

Encountering God's Presence

January 15, 2026

Psalm 145:18 *The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.*

Pastor Darrell has requested that I write a short devotional on our theme for this year's Spiritual Emphasis Week. Keeping it short will be quite a challenge so let's get started. In the beginning God created mankind and desired that we encounter His presence on a daily basis. In Eden's garden God came walking in the cool of the day calling out "Adam, where are you"? Even though the first couple had disobeyed and in shame attempted to hide from God's presence, He still pursued them. Our Creator wanted to restore relationship and deepen fellowship with mankind and He still does. Always remember, God wants us to be "with Him", so don't run from Him, run to Him. He awaits with open arms.

There will always be distractions to keep us from encountering God's presence. Many years ago, I read a book written by a Brother Lawrence. He entered a monastery hoping to isolate himself from the outside world. His idea was to keep to himself, reading and studying the Bible. He would dedicate himself to fast and pray seeking the presence of God to completely fill his life. He just wanted God and God alone without any distractions.

Everyone in the monastery was given a responsibility to keep the place up and running smoothly. Of all places Brother Lawrence was given kitchen duties where everything was a distraction. The constant noise and clattering of dishes, the food prep, mopping and cleaning seemed unending. He thought, how will I ever encounter God's presence here!!

God spoke to him saying, My son you must learn to practice my presence, acknowledging that I am always with you regardless of the situation. I think we can learn a lot from Brother Lawrence's experience. We also must learn to practice God's presence in order to encounter Him moment by moment throughout our daily lives.

God created us and desired our companionship. Why not encounter His Presence right now. He is there all the time-waiting patiently in line.

Ps. Al