dedicated to the LORD and Solomon prayed. This passage teaches us that when God shows up in the midst of worship, it is a glorious experience.

Let’s ponder these thoughts together. Cultures change but the LORD changes not.

I. THE GLORY OF THE LORD COMPLETELY FILLS THE HOUSE IT OCCUPIES. When God comes in His glory, there is no room for anything else. God does not share His glory with anyone or anything. When He completely fills the house, it is filled to *beyond* the brimí with Him! Our house is much more than a building. Our house is our heartí yearning for the presence of the LORDí desiring His glory.

II. THE GLORY OF THE LORD COMPLETELY OVERWHELMS EVERYONE. The priests and the people were on their faces experiencing the goodness and mercy of God. God’s presence comes in and dominates the place. His glory has a heaviness about it.

III. THE GLORY OF THE LORD IS AWESOME TO EXPERIENCE. The glory of the Lord is powerful and provocative. The LORD shows us His glory to provoke our response. A right response is to worship Him, surrendered to Him, proclaiming His glory.

IV. THE GLORY OF THE LORD MANIFESTS ITSELF AS SOMEONE PRAYS. Solomon prayed. God responded. But not according to Solomoní Solomon responded according to God. The LORD does not move to accomplish our purpose. But when we pray, God hears. And when He moves, according to His purpose, we see His glory. His purpose is for His people to worship Himí .abandoned to Him and emptied of self.

Some questions I have been asking myself are: *Is the glory of God filling me, the temple of the Holy Spirit? And if I am the temple of God, is the glory of God filling the house of the Lord? Is there room for God or is my house filled up already? Have I really worshipped God lately? Am I seriously praying to experience God’s presence? Or am I holding back?*

If you truly have a desire to really worship the LORD, it is God Himself that gives you the desire. To *worship* Himí nothing held back and nothing in the way is how we have been praying lately. The LORD has provided for us a worship house in (*the church house*) and provoked us to bring our hearts (*our houses of worship*) together on **Saturday, August 25, 2012 at 7 pm.** We call it **Worship Wide Open.** We are praying for God to show upí and we are praying you will too! Mark your calendarsí pray that we can say í *the glory of the LORD filled the LORD’S house.* Come, *now* is the time to worship!

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam