

GOD SAYS, “WHERE IS THE HOUSE THAT YOU WILL BUILD FOR ME?”

Isaiah 66:1,2.

(Praise Fellowship – 29/4/2001 – EKB)

Reading: *Isaiah 66:1,2.*

1. God Himself has made the heaven as His Throne and the earth as His footstool, *v1, v2*. But He asks, **“Where is the house that you will build for Me?”**
2. God is looking for us to “build” Him a house to dwell in. He desires to dwell with us and in us.
3. When the nation of Israel arrived at Mt Sinai, after being delivered from years of slavery in Egypt, God said to them, **“Build Me a holy place so that I may dwell in your midst,”** *Ex 25:8*. Under the leadership of Moses, they built the Tabernacle and God’s presence dwelt in it, *Ex 40:33-35*.
4. God is desiring each of us to build Him a house **within our own hearts**, *Is 66:1,2*, *1Cor 6:19*, and **within the church gathering** of believers, where He may dwell, *1Tim 3:15*.
5. In *Is 66:2*, God tells us **three things He requires** to be in the house we build for Him.
6. **Firstly He is looking to the person who is “poor”**, *Is 66:2KJV*. The Hebrew word is “ani” and it means to be **brought to a place of humility**. (Young’s Concordance) The Amplified Version and the NIV give **“humble”** instead of “poor”, *Mat 5:3*.

Humility is in our heart when we forgive those who hurt us, release them from our judgment, hand the problem over to God to sort out and pray blessings upon them as in *Ac 26:18, Mk 11:25,26, Mat 18:21-35*.

Humility is operating when we admit our faults to God and to others, ask for forgiveness and seek to change our behaviour for the better, *1Jn 1:9, Pro 28:13, Jam 5:16*.

Humility is taking the place of a servant to help others in need, *Gal 5:13, Mat 20:28, Jn 13:4-14, Lk 11:28*. God highly values humility, *Phil 2:5-8, Lk 18:9-14*, and rewards those who choose it, *1Pet 5:6*.

7. **Secondly God desires s “contrite spirit”**, *Is 66:2*.
When God sent Nathan to reprove King David, he was quick to confess his sins and cry out to God for mercy, *2Sam 12:7, Ps 51, Ps 51:17*. The word “contrite” means to be quick to confess and turn from sin. We all fall short in many things, *Jam 3:2*. When we confess and repent God is quick to forgive and cleanse us, *1Jn 1:9, 1Jn 1:7*.
8. **Thirdly God chooses to dwell with those who “tremble at His Word,”** *Is 66:2*. Jesus said, “Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and do it,” *Lk 11:28, Lk 8:21, Jam 1:22, Lk 6:46*. A good way to do this is to list the scriptures the Holy Spirit reveals to you

and to use them in your prayer time as prayers of praise and thanks. In this way they will get into your spirit, mind and actions.

9. When by God's grace we establish humility in our heart, a willingness to quickly confess and turn from sin and an eager desire to believe and act on what God says to us, we are attracting the presence of God. He will come and dwell with us and in us, *Jn 14:23*.

[Always use plenty of examples from your own life.]