

The Presence of God | Anchored

WEEK TWO | PASTOR BOB JOHNSTON

God's passion is to dwell with his people.

SUMMARY

God's presence is seen throughout scripture.

- ◇ The presence of God in the Garden. (Genesis 3:8-9)
- ◇ The presence of God at the Tabernacle of Meeting. (Exodus 29:42-46, 33:7-11)
- ◇ The presence of God in Solomon's Temple. (1 Kings 8:10-13, 2 Chronicles 5:13-14)
- ◇ The presence of God in Immanuel. (Haggai 2:9, Matthew 1:23, Matthew 12:6)
- ◇ The presence of God in Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4)
- ◇ The presence of God for eternity (John 14:1-3, Revelation 21:3)

God is omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-12)

God promises to draw near to anyone who will draw near to Him.

- ◇ Hebrews 13:5
- ◇ Matthew 28:20
- ◇ Deuteronomy 31:6
- ◇ Psalms 34:18

TERMS

Shekinah

Although not actually used in the Bible (like the word Trinity), Jewish rabbis used Shekinah to describe the weight and intensity of God's presence among His people. It is based on the Hebrew word shakan which means "to dwell, settle, or tarry". (Ex. 24:16, Num. 9:18, 1 Kings 8:12)

Immanuel

A Jewish male name meaning "with us is God", used in Isaiah 7:14 to speak of the saving presence of God to deliver His people.

QUOTES

"There is more written in Scripture about God's desire to dwell with His people than there is about man's desire to be with God."

Small Group | Questions

Pastor Bob spoke of the difference between seeking God's hand (miracles, signs, wonders, etc.) and seeking God's face (intimacy). He gave a powerful illustration of abiding in God's shadow (Psalm 91:1) - we need to be close to someone to abide in their shadow! Keep these in mind as you discuss the following questions:

1. Think: How much of the presence of God do you know? How much do you carry?
 - a. Discuss what these mean, and what implications they could have on you and your world.

2. Read: Exodus 29:42-46
 - b. Discuss what these mean, and what implications they could have on you and your world.

3. Read: Lk. 10: 38-41
 - a. Martha was busy 'serving Jesus', but Mary chose the better thing 'she sat at the feet of Jesus'. Before we serve Jesus, being with him is our first priority and ministry.
 - i. What can you put aside this week to ensure you sit and spend time in God's presence?

4. Do you desire to be with God?
 - a. Discuss what these mean, and what implications they could have on you and your world.
 - b. Read: James 4:8
 - i. The God of all creation responds to the active pursuit of Him, by drawing close to us. This is an incredible concept to grasp.
 - What are some ways that you can 'draw close to God' this week?
 - How are some ways that you expect God to draw close to you?

Here is one way to develop a healthy spiritual rhythm of intimacy with God:

- ◇ Find a quiet place this week to sit and be alone with God. If this is your first time, start slow. Don't be pressured to say much.

- ◇ Start by reading a short Psalm slowly and contemplatively. Here are some suggestions: (Psalm 23, Psalm 25:4, Psalm 36:9, Psalm 42:1,2 & 7,8)

- ◇ Get into a comfortable position. Let your muscles relax and your mind quiet down. Take a deep breath and ask God to make his presence known around and in you.

- ◇ Begin to be aware of God around you. Drawing close to you.

- ◇ Sit quietly meditating on what you just read. Begin to pray the words you read. As the Holy Spirit leads, talk to God.

- ◇ Linger in His presence as long as you desire. Don't give up this practice. Duty will soon turn to desire.

