

The Three Coverings of the Believer and the Local Church (aka “Naked Believer”)

Exodus 26:14a KJV - And thou shalt make a covering for the tent...

Who is covering you? What is covering you? How richly are you covered? Are you covered at all?

Troops on the ground often call for Artillery-Cover or Air-Cover.

Without COVERS one cannot stay warm in bed. I have three layers on my own bed: 1) A Sheet, then 2) A Thermal Blanket, and finally a 3) Quilt on top of those first two layers.

Without clothing cover, we would all feel shame. 1) Underwear, 2) Clothes, 3) Coat and Hat when it's cold.

Deuteronomy 33:12 KJV - And of Benjamin he said, The beloved of the LORD shall dwell in safety by him; and the LORD shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders.

Without a COVERING of sealant, wood furniture is vulnerable to permanent dents and scratches. Without a COVERING of some kind of chemical coating, metals usually corrode.

Three Crucial Coverings Of A Local Church: 1. PASTOR cover. 2. PRAYER cover. 3. PRAISE & WORSHIP cover. God Himself is The Cover, but He chooses to cover us THROUGH certain people and certain things. God is the source of all COVER, but He does so through His own chosen channels.

Three Crucial Coverings Of The Individual Believer: 1. PASTOR cover. 2. PRAYER cover. 3. PRAISE & WORSHIP cover. NOTICE THEY ARE SAME THREE COVERINGS AS FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH!

Exodus 25:17 AMP - And you shall make a mercy seat (a covering) of pure gold, two cubits and a half long and a cubit and a half wide. 18 And you shall make two cherubim (winged angelic figures) of [solid] hammered gold on the two ends of the mercy seat. 19 Make one cherub on each end, making the cherubim of one piece with the mercy seat, on the two ends of it. 20 And the cherubim shall spread out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, facing each other and looking down toward the mercy seat. 21 You shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony [the Ten Commandments] that I will give you. 22 There I will meet with you and, from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are upon the ark of the Testimony, I will speak intimately with you of all which I will give you in commandment to the Israelites.

Are you covered by a personal pastor?

Are you covered by your own prayers and the prayers of others?

Are you covered weekly by strong praise and worship that ushers in the felt presence of God?

How STRONG and how LONG these three covers are cast over your life determines the measure of your protection and the fulfillment of your destination.

A local church MUST have PASTOR COVER: God's Man, God's Choice at the helm in order to flourish. Leadership is pivotal. The one God desires must be in charge, not merely who men want in charge. If a local church is to succeed, THE MAN OF GOD must be in place. When God has a plan, God has a man... always! A man; not a committee, not a board, not a council; but A MAN! So many churches today are struggling because they don't even have God's first anointed ingredient in place: a truly called and gifted senior pastor. Sheep can FEEL the presence AND absence of divine authority. A truly God-called leader emanates an aura of God's presence without speaking a word. That's because leadership in God's Kingdom is based on giftings.

A local church MUST have PRAYER COVER: Much prayer by the pastor and staff. Much prayer by the members. Much prayer by the intercessory prayer teams. Without PRAYER COVER, the enemy will succeed in causing division and discord.

A local church MUST have PRAISE & WORSHIP COVER: All the people, families, programs and departments of a local church are operating under the protective cover of the manifest presence of God that is in that place. And the quality of that cover is determined by the anointing and authority of Christ experienced during corporate praise and worship. A church can only move forward in the measure of God's manifest presence being experienced in the people's hearts consistently from week to week.

What fabrics or materials are all your coverings made of?

How strong is your pastor cover? Do you even have a pastor? Are you submitted to him in your heart? Do you treasure him as a gift from God to you and your family? What value do you place on the anointing that streams from God to you through him?

How strong is your prayer cover?

How strong is your praise & worship cover?

You cannot travel any further than your prayer cover has gone ahead of you.

You cannot rise any higher than your mentors in the Lord. That's why Bishop Bob is MY OWN pastor! Don't mentor under just anybody. Don't let everybody speak into your life. Be choosy!

Matthew 10:24-25a NIV - "A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master.

Carefully select who is over you in the Lord. God has placed someone "over you in the Lord" even if you have not discovered who that is, or even if you refuse to have a submissive heart.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 KJV - And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

Anointed praise & worship brings God's manifested presence on the scene, and there is no substitute for His glory covering the believer and hovering over a local church. We must be AGLOW with God's GLORY!

If you are just going through the motions of praise & worship in church and rarely experience His felt presence, something is either wrong with you, and/or wrong with the quality of praise & worship in the house. Settle it! God doesn't want you bored! He is pure pleasure! God does not want you to have to fake it! Yes, many times we all have to offer the sacrifice of praise until our own flesh submits, but sooner or later we should SENSE His presence. Something is definitely wrong if we never FEEL Him embrace us. For every acceptable sacrifice there IS ALWAYS a divine response!

It is the responsibility of a local church's praise and worship programs to HELP believers experience God's presence, never-ever to HINDER them. Every hindrance like off-pitch singing, instruments not being in tune, mediocre musicianship, tardiness, awkward musical arrangements, musicians playing over the top of one another, poor rhythm, missing instrumentation, offensive audio volume levels, a casual "mom and pop" approach, substandard equipment, worn out song selections, poor overhead lyric sheets or operation thereof, etc., MUST be removed. God forbid any of us HINDER, rather than HELP, God's people ENTER INTO His presence. God expects EXCELLENCE! God does not like sloppy praise & worship any more than the human ear does! Music is supposed to be an USHER into His presence. See [Praise & Worship Band Basics 101](#).

Get under the three covers of your PASTOR, your own PRAYER LIFE and intercessors, and your corporate PRAISE & WORSHIP! Snuggle up! Enjoy the protection! Feel the warmth! **Don't be a "naked" believer!**