

O thou who camest from above

Last month I wrote about things that I think God has been revealing to us over the last few months. During those months He has created opportunities for us to develop relationships in groups of people outside of church. I urge all of us to participate in these relationships as much as we can because it is through them that I believe God will build His Kingdom in this place.

Last month though I wrote of how I sensed God calling us in these days to seek a greater empowering of His Holy Spirit, for without Him transformation of both ourselves and those around us cannot take place. I wrote about how I discerned God's leading in this respect through Bible passages given to us during Lent and the book that was recommended to me.

I'd like now though to share with you another example of what I consider to be the direction of God. I'd chosen for our service on July 11th the Charles Wesley hymn 'O thou who camest from above'. The hymn has always had some significance for me and featured in both my ordination services. To me it acknowledges our absolute need of God's Spirit for mission and ministry. Later that day I came into the house from outside and was aware of some lines from that hymn being sung on the TV. I assume it was 'songs of praise' though I didn't stop to take further notice. Later that evening though I read the words of the same hymn referenced in the book that I've been reading.

*O thou who camest from above
The pure celestial fire to impart,
Kindle a flame of sacred love
On the mean altar of my heart.*

*There let it for Thy glory burn
With inextinguishable blaze,
And trembling to its source return,
In humble prayer and fervent praise.*

*Jesus, confirm my heart 's desire
To work, and speak, and think for Thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire,
And still stir up Thy gift in me.*

*Ready for all Thy perfect will,
My acts of faith and love repeat,
Till death Thy endless mercies seal,
And make the sacrifice complete.*

A repetition of the same words in less than 12 hours combined with what God was already revealing led me to conclude that this was likely to be a word from Him. I fully expect us to experience a significant move of God's Holy Spirit in the not to distant future that will empower us for the mission that we have already started to embark upon. Until then perhaps this hymn can be for us a most appropriate prayer.



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