



God's Empowering Presence

- **God never intended you to walk this life alone, He wants to walk with you**
 - Without the presence of the Holy Spirit, our lives and our words lack the power to change lives. The only thing that changes our situation, is God's empowering presence
 - **God's empowering presence is none other than the Holy Spirit**
 - It has always been God's desire for us to live in His presence
1. **Eden:** God's presence dwelt in the garden. He wanted us to be in His presence.
 - i. The garden was a space where God met with man.
 - ii. This is where God had fellowship with humankind.
 - iii. Genesis 3:23
 1. So, the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.
 2. Man, leaves the garden, and thus the presence of God
 3. Genesis 4 – 12 is a picture of how bad it gets without God's presence
 2. **Mt. Sinai:** Hundreds of years later, God's presence appears again
 - i. Exodus 3: 2 God appears to Moses at in a burning bush.
 1. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.
 - ii. Exodus 33:15 – 16 God's presence is critical for battle
 1. It's not the fire that represents God, but it is His presence that is critical.
 2. Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with

me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

3. "More than the law, or other identity markers such as circumcision, food laws, and Sabbath observance, God's presence with Israel distinguished them as his people." Dr. Gordon Fee (Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God, page 11)

3. **Tabernacle:** The tabernacle is a place where God's presence comes to dwell
 - i. After several chapters of detailed instructions and much work, the tabernacle is completed
 - ii. Exodus 40:34, 38 Cloud moves from Mt. Sinai to the Tab.
 1. Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle... So the cloud of the Lord was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the Israelites during all their travels.
 2. God's presence in the Tabernacle in the wilderness (pillar of fire). This is a symbolic miniature Eden.

4. Jesus:

- i. John 1:14 Dwelling, tabernacle
 1. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- ii. To dwell, to live, to spread a tent
- iii. To pitch tent, encamp; to tabernacle, dwell in a ten; to dwell, have one's abode.
- iv. John 16:7 Jesus goes away and sends the HS
 1. 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.

5. First Century Christians

- i. The Holy Spirit comes to dwell in God's people
 1. Acts 2:1 – 4

- a. When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

6. Present Day Christians

- a. The presence of the Holy Spirit is vital for our life and ministry
- b. Life without the personal presence of the Holy Spirit is hard
- c. The Holy Spirit is God's personal presence, He is not some kind of "it," an impersonal force that comes from God. The Spirit is fully personal, and fully God. (Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God, by Gordon Fee, page 33)
- d. "Some 62% of self-identified born-again Christians contend that the Holy Spirit is not a real, living being but is merely a symbol of God's power, presence or purity", The Christian Post, September 2021.
 - i. <https://www.christianpost.com/news/most-us-christians-dont-believe-holy-spirit-is-real-study.html>
- e. Gordon Fee
 - i. The coming of the Holy Spirit in and among us means that the living God, in the person of the Spirit, is indeed with us. And he is present as an empowering presence. Here, then, is one of the shifts that must take place in our thinking and experience if we are to be biblical, and thus more effective, in our postmodern world. We must not merely cite the creed, but believe and experience the presence of God in the person of the Spirit. (Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God by Gordon Fee, page 35)
- f. SOP
 - i. Scripture: Read/listen to God's word in large amounts
 - ii. Observation: After being in God's word, start your prayer time by telling God what you noticed in His word that day.
 - iii. Prayer: Talk to the Holy Spirit like He is a person, and expect Him to talk back to your spirit.
 - iv. Self-talk with the Holy Spirit