



I M M E R S E D

IN HIS PRESENCE

"The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.
He will exult over you with joy,
He will be quiet in His love,
He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy."

Zephaniah 3:17

Key Thoughts

1. God's presence isn't attained. It's recognized.
2. A heart that's full of other things cannot find God even when looking.
3. Knowing God is our only answer pushes us to seek Him more desperately.



Listening

Created for Intimacy

Author Henri Nouwen – Every time you listen with great attentiveness to the voice that calls you the Beloved, you will discover within yourself a desire to hear that voice longer and more deeply.

Key Thought

We don't create intimacy;

we actively make room for it!

Psalm 25:14 (AMP) The secret [of the sweet, satisfying companionship] of the Lord have they who fear (revere and worship) Him, and He will show them His covenant *and* reveal to them its [deep, inner] meaning.

Intimacy consistently in Bible

- **Adam & Eve** Gen 3:8 NKJV they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day ... then the Lord God called to Adam
- **Enoch** Genesis 5:24 AMP And Enoch walked [in habitual fellowship] with God; and he was not, for God took him [home with Him].

Intimacy consistently in Bible

- **Abraham** Genesis 18:17 AMP And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham [My friend and servant] what I am going to do,
- **David** Psalm 27:4 AMP One thing I have asked of the Lord, and that I will seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord [in His presence] all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty [the delightful loveliness and majestic grandeur] of the Lord and to meditate in His temple.

Intimacy consistently in Bible

- **Disciples** John 15:15 NKJV No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.
- **Us** Revelation 3:20 NLT I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

Ears deafened by listening to

- Negative self-talk
- Voice of criticism
- Enemy's condemnation

Mark Batterson –

One reason we turn a deaf ear to God is because we're afraid of what He's going to say, but that's because we don't know His heart toward us. You want to hear what He has to say. Trust me.

We want to hear Jesus' words

- *I came to bring abundant life ...*
- *The words I speak are spirit and life ...*
- *I am the way, the truth, the life ...*
- *I am with you always ...*
- *I will never leave or forsake you*
- *If seen Me, seen the Father*

Whose voice is the loudest?

Charles Stanley – What we hear is affected by our understanding of who God is. For example, do you view God as a loving or demanding Father? An intimate or distant friend? A patient or intolerant teacher? A gentle or angry guide? A generous or reluctant provider? Do you see Him as understanding or insensitive? If you struggle in perceiving God as loving, patient, gentle, generous, or understanding, it will color what and how you hear from Him.

Isaiah 30:20–21 (NLT)

... You will see your teacher with your own eyes. Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, "This is the way you should go," whether to the right or to the left.

God speaks through

- His Word
- His Spirit
- His People

God's voice changes everything

1 Kings 19:11-12 NKJV Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, *but* the Lord *was* not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, *but* the Lord *was* not in the earthquake;¹² and after the earthquake a fire, *but* the Lord *was* not in the fire; and after the fire a delicate whispering voice.

Oswald Chambers – The voice of the Spirit is as gentle as a zephyr. So gentle that unless you are living in perfect communion with God, you never hear it. The checks of the Spirit come in the most extraordinarily gentle ways, and if you are not sensitive enough to detect His voice you will quench it, and your personal spiritual life will be impaired. His checks always come as a still small voice, so small that no one but the saint notices them.

Listening is critical for your destiny

Psalm 25:4–5 NLT Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow. ⁵ Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you.



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