Going Through the Motions

Scripture: Judges 16:20

Judges 16:20 KJV [20]And she said, The Philistines *be* upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, **I will go out as at other times before**, and shake myself. And **he wist not that the LORD was departed from him**.

NIV Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "**I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him.**

2 Chronicles 7:14 KJV [14]If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Introduction

Samson was like many believers whose Christian life was born in the fires of revival, knowing the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. But to Samson, God's presence became common, ordinary and taken for granted. Until the day came when Samson did not realize that God's presence and power had departed from him. The same is true of many churches.

I. Experience born in the presence and power of the Lord

Judges 14:6a KJV [6]And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him,

A. Life changing salvation
B. Holy Spirit fire
C. Midnight prayer times
D. Urgency for other's salvation

II. Experience that became common and routine

Judges 16:20c NIV **But he did not know that the LORD had left him.**

A. Operation of spiritual gifts began to fade

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 NIV [19]Do not put out the Spirit's fire; [20]do not treat prophecies with contempt. [21]Test everything. **Hold on to the good**.

B. Seminars replace praying and seeking God's direction
C. Slick professionalism becomes the criteria for success rather than the presence and power of the Holy Spirit
D. Imitating successful methods

III. The remedy

2 Chronicles 7:14 KJV [14]If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

A. Humble ourselves before God and pray
B. Seek God

Jeremiah 29:13 KJV And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

C. Repent of our presumption and failure to seek God for direction
D. Then God will hear from heaven

Conclusion

There is no substitute for God's presence.