

SERIES: PRESENCE DRIVEN
SERMON: A PRESENCE DRIVEN PEOPLE
3-4-25

REVIEW:

Exodus 33:12-18 Then Moses said to the Lord, “See, You say to me, ‘Bring up this people.’ But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.’ ¹³ Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people.”

¹⁴ And He said, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

¹⁵ Then he said to Him, “If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. ¹⁶ For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth.”

¹⁷ So the Lord said to Moses, “I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.”

¹⁸ And he said, “Please, show me Your glory.”

(explain scripture)

**MOSES PLEADED WITH GOD FOR HIS PRESENCE NOT
JUST HIS BLESSING.**

**MOSES SAID, I DON'T WANT GOD'S PROMISES IF I
DON'T HAVE YOU!**

**HE WASN'T SATISFIED WITH THE GIFT UNLESS IT ALSO
CAME WITH THE GIVER.**

**Just like Moses our heart cry as a church must be, “God, we won’t take a step forward, we won’t move unless you move.”
Our desire should be to see God’s glory!**

I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PRESENCE DRIVEN?

“driven” definition is: moved or controlled by a specific person or source of power; relentlessly compelled by a need to accomplish a goal; very hard working

We need to ask ourselves: Are we relentlessly compelled by the presence of God? Ask yourself, “Is His presence driving you?”

“presence” in Hebrew is panim (פנים). Panim also translates to "face" and signifies a close, personal encounter with God.

The concept of "face" in this context implies a close and personal relationship with the divine.

**HIS PRESENCE IS HIS NEARNESS. WE HAVE TO BE CLOSE ENOUGH TO
SEE HIS FACE.**

**TO FIND THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN ALL THINGS IS TO BE
RELENTLESSLY DRIVEN TO ACCOMPLISH THE GOAL
OF SEEING HIS FACE.**

PRESENCE DRIVEN IS POSITIONING OURSELVES TO SEE HIS GLORY.

A "presence-driven church" is where the primary focus and driving force is the experience and manifestation of God's presence. It's not centered around programs, events, or specific leaders, but rather around actively seeking and experiencing God's presence in every aspect of church life.

The core of a presence-driven church is the belief that God is actively present with His people. His presence is not just a concept, but a tangible experience.

A PRESENCE DRIVEN PEOPLE

OPENER:

Exodus 33:7-11 Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the Lord went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp. ⁸ So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle. ⁹ And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. ¹⁰ All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door. ¹¹ So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.
(explain scripture)

IF WE ARE ONLY MEETING GOD IN THE CORPORATE GATHERING AND NOT IN PRIVATE THEN WE ARE ONLY PRACTICING RELIGION.

IF WE ARE GOING TO BE A PRESENCE DRIVEN CHURCH WE MUST BE A PRESENCE DRIVEN PEOPLE.

**WE CANNOT JUST MEET WITH GOD HERE.
WE MUST MEET WITH GOD IN OUR OWN SECRET PLACE.**

You will never grow spiritually if you don't connect with God every day, the most effective way to spiritually grow is through encountering His presence.

John Maxwell says, “Show me your daily routine and I will show you your future.”

J. Oswald Sanders says “If we are meticulously careful about the use of the days, the years will be taken care of themselves.”

So, what does it mean that Moses met “*face to face*” with God? It means that He met intimately, up close and personally with God.

**THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE ACCESS TO.
THAT UP-CLOSE, INTIMATE, TRANSPARENT ENCOUNTER WITH GOD AND HIS GLORY.**

So, how do we encounter God’s presence in our own lives? How do we have face to face encounters with God.... with nothing covered, nothing hidden, nothing fake?

1. MAKE A PLACE

Exodus 33:7 Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting.

Moses “took his tent” -

Moses made a private place to meet with God. This tent was away from his responsibilities and far away from others. It was a place solely designed for prayer and solitude with God. It’s total purpose in being pitched was to meet with God.

Matthew 6:5- 7 “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ⁶ But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. ⁷ And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

**“Be still” here is the Hebrew term “*raphah*” = Respite, Relax, Wait, Abandon, Cease, Let Go, Fall Limp
Respite = take a break, rest from work or responsibility**

**THE ONLY WAY THAT WE ARE TRULY GOING TO KNOW THE LORD IS TO
BE STILL.**

**TO TAKE A BREAK WITH HIM. TO WAIT UPON HIM.
TO ABANDON ALL ACTIVITY AND RESPONSIBILITY
IN THAT PLACE.**

TO LET GO OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

2. KEEP THAT PLACE SECRET

***“He pitched it outside and far from camp”*- We have to set up our meeting place far away from other people and our responsibilities. It has to be private.**

How many of us are encountering God in private? Away from church, or community groups, away from people, family, responsibilities? Away from church?

Psalm 91:1-2 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.² I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.”

**THERE IS A SECRET PLACE OF THE MOST HIGH GOD WHERE WE CAN
FIND REFUGE AND REST.**

- > The Secret Place of the Most High God is a place where you can experience the presence of God in a unique way.
- > A place where He only shares and reveals himself in a way that is unique to you and you alone.
- > It is a place of intimacy and closeness with God that goes beyond the ordinary.
- > In this place, you can hear God's voice
- > This is a place where our faith is strengthened.
- > There are hidden treasures of the secret place of the Most High God.
- > You experience His love in a way that surpasses your own understanding or ability to vocalize it.
- > This place of hiding is where they can find protection and peace from the storms of life.

3. GOD'S GLORY WILL FALL IN THAT PLACE

Vs. 9.....And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses.

(Explain how this looked)

Once Moses made that place and entered there, "THEN" the glory of God showed up.

**OUR FIRST PRIORITY IN OUR PERSONAL WALK WITH GOD IS TO MAKE A
PLACE FOR HIS GLORY TO FALL.
HE IS WAITING ON YOU TO MAKE A ROOM FOR HIM.**

**SOME OF US ARE NOT EXPERIENCING THE GLORY OF GOD BECAUSE
WE ARE NOT MAKING A PLACE FOR HIM.**

SIDE NOTE:

THE GLORY THAT FELL IN MOSES' TENT OF MEETING

Exodus 13:21-22 And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. ²² He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.

Two ways God manifested His presence to the Israelites:

1. Cloud by day
2. Fire by night

Both of these were physical signs that He was with them.

So, when Moses met with God in his tent.... sometimes the cloud fell into the tent of meeting. Sometimes the fire fell into the tent,

The Cloud of God's presence is symbolic of protection and God's covering.
The cloud of God's presence that was like a banner of covering for them in the desert. It kept out the heat and the rays of the sun in the hot desert. The cloud was a type of defense to keep something out, to cover to protect them keep something out.

Psalm 32:7 You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah

The Fire of God's Presence is symbolic of consuming
The fire of God's presence consumed them with heat at night in the desert. The warmth penetrated their cold bodies as they lay and slept at night, It kept them warm during the cold desert nights.

Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. ²⁹ For our God is a consuming fire.

WE MUST SEEK GOD NOT ONLY TO ENGAGE IN MOMENTS OF THE CLOUD BUT ALSO SEEK MOMENTS OF FIRE AS WELL.

MEETING FACE TO FACE IS SEEKING THE FULLNESS OF HIM.

**HIS HELP - HIS GUIDANCE - HIS PROTECTION - MAY HE HIDE US FROM OUR ENEMIES AND COVER US WITH HIS WINGS
AS HE DID WITH THE CLOUD.**

AND MAY HE CONSUME US AND PURGE US WITH FIRE AS WE SACRIFICE OUR HEARTS ON THE ALTAR.

A TRUE FACE TO FACE ENCOUNTER WITH GOD IS NOT JUST ASKING HIM FOR HELP AND RESCUE BUT ALSO

**LAYING OUR WILL, OUR DESIRES AND OUR HEART UPON THE ALTAR SO
HE CAN CONSUME US.**

4. ONCE THE GLORY FALLS ON YOU OTHERS WANT THE GLORY TOO

Exodus 33:8-9 So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle.⁹ And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. ¹⁰ All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door.

The people stood and watched . They watched the glory of God descend on that meeting place.

**PEOPLE CAN TELL WHEN YOU HAVE MET WITH THE LORD.
THEY MAY NOT REVERE YOU BUT THEY WILL REVERE THE LORD.**

When you spend time with God you will draw others in too... your family, your spouse, your children, etc.

Some of us need to cease from our labors of trying to get others to serve God and let God's glory on us compel them and convict their hearts. We need to stop trying to fix situations and let God fix them as His presence from that place goes with us as we walk into those situations.

Exodus 33:11 So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp..... but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.

(Explain scripture)

Joshua stayed behind.....

CLOSING:

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

