

Summer in the Psalms

Living in His Presence

***Psalm 26:8 (NASB)** ⁸ Lord, I love the dwelling of Your house, And the place where Your glory remains.*

***Psalm 27:4 (NASB)** One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord And to meditate in His temple.*

***Psalm 84:1-2 (NASB)** How lovely are Your dwelling places, Lord of armies! ² My soul longed and even yearned for the courtyards of the Lord; My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.*

One of the Greatest Truths of Psalms:

Living in God's presence is essential to a great life and fulfilling your purpose.

3 Promises of His Presence

1. Omni-presence: God is everywhere (Psalm 139:7)
2. Inner-presence: Holy Spirit lives in you (1 Cor 6)
3. Manifest-presence: Ministry of Jesus in reproduced in every believer.

“Manifest” Illustration: *Pretend a multi-billionaire is in the room today. Their presence is in the room. But if that multi-billionaire began to walk around and give each person a billion dollars, he would be manifesting His presence...making his presence known. Let's just wait a few seconds to see if a multi-billionaire wants to manifest.*

- It's one thing to have God in the room. It's another thing to give Him liberty to do what only He can do.

We can learn to dwell in God's presence at all times. But it takes practice.

“The most holy and necessary practice in our spiritual life is the presence of God. That means finding constant pleasure in His divine company, speaking humbly and lovingly with Him in all seasons, at every moment, without limiting the conversation in any way . . . It isn't necessary that we stay in church in order to remain in God's presence. We can make our hearts personal chapels where we can enter anytime to talk to God privately. These conversations can be so loving and gentle, and anyone can have them.”

–Brother Lawrence, The Practice of the Presence of God.

What Happened to His Presence (Fellowship)??

○ Adams and Eve

Genesis 3:8 (NKJV)

⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the ^lcool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

- Sin always causes us to hide ourselves from the presence of God.
- If you messed up this week, Satan will do everything he can to cause you to run from God's presence when the place we should be running is His presence
- But we see here they were hiding from His Known (Experienced) presence not His omnipresence.

○ Cain

Genesis 4:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of ^[a]Nod on the east of Eden.

○ Jonah

Jonah 1:1-4

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me." ³ But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.

- How do we go away from the presence of the Lord? We simply don't do what He says to do? Adam and Eve, Cain, Jonah, and us.
- Obedience: Doing what God says. (Written Word and spoken word)
- Position of my heart and feet. My heart obeys with my feet.
- God doesn't skip out on us. We actually move away from His manifest presence by the choices we make.
- How do we get it back?? We can even come boldly because of Jesus.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (TPT)

¹⁶ But the moment one turns to the Lord with an open heart, the veil is lifted and they see. ¹⁷ Now, the "Lord" I'm referring to is the Holy Spirit, and wherever he is Lord, there is freedom. ¹⁸ We can all draw close to him with the veil removed from our faces. And with no veil we all become like mirrors who brightly reflect the glory of the Lord Jesus. We are being transfigured into his very image as we move from one brighter level of glory to another. And this glorious transfiguration comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

We fully embrace the presence of God by developing relationship with the Holy Spirit.

- We have an advantage. We have the fullness of the Scripture and the Holy Spirit
- David shows us 3 ways to practice God's presence.

TREASURE His Presence

Exodus 33:14-16 (Message)

¹⁴ God said, "My presence will go with you. I'll see the journey to the end." ¹⁵⁻¹⁶ Moses said, "If your presence doesn't take the lead here, call this trip off right now. How else will it be known that you're with me in this, with me and your people? Are you traveling with us or not? How else will we know that we're special, I and your people, among all other people on this planet Earth?"

- "David's life mission was to bring God's presence back to Israel and to build a place for God to dwell. God's presence was His priority.
- The Philistines returned the ark because it caused them problems (2 Chr 1:1-4) and instead of it going back to the Tabernacle of Moses, David brought it home.
- Most of his 75 Psalms were written from this place.

2 Samuel 6:17 (NASV)

¹⁶ Then it happened as the ark of the Lord came into the city of David that Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.¹⁷ So they brought in the ark of the Lord and set it in its place inside the tent which David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord.

GUARD His Presence

- David assigned 288 singers, 24 worship teams, 12 members each to pray and worship 24-7 at the Ark. It grew to 4000 (1 Chron 23:5)

Lifestyle worship guards the presence of God in our lives.

- How we treat the Holy Spirit matters. Paul points out two legs of defense for guarding this special relationship

1. Character

Ephesians 4:30 (NASB)

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Grieve (Greek): *lupet-* to be sad, to be made sorrowful, to be made sorry

- Comes from the Greek *Lupe*: a grief that only be experienced by two people that deeply love each other

Ephesians 4:29-32 (NLT)

²⁹ Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. ³⁰ And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

2. Power

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 (NASB)

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit, ²⁰ do not utterly reject prophecies,

Quench (Greek): *sbennumi-* to extinguish, to stop the flow of

- Grieving and Quenching have equal value of importance.
- We grieve Him with wrong activity (sin). We quench Him when we fail to cooperate with divine activity.
- It doesn't make sense to emphasize the strong leg of character but not power. I want my legs to be equal length and strength.
- The religious crowd will applaud the character leg, but it doesn't produce anything to bring about transformation in the culture. We need both character and power.

CARRY His Presence

- The Tabernacle of David was a symbol or foreshadow of the church.

Ephesians 1:23 (Message)

The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with His presence.

- In this story, they literally carried the presence of God to the nation.
- At the Tabernacle of David, King David now had full, free access to God's Presence. Further, there was no veil separating people from Ark of the Covenant, as there was in Moses's tabernacle.
- After the temple is built, Amos prophesied that God would restore the Tabernacle of David (Amos 9) and that He would use Jews and Gentiles to do it. God's Presence would be restored amongst His people. In Acts 15, James tells them it's happening!!

Response Time:

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (TPT)

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A moment to turn.

A moment to find freedom.

A moment to draw close.