

## Pressing in to the presence of the Lord

The inside of an Iona album (Open sky) reads:

*On the Isle of Hinba, the Spirit was poured upon Columba for three days and nights. He remained alone in a bolted house throughout this time, neither eating nor drinking. Yet rays of light of immeasurable brilliance could be seen flooding out by night through the chinks of the door and the keyhole. Columba was heard to sing spiritual songs and chants that had never been heard before.*

Reading that quote sends shivers up and down my spine as it resonates with a passion in my heart for the presence of God. David says in Psalm 27:4 *'One thing I have asked, this is what I shall seek that I may dwell in the house of the Lord...'* and in that vein I look to lead others into a place where the glory of the Lord is present and tangible.

We're living in days where the Holy Spirit is being poured out on all mankind. It is available to us all, so we need to learn how to press in and remain. Too often we shorten our sung worship times and so we miss out on so much that the Lord has for us.

As I lead others in worship I often see it as pressing in again and again until we breakthrough into a very real sense of God's presence. It's like the waves of the sea that keep breaking onto the beach relentlessly and then suddenly one will be larger than the others and overwhelm those who are paddling on the shore. In a similar way, the Holy Spirit is poured out on us with increased measure as we keep pursuing Him.

We need to learn to worship all over again. With the commercialisation of worship it's too easy to become 'experienced' in what we consider to be worship and so we settle for so much less than we can access. There are two ingredients I believe we need to have if we are to breakthrough into a new, fresh place in worship, and these are **humility** and **unquenchable passion**. With these in place we will find a grace to enter a place that can take time to cultivate. We are so used to getting things immediately in this world that we become bored in worship if we don't feel we've broken through after 30 minutes. The story of Columba teaches us that we need to be like Daniel who 'set his face to seek the Lord'.

This kind of persistence will see us maturing into a people who know how to move in the Holy Spirit and remain in the presence of Jesus so that He can minister to those who are broken and sick. My father-in-law always taught me that I couldn't take anyone in worship where I hadn't been myself, and so I encourage you in the same way to practice pressing in to God's presence so that you may help others to find this place of immeasurable brilliance.

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