

September 29, 2008

### **TURN A CORNER!**

The purpose of the Israelites' making that magnificent tabernacle, according to God Himself, was "so that I might dwell among them [and be] the Lord their God" (Ex. 29:45, 46). (God is so relational!) And His desire will finally be realized, as He proclaims in the Bible's final book:

"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God'" (Rev. 21:3).

The literal presence of Almighty God among us! Our hearts cry, "Come! Bring the day! Maranatha!"

But in the meantime, He offers His mystical but wonderful and very real presence to every believer through His gracious Holy Spirit. And the point of Renewal Ministries is to stimulate desire for "abiding in Him" – renewing the reality of His cleansing, empowering, sanctifying presence in each believer's life.

Living deliberately in God's presence is living in the Garden of Eden! It returns us to the liberating, joyous lifestyle Adam and Eve knew before their fall. Self-will drives us out from His felt presence and from His fellowship. And we're banished to "work the ground" (Gen. 3:23) and to live in a cursed situation (Gen. 3:17-19), full of restrictions and frustrations (Gen. 3:24).

Oh, my friend! With confession and repentance,

"Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith" (Heb. 10:22).

"Come near to God, and he will come near to you" (Jas. 4:8).

Say with the psalmist,

"Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And earth has nothing I desire besides you" (Ps. 73:25).

"Find rest, O my soul, in God alone" (Ps. 62:5).

Turn a corner.