

# **Putting God in His Place**

by Carla Burton

I Kings 8:6

“And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD **unto his place**, into the oracle of the house, to the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims.”

This is the story of the building of Solomon’s temple in Jerusalem. After Solomon had prepared the building, the furnishings and offered the sacrifices, he brings in the Ark of the Covenant and puts “God in His place!” When I saw that in the scripture I thought about what place does God occupy in my life? Is He in His place or in some other place that I left Him.

When the Ark of the Covenant was stolen by the Philistines during the days of Saul (I Samuel chapter 4) it was taken from its rightful place and put in several other places. It occupied the house of the god Dagon, then it occupied the home of Abinadab (I Samuel 7). David tried to bring it back to its rightful place in II Samuel 6 but because they didn’t move it the proper way it stayed in the house of Obededom. Finally David was able to bring it back to its rightful place in Jerusalem in II Samuel 7. But when Solomon built that beautiful temple God finally had a permanent home in which to dwell.

When Solomon put God in His place there was a change in the atmosphere. Things begin to happen. And then Solomon was able to sincerely ask God for a few things in the future.

1. His glory will rest in your house – I Kings 8:10
  - a. As soon as the ark rested in rightful place – there was such an anointing and glory that filled the place where God was. It was so great that the priest were not even able to minister.
  - b. If you desire anointing and glory on your life, work and ministry then God has to occupy His rightful place in your life. He cannot be in your brothers house and you receive the blessings and glory (read the blessings that invaded the homes of Abinadab and Obededom). But those blessings were on the house where God was placed first.
2. You can ask God to bless your children and your heritage – I Kings 8:24-26.
  - a. You can ask God to not only bless your life and the work of your hands but to let that blessing continue to the next generation. When God is in his rightful place in your life – the blessings flow down generation after generation.
3. He hears your prayers – I Kings 8:30
  - a. When He occupies his rightful place in your life – His ear is open to your prayers. (I Peter 3:12) You can ask in faith believing that you will receive because you know that He is first in your life.
4. He punishes the wicked people and blesses the righteous – I Kings 8:32
  - a. He will repay vengeance upon those that have wronged you. (Romans 12:19)

- b. He hears your cry and sees your situation and He takes care of it for you. (Luke 18:7-8)
  - c. He blesses the righteous and takes care of them. (Psalms 37:25; Luke 12:6-7)
- 5. He forgives sins and trespasses – I Kings 8:33-34
  - a. When you do wrong – then you can return Him to His rightful place in your life and He will forgive your sin and restore your blessings.
  - b. David – the kingdom was restored to him and God continued to bless his name and lineage in history
  - c. Samson – his hair grew back and his strength returned.
  - d. If we repent He forgives – (I John 1:9)
- 6. He supplies your needs – I Kings 8:35-36
  - a. If God has been placed first in your life and your finances – then when you have a need he supplies the need. Solomon asked God to change the very circumstances and climate and economy of that day so that the people would be blessed. (Malachi 3:10, Philippians 4:19)
- 7. He will become your Deliverer and your Healer – I Kings 8:37-39
  - a. When God occupies His rightful place in your life – then when you go through a time of adversity, trial and crisis –He is able to step in and deliver you. One thing to note is that God will give you according to your own ways (vs. 39) because He knows the heart of men and their motives and intentions as well. Put Him in his rightful place and then you have the ability to call on Him when you are in a time of trouble!
- 8. Others around you will be blessed – I Kings 8:41-43
  - a. Not only will you be blessed but if God is in His place then those blessings will overflow to others around you. This can be family members, co-workers, neighbors and friends. God will bless your employer because YOU work there. He will heal your family because YOU ask Him to.
  - b. God told Abraham that if he would devote his life to Him that not only would his family be blessed but “ALL THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD would be blessed.”
  - c. When we put God where He should be we overflow our blessings to all those around us!
- 9. He fights your battles for you – I Kings 8:44-45
  - a. When you put God in His rightful place then the battle becomes His and not yours. He will fight your enemies and He will protect you when you are in battle.
  - b. When David went out to fight Goliath – he knew that he was not alone but God was going to fight this battle for him. He won not because of his own strength but because he kept God first in his life and then when he needed Him – God was there to fight for him.
- 10. He will restore and renew you when you backslide and repent – I Kings 8:46-50
  - a. When God has been placed in His place – then when you do fall, fail or backslide, and you ask for repentance, He will restore you back. He

will not allow you to be utterly cut off but will renew you and return you to your rightful place. But only when He FIRST occupies His rightful place in your life.

So how do you put God in His rightful place in your life? You can definitely see the multiple benefits that there are when you do place Him first in your life but what are the signs that you are really doing this?

Jesus told us to love Him with all our mind, soul and strength. He said this was the first commandment. He told us over and over again that He WILL NEVER BE SECOND but wants to occupy front and center in our lives. So how do we know He is really in that position in our lives?

There are a few areas that you really need to take an assessment of your life and see whether or not you truly have Him in his place in your life.

1. Your time
  - a. Do you spend time with him each day? In His word? In prayer?
  - b. Do you make time to attend services regularly? Do you submit to a Pastor?
  - c. Do you spend more time with your own personal agendas and desires than in His presence or consumed with His agenda?
2. Your money
  - a. There is a saying, "If I can look at your calendar and your checkbook, I will know what your priorities are." What would your checkbook say about your relationship with God?
  - b. Paying your tithes (support of the ministry) and offerings (support of the church building and it's needs) only means you break even with God. (Go read Malachi 3:9-12) It is only when you add the level of sacrifice (Missions, Building Funds, special offerings) that you really show God that you are willing to go above and beyond.
  - c. Look at the "extra" things you spend your money on and make sure that you are giving God His place first in your finances. If you pay more on eating out, shopping, cable, cell phone and other personal wants than you give to the Kingdom of God you may need to ask if you are truly placing Him in His rightful place in your life.
3. Your talents
  - a. How are you talented? Music, teaching, child care, maintenance?
  - b. How do you use those talents? Do you only utilize them to further your own agenda?
  - c. Do you use them to further the Kingdom of God?
4. Your attitude, your mouth, your hands
  - a. Do you love your brothers and sisters? That's how THEY know who YOU belong to?
  - b. Do you personify Christ in you language, your attitude, your works?
  - c. What position does He occupy when you are corrected?
  - d. What you DO always speaks louder than what you SAY?