

***Fanning it into Flame***  
**Sunday, August 07, 2011**  
**Bless the Lord**

As I was praying I began praising the Lord and thinking about how wonderful he is. I said to him, "Lord, I bless your Holy Name." It dawned on me that I was lifting him up in praise and telling him what a great God he is and how I love what he does. I pondered over the thought of how God feels about what we tell him. He's all-knowing so we can't tell him anything he doesn't already know. He even knows what we're going to say before we say it, so we can think, "What's the point." However, I believe he delights in us when we praise him. He is pleased with us when we choose him and do things in keeping with his will. A theme that keeps playing in my heart and mind is that of being created in his image. Jesus was the exact picture of who the Father is. He totally exemplified the very nature of God although he was completely a man, having left his divinity in Heaven. He became the fulfillment of what man was supposed to look like. The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15 that Jesus was the last Adam. The first Adam blew it and the Last Adam made everything right. Jesus became that life-giving spirit. All that come to him receive the right to become children of God and enter into a new reality; we become a new creation in him. God wants us to walk in the fullness of the Holy Spirit and enter into his Kingdom realities where nothing is impossible for the one who believes.

Just as we take pleasure in seeing our children step out and use the gifts and talents they have, God does the same. He said of Jesus, "***This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.***" Jesus pleased the Father as a man. Jesus knew who he was as the son of God and delighted in doing Father's will. He wants us to step into this same realm. I believe God takes pleasure in each of us individually.

The Psalmist wrote in **Psalm 92:1-15** *A Psalm. A Song. For the Sabbath Day*

***<sup>1</sup> It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, <sup>2</sup> to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night, <sup>3</sup> to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp. <sup>4</sup> For you make me glad by your deeds, O LORD; I sing for joy at the works of your hands. <sup>5</sup> How great are your works, O LORD, how profound your thoughts!***

We all love hearing someone tell us that we've done a good job; that they're proud of us (in a good sense!); that they like us and think we're wonderful. When we get the pats on the back, it can make us feel good. Shall we view these things as merely of the earthly realm and prideful fancies or are they part of God's Divine Design? I am certainly not advocating selfish pride here; I am merely stating that this may be an area where we were created in God's image. As we praise him our hearts are lifted up and we feel better. The other Scripture that I've been meditating on and including in several messages is **1 John 3:1-2** *How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.* The more we learn of who he is and the more we see him, the more we become like him. I believe that many of our characteristics are typical of his characteristics, minus our sins, faults, and abuses.

Take time to meditate on the beauty of his creation and the splendor of his holiness. See him through the eyes of a child who utterly delights in his father and is the apple of his eye. Praise God for who he is and be prepared to hear some praise as well. God delights in the person he created you to be and the more we dwell upon that and get away from our preoccupation with how we think we measure up with him the better off we'll be. We are continually being conformed into his image. He never stops speaking and never stops teaching and nurturing us. Expect great things to take place in your life because: **Philippians 2:13** *for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.* And secondly because: **Romans 8:28** *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*