

Genesis 28:10-22

Nov 16, 2014, Tim Miller

What is a gateway fellowship?

- "In our religion a leader is a holy man, in yours, he is a ceo." Such a scary comment to me.
- Hindu's have Sadhus. A sadhu is a "soul liberated while still alive." E.Stanley Jones was told, "You sir, will never be reborn again. You have attained enlightenment." They recognized him as one whose soul and mind were totally free and they sensed he was a walking Gate of God on the earth.
- Stereotypes of Hinduism and modern Christianity
 - Transcendance vs Efficiency
 - Mysticism vs Pragmatism
 - Spiritual Guides vs Event Organizers or Safe Sounding Boards
 - Portals of the Supernatural Enlightenment vs Representatives of Social/Political Values
 - Enter a place of worship - the spirits dwell there. You expect encounters. vs The people sing songs and sermons are preached there. You expect information and conversation.
 - Mysterious vs. Simple
 - Mythical vs Literal
- Christianity spreads fastest all over the world when it is transcendent, mystical, spiritual, and about hosting power beyond us.

What is a gateway fellowship?

Genesis 28:16-17 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I wasn't even aware of it!" But he was also afraid and said, "What an awesome place this is! It is none other than the house of God, the very gateway to heaven!"

Would that all the shady Jacob's of the world exclaim that after being among us!

John 1:51 Then he said, "I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth..."

Different Spiritual Climates

- Jesus' hometown - he could do no mighty work there (Mark 6:5)
- The power of the Lord was present to heal (Luke 5:17)
- Peter's shadow heals in a revival climate/culture (Acts 5:15)

We must cultivate a climate or culture of humble, hungry, expectancy.

All that's required to cultivate a climate of disappointment, complacency, and pride is simple neglect.

James 4:6 God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

- Humility and Hunger vs Pride and Complacency

So what is a gateway fellowship? It is a church whose culture attracts God's presence and cooperates with His power. A gateway fellowship attracts God's presence and cooperates with God's power in such a way that holy Transcendence is the norm. The community, the people themselves function as a bridge, gate, or access point where people exclaim, "Whoa!!! God is in this place and I didn't know it!" God's love, God's grace, God's truth, God's covenant, the rich treasures that are hid in Christ are in some sense on open display in a gateway fellowship. And a gateway fellowship isn't about itself. All the good stuff happens not because people encounter us, but rather the good stuff happens when we bring them into contact with HIM.

And the purpose of a bridge or gate is to help people enter a different realm. We don't exist for ourselves. We exist for the mission, which is another way of saying we are about the region, the city, and event the other churches of the region.

In short, a gateway fellowship is *a community where authentic encounters with God are the norm*. Encounters that usher people into kingdom possibilities as a new way of life.

Brian Connolly: A bridge and a gateway for the region. "Lost and hurting people will find out that there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus in this place."

- **"SEND US OUT!!!"** - The camera man's picture sheep and the fold - going out of the gate.
- **Nehemiah Wall vision**, Kingdom vision etc.
- **Nic Billman** - "If you won't care for the prostitutes of the city, I will no longer bless your ministry."
- **Text to Jill Yoder:** It's time to let the desperation, hurt, worship, joy...let it all out. Whatever cats are in the bag need to be released. Fire only falls on a sacrifice. Empty altars are clean and painless, but they are also cold. The air is full of highly combustible fumes. One spark and watch out. This is a season of incredible opportunity for encounters with God. I sense the Holy Spirit brooding over me personally in a really strong way. Very strong.

Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. (**James 4:8**)

- not amazing preaching
- not amazing music

- not amazing meetings
- not gifted leaders
- just regular people like you and me drawing near with sincere hearts that long for Him.

- Ministry Time directions
 - Prayer for those who are HUNGRY NOW
 - Prayer for those who want to RETURN TO FIRST LOVE, TO PURSUIT

- Healing prayers - shoulders hurting,