



**It's Our Choice!**

# Practicing the Presence of God...

- Have to confess... that I haven't read the Brother Lawrence book since the 80's...
  - Until I read it again on the way to Amarillo... and I was shocked!
  - So much of the language in the latter half is the same things you hear from others who have discovered “practicing!”
  - They have been conveying the details of *‘the roads up ahead’ to all listeners!*

# Practicing the Presence of God...

- If any good thing has birthed, emerged, now stands from my life of service...
- If there has been any good fruit that now remains beyond this life...
- It is because of this principle of drawing near to God and doing what He says!
- It really is the One thing anyone needs for successful life and living! **(1John 2.27,28)**

# Practicing the Presence of God...

- We begin by placing Him in all our settings!
- We talk to Him as often as we remember, including Him in the small details of life!
- By faith we begin to focus our attention and affection on Him and do all we are doing 'as if He's with us...' **Col 3.17,23 Romans 14.7-9**
- Until one day, His presence comes easy, natural, and brings us a real sense of peace and fearlessness for life situations!

# The Reality of His Presence!

- He comes to people focused on Him!
  - Like the two men discussing Him on the road to Emmaus – who He ‘supped with,’ “expounding the word!” **Luke 24.13-32**
  - Like Saul on the way to Damascus: “Go into the city and I’ll tell you more!” **A9.4-6**
  - Like telling Ananias to: “Go to Judas’ house, on Straight St, ask for Saul, who has heard you were coming!” **A9.10-12**

# The Reality of His Presence!

- He comes to people focused on Him!
  - Like devout Cornelius: “Send men to Joppa to call for a man named Peter who is staying with a man named Simon, whose house is on the sea!” **Acts 10.1-6**
  - To Peter in a vision: “There are three men downstairs, go with them w/o hesitation, because I have sent them!” **v19.20**

# The Reality of His Presence!

- He comes to people focused on Him!
  - To the prophets: “Set Barnabas and Saul for the work I have called them to do!”  
**Acts 13.1-4**
  - Like the Holy Spirit preventing Paul, Silas, Timothy from going to Asia and Bithynia!  
**Acts 16.6,7**

# The Reality of His Presence!

- He comes to people focused on Him!
  - Like He spoke to Paul one night in a vision:  
“Don’t be afraid, keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you and no one will lay a hand on you, because I have many people in this city.” And Paul continued there for a year and a half, teaching the word of God among the Corinthians! **Acts 18.9-11 (Gal 1.11,12)**



**God desires and delights  
in speaking to His sons  
and daughters!**

# Asides Repeat...

- The more you draw near to Him, the more imperfect you will feel. **(Romans 7.24,25)**
  - Warning so that you're not discouraged!
    - He is perfect and even being '*perfected*,' "perfect" we will never be here!
  - It's the *revelation* that comes from getting closer to God and seeing yourself loved from much further away than you knew!
    - What incredible love calls to us!

# Asides...

- “The longer you live with an All-star, the more sensitive you are to their greatness and your shortcomings!” –Franklin Graham
  - “Oh wretched man that I am, who will deliver me from this body of death? Thank God, Jesus Christ!” **Romans 7.24,25**
- The longer you live with God in intimacy, the more sensitive you become to His beauty and perfection and your current state of life!

# And It's There That We Choose...

- We can turn you into a 'prodigal:' "Can't measure up, don't want to live in anyone's shadow, so I'm launching out on my own!"
- Or, we can say: "I'm not perfect, but the more I draw near to God, the more like Him I will be! **1John 3.1-3 (Philippians 3.7-17)**
- *Option 1 gets checked far more than Option 2; and it happens with God more than any other Father, family member or friend!*

# Getting into the Presence of God...

- *“Submit to God”*
  - Make up your mind! **1Kings 18.21 James 1.8**
- *“Resist the devil”*
  - He will leave/angels will come! **Matthew 4.3-11**
- *“Draw near to God...”*
  - Remember, He is waiting for you! **2Chron 19.9**
- *“He will draw near to you!”*
  - He is eager to engage you/relationship! **Lk 15.20**

# Drawing near I realize!

- I am a *Citizen* of a greater nation!
  - An unattached *Stranger & Foreigner* here!
- An *Ambassador* for Christ in this lifetime!
  - Untangled soldier, *eyes on the prize and destination!*
- I am being changed into His image!
  - Can face life and death with confident unconcern!

**Standing further up the road; “draw near to God, practice His presence, it’s the key to everything...”**



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