

Presence Part 2 Story

Presence:

1. the state or fact of existing, occurring, or being present in a place or thing.
2. a person or thing that exists or is present in a place but is not seen.
3. a group of people, especially soldiers or police, stationed in a particular place.

We talk about His Presence, Revival, Bible reading, Prayer - but we think of them as [separate things or pieces](#) but there is a [LARGER STORY](#) and the players/actors in the individual scenes don't work until you understand the story. Christianity is not an add into our worldview, but is the worldview by which we understand all else.

ILL. Napoleon Dynamite

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else." - C.S. Lewis

Matthew 6:9-10

9 "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

STORY of GOD & MAN'S INTERACTION

1. Creation
2. Sin
3. Separation
4. Rescue
5. Re-union
6. Restoration

1. CREATION

2. SIN

3. SEPARATION (the *real* problem)

- Adam & Eve - choose own way
 - Blame
 - Distance
 - Cover Up
 - Toil (work the ground)
 - Pain (pain in childbirth/fruitfulness)
- Cain & Abel
- The world spirals downward into chaos
- **Cultural Worldview Solutions**
 - Better economic policies
 - Better Government
 - Be kind
 - More acceptance
 - More believe
- **Bible Solution - We need God & Jesus is the way**

4. RESCUE

I will rescue you = doing for you what you can't do for yourself

ILL. RESCUE: Texas Snakes - Ninja Turtles

JESUS IS THE SECOND ADAM - RESTORED EDEN STATE

Invitation to an EDEN reality.

- **Genesis:**
 - **Adam/Eve** - Kicked out of the place where creation and spiritual come together.
 - Return to the dust

- Work the ground
- Birth - painful in Body
- **New Testament:**
 - Jesus came as a “Second Adam”
 - Why?
 - **Jesus - RESTORING CREATION & SPIRITUAL TOGETHER**

1 Corinthians 15:45-50

45 So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit... 47 The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. 48 As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man. 50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

**NOT ONLY A FORGIVENESS OF SIN/REPAIR THE BREACH
AN INVITATION TO BECOME A DIFFERENT KIND OF BEING**

Nicodemus - Born again - of the spirit, not the flesh.

Matthew 3:2

and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Matthew 10:7

As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'

Luke 17:20-21

20 When asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The kingdom of God will not come with observable signs. 21 Nor will people say, “Look, here it is” or “there it is”. For you see, the kingdom of God is in your midst. (2,000 + years ago)

“ALREADY, BUT NOT YET”

- ILL. A Seed planted (2,000 years ago)
 - All that is needed is DONE,
 - BUT not fully what it is, yet!

Repent for the kingdom has come near.

5. RE-UNION (Holy Spirit)

Jesus - Better to go away?

John 16: 6-7, 12-13 (Jesus going away)

7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you... 12 “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.

RE-UNION: HUMANS LIVING UNDER THE SPIRIT/PRESENCE OF GOD

- Jesus Mystery
 - 100% man
 - 100% God
- Jesus - God but chose/operate as **a man under God’s spirit**
 - **Philippians 2:6–7 ESV** - Though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.
 - Matthew 24:36 - no one knows the time [of return] not even the Son, only the Father. (He limited His divinity)

- Hebrews 4 - a high priest that can sympathize with every weakness, was tempted in the same way we are tempted. (He limited His divinity)
- **OLD TESTAMENT** - Holy Spirit would descend and leave
- **JESUS** - Holy Spirit Descended & for the first time - STAYED
 - **Matthew 3:16-17 ESV**
 - 16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”
- **NEW MODEL FOR US**
 - I can't be God
 - I can't be Jesus
 - I CAN BE a Human Being living indwelled with God's Spirit

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 2:1-4

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. 2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. 3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them... ability.

Ephesians 1:13

And you also were included in Christ [second Adam - spiritual birth here and now] when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.

1 John 4:17 NIV

This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.

The Holy Spirit stays... A new type of being

Repent for the kingdom has come near.

Jesus on the cross...

Matthew 27:50-51

When Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He yielded up His spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split.

- Temple veil torn
- TEMPLE VEIL TORN
- No more dirt geography - we are the dirt/"Geography"

1 Corinthians 3:16

Do you not know that you yourselves are God's temple, and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

2 Corinthians 6:16

... For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be My people."

Re-Union

We are already everything we need.
Yet not all we will become.

Why we need each other - Church

- **A family of God's people**

- Sundays
- Groups
- EQUIP
- SERVING/GIVING
- LOVING CITY

Acts 2 - Upper Room

**Acts 10 (?) - Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit (non jews included)
(fulfilment of promise to Abraham - Hebrews/Seed is a blessing to all nations)**

1 Corinthians 6:19

9 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

Galatians 5:25

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

6. RESTORATION (Revelation)

ILL. "Heaven" not disembodied people floating on clouds

- BIBLE: We don't go to heaven, heaven comes to earth

Jesus/God's Goal: A restoration of heaven and earth fused together

- **Restoration of (Eden - Hebrew - "delight")**
- We are bodily resurrected to eternal life (Jesus' scarred hands)

1 John 3:8 NIV - The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

Jesus embodied in himself the perfect fusion of "heaven" and "earth"

- Physical & Spiritual
- Man fused with/under the power of God's Spirit
- Bread & Wine - Communion (Physical/Spiritual)

Ephesians 1:4, 10 NLT

4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes... 10 And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ — everything in heaven and on earth.

Matthew 19:28-30

28 Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife[e] or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

Revelation 21: 1-5

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth,"[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death'[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Romans 8:18- 37

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. 26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. 31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died — more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written:
“For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

“that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God”

ILL. A seed planted that is growing into something

- Seed planted happened and is happening.
- Coming in out of the cold - happened and is happening.

Romans 8:18-19, 23 NIV

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2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NIV)

17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

We NOW LIVE CHOOSING God's Life or Our Own Way

- Restored Eden/Delight or our own way
- Field of treasure
- Pearl of great price

How does this impact how we live now?

- OPTIMISM
 - The rock solid expectation that good is coming

Q: What would you say is the great sustaining hope of your life these days?

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.” - C.S. Lewis

- HOPE
- POWER
- LOVE
- ETERNAL PURPOSE
- Spiritual Warfare & Prayer
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