

## Loved to Love

Houses of Light Church • February 9, 2025 • Pastor Netz Gomez + Ilse Marquez

### Focus: John 17:23

*“The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.” John 17:22-23*

### Why do we do what we do as the church?

#### What is unique about this community?

Last week, we celebrated our 25-year anniversary and we remembered that God called us to shine in the darkness and made us a key piece for the salvation of California! Over the course of the years, the Lord has brought us to understand that He wants the church to be:

1. A people that prays and hosts His presence. (Mark 11:17)
2. A people who have been restored, therefore their families are also restored. (Luke 4:18)
3. A people who were lost are found, and now dedicate themselves to reaching those who are the same. (Mark 16:15)
4. A people that are and make disciples of Jesus (Mathew 28:19).

### These are the 4 pillars that make up who we are and what we do as Houses of Light Church:

1. Prayer
2. Restoration
3. Outreach
4. Discipleship

#### **Focus for today: PRAYER + RESTORATION**

#### **So, why are we here?**

**Psalm 27:4** - *“One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.”*

- If you’ve been here for a little while you may have heard us talk about this verse, it was David’s prayer where he expressed he wanted to dedicate his life to One Thing: Seeking the Lord!
- This is actually what we were created to do, and as we do, this is what makes us the church! We don’t just do good deeds for the sake of looking good, we do what we see Jesus do! The goal isn’t to be busy, it’s to choose Him first. Biblical case study: Mary & Martha— **Luke 10:38-42**
  - Martha was doing a good thing: she was hosting and making sure all her house guests were comfortable, but Mary chose what Jesus called **“the good part”** — something that mattered more than the proper customs and traditions of the day.
  - Beholding Jesus may not be the practical choice in any given moment, but this is the best choice! What would happen if we sat before Him before worrying about our daily to-do lists and endless tasks?

#### **This isn’t an individual invitation, but a communal calling.**

When we seek Him *together*, the impact is unprecedented — We don’t just meet Him, He comes and rests on us. **Matthew 18:20** — *“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”*

And what happens when He comes?

- **Psalm 132:14-16** - *"This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread. Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her saints will shout for joy."*
- **Psalm 16:8-11** - *"I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."*
- **Matthew 6:31-33** - *"Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."*

Our strength as a community comes from being in His presence. Here we find rest, joy, safety, and confidence as we encounter the reality of this good and generous God who loved us first!

### **So, do we just stay here forever?**

What do we do with what we have received?

Encountering Jesus leads us to respond and change the way we live by His grace! He becomes our teacher and we start to look like Him!

**2 Corinthians 3:16-18** - *"But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image."*

- The more we behold Him, the more we look like Him. It's miraculous and yet it also takes practice — As we see Him, He convicts us, we repent, and we practice a new way every single day!

From the beginning of God's story with humanity, He has set his friends apart to be with Him and build friendship with Him, and from that place, He sends them out to be a blessing. See the story of Abraham:

**Genesis 12:1-3** - *"Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'"*

***I will bless you so that you will be a blessing... in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.***

This is the DNA we carry now that we have been adopted into God's family and grafted into His story. We are not a people who isolate and hide in pretty buildings, but we take what we've received from the Lord out into the world! What does this look like?

### **1. We love others as He has loved us!**

- **John 13:34** - *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."*
- **Ephesians 5:25** - *"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her..."*
- **1 John 4:7-8** - *"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."*

## 2. We care for and edify our families in the way He has cared for us.

- **Ephesians 5:28-30** - *"In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body."*

## 3. We forgive as He has forgiven us.

- **Colossians 3:12-14** - *"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."*

This is why our first two pillars as a church are **prayer** and **restoration**. We exist to love God and be loved by Him, and the more time we spend in His presence, the more we will carry His presence and character into everything we are and do. In this way, we will not only see our own hearts and lives restored, but we will partner with the Lord in restoring and healing the people around us.

### Reflection Questions:

1. How can you increase your time in the presence of the Lord this week?
2. What has made it difficult for you to spend time with Him in the past?
3. In what ways can you take your time with the Lord into your relationships and interactions during the week?
4. What has made it difficult for you to carry your walk with Jesus into your friendships/relationships in the past?
5. How do you feel knowing that this is our calling as a church?

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### Announcements:

1. This weekend, February 15 – the prayer room invites you to **"Where I Belong!"** Come gather with us and learn what Heartbeat is all about and know that it is a place for YOU!
  2. In March, we will be launching a 3 week class for newlyweds, engaged couples, and those who are thinking about getting married called: **Relationship Reset**. If you and your partner want to get equipped to set a healthy foundation for your marriage, join us! It's free, all you have to do is sign up by scanning the QR code. For more info, you can email us at **hello@housesoflight.org** or call us Monday–Thursday, 9 AM — 3 PM at 818-998-2931. (There will be childcare available, just let us know you need it when you sign up.)
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### **Houses of Light Church**

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