

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

*Presence
of God*



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INTRODUCTION

This book is essentially a study from God's Word concerning the glorious presence of God. The objective is to present what the Scriptures reveal about the presence of God, so that believers will be inspired and motivated to seek God and hunger for more of His presence.

While this book does not contain much of personal thought or explanation, I invite you, the reader, to meditate in the Scriptures assembled in these pages. Soak in God's Word regarding His presence. Invite His presence into your life. Expect to experience His presence as you pursue Him. Hunger and thirst for more of His presence.

The 'presence' of the Lord, in the Old and New Testaments, literally means the 'face' of the Lord. To be in His presence, simply means to be in a place where you are seeking His face. You are gazing at His face. You are beholding the beauty of the Lord. You are face to face with God. When you are doing this, you are in the presence of the Lord.

Get together with other believers and seek the Lord and His presence corporately.

Nothing on earth can be compared to being with Him and experiencing His presence.

Get desperate for more of Him!

Blessings!

Ashish Raichur

1

MORE OF GOD

Moses was a man who experienced so much of God. He encountered God in the burning bush (Exodus 3:1–5). He was a man who heard the audible voice of God. He carried the rod of God and saw God do mighty miracles in Egypt. He saw the manifest presence of God in the pillar of fire and cloud. As he led God’s people toward the Promised Land, he saw amazing miracles during the journey. He even ‘met’ God face to face (Exodus 19:9,16–20; 33:9–11) and on two occasions spent forty days in God’s manifest presence without food, where he was sustained by God’s glory (Exodus 24:12–18; 34:28–30). God assured Moses that the Angel of His presence would go with His people (Exodus 23:20–23; 32:34; 33:2, Isaiah 63:9) and even gave Moses the promise of His presence (Exodus 33:14).

After all of these glorious encounters and powerful experiences, Moses still prayed “Lord, show me your glory!” (Exodus 33:18) Wow! This shows his hunger for more of God.

There is no limit to how much of God we can experience in our lives. It is entirely up to us to hunger and thirst for more of Him and His presence. He is infinite. There is no limit to Him. We can “taste and see” more and more of Him—as much as we desire!

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him (Psalm 34:8).

What we have experienced and tasted of God is so little of all that He is. There is still so much more of God that we can experience.

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable! (Psalm 145:3).

This study is essentially a compilation of Scriptures to inspire you to hunger for more of God.

Becoming Hungry for More of God

Consider these Scriptures that express a hunger for more of God—a longing to be with Him in His presence.

One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I 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 inquire in His temple. When You said, “Seek My face,” my heart said to You, “Your face, LORD, I will seek” (Psalm 27:4,8).

Can we also come to a place where there is only “one thing” we are so desperate about, and this is to be with Him in His presence? To gaze upon His beauty is to be enthralled and overwhelmed with the grandeur of who He is, His majesty, His greatness, His infinite kindness and goodness and more.

God invites us to seek His face. He says to you and me “seek my face.” To seek His face is to fix our eyes on the beauty of the Lord with the longing to know Him more. We are captivated by who He is. We are engrossed in Him and lost in our attention of Him. Our focus is on Him. Our thoughts are gripped on His glory. We are totally absorbed by His majesty. We are completely fascinated by the splendor of His greatness. We stand in awe of Him. We are eager to hear what He has to say. We are waiting for Him to move upon us as He desires. We are seeking His face.

As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? (Psalm 42:1,2).

How intense is our hunger for God? Like a deer that has just escaped a predator's chase and is thirsting for water—would our inner being so thirst after God and His presence? We need to get desperately thirsty for God, for more of Him.

O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me (Psalm 63:1,2,8).

Just as our physical bodies would cry out in desperation for water in a hot and dry time, so also must our inner beings thirst for God. This intense desire for God motivates David to seek God “early,” that is, to be up early and to pursue earnestly. This inner longing for God is so intense that David says even his flesh longs for God. He desires a tangible encounter with God. There is nothing wrong in desiring for God and His presence to the point where even our flesh longs to experience God. David longs to see God's power and glory in His sanctuary. Our pursuit of God should encourage us to desire for manifestations of His power and glory when we gather together in His sanctuary.

Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You (Psalm 73:25).

Can we come to a place where we desire nothing else on earth besides the Lord!

How lovely is Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young—even Your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and

my God. Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they will still be praising You. Selah (Psalm 84:1-4).

These verses from Psalm 84, once again describe such an intense hunger for God. His heart and flesh “cry out,” literally meaning to “shout out” for the living God. The Psalmist was getting very vocal, very loud and expressive about his longing for God. Like a sparrow finding a nest for herself, it was in the presence of God that the Psalmist found a place of rest and refuge. This was where he was going to “settle down.”

With my soul I have desired You in the night, Yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early; for when Your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness (Isaiah 26:9).

Our hunger for God affects our daily routine. There are times when our desire for Him keeps us up at night. And then there are times when we rise up early just to seek Him. Is your hunger for God affecting your daily routine? Are you being consumed with a passion for more of Him?

God Responds to Those Who Are Hungry for Him

It is wonderful to know that God responds to our hunger for Him.

For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring; they will spring up among the grass like willows by the watercourses (Isaiah 44:3,4).

God will pour His Spirit like water and flood upon those who are thirsty—those who are like the dry ground which just soaks up every drop that falls on it. God’s promise to us is, “I will pour water on him who is thirsty.” There is an outpouring of His Spirit awaiting us. Will we get thirsty for Him?

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:13).

There is absolute assurance given to us that if we seek Him, we will find Him, when we pursue Him with all our hearts. Our seeking of Him will not be in vain. When we seek Him, we must expect to “find Him,” that is, encounter Him in powerful ways, as never before.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled (Matthew 5:6).

In the Kingdom of God, there are keys that unlock blessings. “Hunger and thirst”—an incessant, insatiable, deep and desperate desire for the things of the Spirit will always unlock the blessing of “being filled.” We need to be in a spiritual state where we are filled and yet we are desperately hungry for more. It does not seem logical, but that is the way we are to be in the spirit—full of Him and yet desperately hungry and thirsty for more of Him!

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

When we come to God, there are two things we must be absolutely certain (have faith) about. First, that God exists. And second, that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Obviously the reward He gives to those diligently seeking Him is Himself. There could be no greater reward! The key is to seek Him diligently. The word ‘diligently’ has the following meanings associated with the Greek word: to search out, to investigate, crave, demand, to worship, enquire, seek after carefully. Let us seek Him diligently, because He will reward us with Himself!

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you (James 4:8a).

What a wonderful assurance that when we draw near to God, He will surely draw near to us. Time spent in seeking God is never wasted time. There are amazing things that happen to us, in us and in our world when God steps in.

We need to become hungry for more of God.

How Do I Enter into His Presence?

The Old Testament tabernacle that Moses built in the wilderness is a copy and shadow of the sanctuary in heaven—the true heavenly tabernacle.

Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. Who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “SEE THAT YOU MAKE ALL THINGS ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN” (Hebrews 8:1,2,5).

Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple (Revelation 11:19a).

Therefore the earthly tabernacle will teach us something about the true heavenly tabernacle.

The Tabernacle of Moses

We have a description of the Tabernacle that Moses built in Exodus chapters 25–27 and chapter 40. Essentially there were three compartments to the Tabernacle: the Outer Court, the Inner Court (also called the Holy Place) and the Holy of Holies (or the Most Holy Place).

The Outer Court

The Outer Court contained the altar of sacrifice and a bronze laver of water for washing.

Altar of sacrifice

You shall make an altar of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits wide—the altar shall be square—and its height shall be three cubits. You shall make its horns on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it. And you shall overlay it with bronze (Exodus 27:1,2).

Laver of Bronze for washing

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: “You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. And you shall put water in it, for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it. When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the LORD, they shall wash with water, lest they die. So they shall wash their hands and their feet, lest they die. And it shall be a statute forever to them—to him and his descendants throughout their generations” (Exodus 30:17–21).

There was a curtain that separated the Outer Court from the Inner Court.

The Inner Court (The Holy Place)

The Inner Court contained the Table of Showbread, the Lampstand and the Altar of incense.

Table of Showbread and the Lampstand

And you shall raise up the tabernacle according to its pattern which you were shown on the mountain. You shall set the table outside the veil, and the lampstand across from the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south; and you shall put the table on the north side. “You shall make a screen for the door of the tabernacle, woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver. And you shall make for the screen five pillars of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold; their hooks

shall be gold, and you shall cast five sockets of bronze for them (Exodus 26:30,35–37).

And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually (Exodus 27:20).

Altar of incense

You shall make an altar to burn incense on; you shall make it of acacia wood. A cubit shall be its length and a cubit its width—it shall be square—and two cubits shall be its height. Its horns shall be of one piece with it. And you shall overlay its top, its sides all around, and its horns with pure gold; and you shall make for it a molding of gold all around. Two gold rings you shall make for it, under the molding on both its sides. You shall place them on its two sides, and they will be holders for the poles with which to bear it. You shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. And you shall put it before the veil that is before the ark of the Testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the Testimony, where I will meet with you. Aaron shall burn on it sweet incense every morning; when he tends the lamps, he shall burn incense on it. And when Aaron lights the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense on it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations. You shall not offer strange incense on it, or a burnt offering, or a grain offering; nor shall you pour a drink offering on it (Exodus 30:1–9).

The Holy of Holies (Most Holy Place)

There was a veil that separated the Inner Court (the Holy Place) from the Holy of Holies (the Most Holy Place). The Holy of Holies contained the Mercy seat and the Ark of Testimony.

And you shall raise up the tabernacle according to its pattern which you were shown on the mountain. You shall make a veil woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen. It shall be woven with an artistic design of cherubim. You shall hang it upon the four pillars of acacia wood overlaid with gold. Their hooks shall be gold, upon four sockets of silver. And you shall hang the veil from the clasps. Then you shall bring the ark of the Testimony in there, behind the veil. The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy place and the Most Holy. You shall put the mercy seat upon the ark of the Testimony in the Most Holy (Exodus 26:30–34).

You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel (Exodus 25:21,22).

It was in the Holy of Holies that God said He would meet with the high priest and speak to him. This was the place where one could meet and experience God. However, during Moses' time, it was only the High Priest who could enter the Holy of Holies and even that was once in a year (Leviticus 16). A very limited access to this treasured place!

Our Spiritual Experience: Entering the True Tabernacle

As we stated earlier, the natural tabernacle will teach us about spiritual realities. It will give us insight into what we go through as we enter, in the spirit, the true heavenly sanctuary of God.

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water (Hebrews 10:19–22).

Through the blood of Jesus and the finished work of Christ on the Cross, we can now enter the Holiest of Holies! We have 24x7, all the time, anytime-access to the innermost place, the very place where we meet God and hear Him speak!

However the Scripture leaves us with the challenge “let us draw near.” It is entirely up to us to draw near to God. We could be “outer court believers,” or perhaps even go a step further and be

“inner court believers” or we could go all the way and be those who “draw near” to God. It is entirely up to us!

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 6:19,20).

The “hope” we have, actually goes into the presence of God “behind the veil,” that is in the Holy of Holies, where Jesus has entered for us. This means that our spiritual expressions of hope, faith, love, adoration, hunger, passion and so on, which we have here on earth, are felt in the presence of God behind the veil in the heavenly sanctuary, where Jesus has entered for us! This is exciting!

Now let us see how we move in to the presence of God, behind the veil.

The Outer Court

Our journey into the presence of God begins with the Outer Court. The Outer Court is the process of making that decision to move into the presence of God and getting ourselves ready to meet God.

In the Outer Court we have the altar of sacrifice, a place of surrender and offering up spiritual sacrifices. We offer up our bodies as a living sacrifice. We bring praise and adoration as a spiritual sacrifice. We do good deeds, share, give and so on, as part of the sacrifices we offer up in the Outer Court.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service (Romans 12:1).

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased (Hebrews 13:15,16).

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms (Psalm 95:1,2).

Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations (Psalm 100:1-5).

We also have the laver of bronze, a place of washing and cleansing. We wash ourselves of the impurities of the day—the impurities of life—with the Word of God (John 15:3; Ephesians 5:26) and the work of the Spirit (Titus 3:5). We cleanse our hearts of an evil conscience with the blood of Jesus (Hebrews 10:22). We rid ourselves of impurities, offences, hurts, jealousies, anger, bitterness—a cleansing takes place.

However we cannot settle down in the Outer Court. Some of us make the mistake of just doing the cleansing thing and offering up spiritual sacrifices and then leave. We remain as “outer court believers.” We never go past what is done in the outer court. I wish to invite you to go past the outer court and into the inner court.

The Inner Court (the Holy Place)

The Inner Court has the Lampstand, the table of Showbread and the altar of incense.

On the Lamp there is oil and fire producing light, representing illumination and revelation. This is the illumination and revelation which the Holy Spirit brings into our lives (Ephesians 1:17), both directly and through the illumination of the Scriptures (Psalm 119:130).

The showbread represents our “daily bread” (Matthew 6:11). It is the meeting of our spiritual need through the Word (Matthew 4:4). It is also the bread of divine provision—of having our natural needs met (Philippians 4:19), of healing and deliverance (Matthew 15:25–28).

The altar of incense is the place of prayer and intercession (Psalm 141:2, Revelation 8:3,4). The Inner Court is the place of prayer, petition, requests and intercession. It is a place of warfare.

The Outer and the Inner Courts very much involve our “duties” as a Christian, what we need to do to move into the place where we really want to be—the Holy of Holies.

The Outer and the Inner Courts speak of praying, being in the place of intercession, asking God to “give us our Daily Bread,” praying about the things that we have need of, and spiritual sacrifices we are called to make. It very much involves our responsibilities and disciplines as a believer. Most of us live either in the Outer Court or in the Inner Court. We live in that place of sacrifice, giving, praise, prayer requests, intercession, worship, and so on. We experience a measure of the Spirit’s work (the oil in the Lampstand). We talk to God about the things we have need of. We cast our cares on Him, look for direction, fast and do the things that are good Christian disciplines. However, these are still

Outer Court and Inner Court experiences. There is still the Most Holy Place that we are welcome to enter into and dwell in!

The Holy of Holies (the Most Holy Place)

In the Holy of Holies there is covenant and mercy, both of which come from God alone. There is nothing we can do. There is no more sacrifice, no more incense, no more intercession, no more warfare, no more doing. We are in the Holy of Holies. The Holy of Holies is where the glory of God dwells. This is holy ground. In the Holy of Holies, there is a new level of the intensity of the presence of God. We are gazing on His beauty. We are still. We are filled with reverence, awe, a holy fear. We are captured with His absolute majesty and covered with His glory. We are overwhelmed by His presence. We just “be still and know” (Psalm 46:10). There is nothing else to do but look at His glory, to gaze upon His beauty. This is the place to “be,” allowing God to transform us into His image as we see His glory.

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker (Psalm 95:6).

But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him (Habakkuk 2:20).

Be still, and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10).

The word ‘still’ in Psalm 46:10 means ‘idle, quiet and alone.’ To ‘know’ is to ‘come to know by experience,’ ‘perceive,’ ‘find,’ ‘see.’

This is communion with God. Communion is being with God. Communion is sitting at God’s feet. Communion is living in His house and beholding His beauty. It is like Mary settling down at the

feet of Jesus and listening to the voice of God. It is choosing that “one thing” which is the good part and which cannot be taken away (Luke 10:42). Communion is soaking in the presence of God. It is drinking in the presence of God. Our hunger and thirst for God is being satisfied. We are being filled and still hungry for more!

Let us dwell in the Holy of Holies. This is the place of intimacy with God. This is the place of high intensity of God’s presence. This is the secret place of the Most High.

Intimacy with the Most High

How important is it to us to dwell in the place of communion with God? What price will we pay to experience the presence and glory of God?

That I may know Him

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:7–11).

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain (Philippians 1:21).

Apostle Paul made “knowing Christ” His primary passion. He laid aside everything else so that he could know Him, His resurrection power and even share in sufferings for His sake. To Paul, life on earth was all about Jesus!

How desperately do we desire to know Christ? Can we become so passionate about our Lord, our personal communion with Him and about knowing Him? Can we become a people who are passionate for His presence?

Intimacy produces fruitfulness

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing (John 15:4,5).

He who abides in me and I in Him bears much fruit, is what Jesus said. This then is the secret to fruitfulness in life and ministry. Jesus is using the word 'abide' to refer to what happens between the branch and the main stem of the vine. They are attached. They are connected. There is a flow both ways. It is not merely a surface connection. There is something 'deep' happening. This perhaps is best described by words such as fellowship, communion or intimacy, describing such a deep connection that a believer is to have with the Lord. Intimacy with God will bring such fruitfulness in ministry, a fruitfulness that cannot be produced merely with gifts and experience.

Ministry can occur on the basis of spiritual gifts, natural talent, good organization, great management, marketing skills and so on. But it is nothing like what happens when God personally invades a group of people or fully inhabits the life of a person at any given point of time. There is much greater and lasting fruitfulness resulting from ministry that is birthed because of intimacy with God. Human eloquence can engage and excite the mind but God's presence transforms the inner person, bringing about permanent change. Will

we press into depths of intimacy with God, so that He can release through us much fruit—fruit that remains?

Gifts and anointing can be received by impartation, but intimacy with God is something only you can develop, through personal time with God.

The Secret Place

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly (Matthew 6:6).

The Lord Jesus is encouraging us to be with the Father in our secret place, our prayer closet—a place where we are alone with the Father. He assures us that when we do this, then things will happen when we go out into the world. God will move on our behalf out in the open.

What happens in private, determines what happens in public.

The secret place is the place of preparation for the marketplace.

Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops (Matthew 10:27).

What God whispers to you in the secret place, is what you need to proclaim in public.

Practice the presence of God every day!

Brother Lawrence, a Christian monk who lived from 1605 to 1691 is a well-known example of a believer who “practiced the presence of God” while he did menial work in the kitchen of a monastery. It is recorded *“that he was more united to GOD in his*

outward employments, than when he left them for devotion in retirement.” His very countenance was edifying; such a sweet and calm devotion appearing in it, as could not but affect the beholders. And it was observed, that in the greatest hurry of business in the kitchen, he still preserved his recollection and heavenly-mindedness. He was never hasty nor loitering, but did each thing in its season, with an even uninterrupted composure and tranquility of spirit. “The time of business,” said he, “does not with me differ from the time of prayer; and in the noise and clutter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess GOD in as great tranquility as if I were upon my knees at the Blessed Sacrament.” (Reference: THE PRACTICE OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD THE BEST RULE OF A HOLY LIFE, Public Domain edition, John Harris, Bristol, England, 1994).

When we get desperate for God, God will break through with a mighty visitation.

Will we pay the price to experience more of Him and His presence?



Become hungry for more of God!

God responds to those who are hungry for Him.



2

IN HIS PRESENCE

What happens when we are in His presence? What happens when we pursue Him and seek His face?

We Are Changed

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord (2 Corinthians 3:18).

There is no one who can spend meaningful time with God and come out unchanged. The presence of God changes us.

As we behold His glory, we are transformed into that same image, by the working of His Spirit. He takes us “from glory to glory.” Glory in this context is simply a manifestation of who God is and what He does. We go from one level to the next where we are increasingly manifesting more of Him, who He is and what He does. We are changed into His image in His presence!

Conviction

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden (Genesis 3:8).

Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit (Psalm 51:9–12).

Many times the presence of God causes deep conviction of sin, offences and other things in our lives that are displeasing to God. While there is a deep sense of conviction, it is not a feeling of condemnation that drives us away from God. Rather, it results in a cry from our heart of repentance, cleansing and a deeper longing for more of His presence. Like Isaiah we cry, “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts” (Isaiah 6:5). God responds by sending cleansing coals that removes and purges sin from our midst. Life-changing encounters can take place immediately, following such deep conviction. Isaiah and Peter both received their life’s commissioning immediately, following a deep moment of conviction (Isaiah 6:8,9; Luke 5:8,10).

Very often, in the initial period of an outpouring or revival, the most profound changes takes place within people. There is a deep sense of conviction of sin—of falling short of the glory of God. The Holy Spirit transforms us by breaking down the hardness of our hearts, burning up impurities, replacing coldness with fresh fire, tearing down religious traditions that constrained us, dismantling our pride and so much more. He brings in an increased level of love for God, a passion for His presence and a willingness to sacrifice in order to pursue God. He changes our hearts toward one another birthing a new sense of community, fellowship and unity among God’s people. God prepares us to become people of His presence and so that we can experience the revival fire and carry it to others.

Brokenness

That no flesh should glory in His presence (1 Corinthians 1:29).

There are some other moments in God's presence, when we realize that we have nothing whatsoever that qualifies us to stand in His presence. We feel undone. We know that we are but dust and there is nothing in ourselves that we can glory of in His presence. There is no place where we can run and hide from Him (Psalm 139:7). This leads us to a place of complete surrender—a yielding to His will. There comes an alignment of our heart's purposes, dreams and desires to His.

Joy

You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16:11).

Part of being changed in His presence also involves experiencing the fullness of joy that comes when we are in His presence. God anoints us with the oil of gladness (Psalm 45:7; Hebrews 1:9). Joy is exuberant, sometimes loud and vibrant. People may break out into spontaneous dancing, singing, laughing, running, shouting or many other ways by which overflowing joy is expressed. None of these have to be despised because this is what His presence produces in us. I realize that some people may take objection to such expressions of joy. They may be of the opinion that anything done in God's presence must be soft, sober and dignified. However such an opinion is not Scriptural. Shouting, celebrating, being loud and boisterous in God's presence is as acceptable as the quiet postures of kneeling, bending down, being still and so on. When Solomon was made king, with David, Zadok the priest and Nathan, the prophet, presiding over the ceremony, the Bible records that "the people played the flutes and rejoiced with great joy, so that

the earth seemed to split with their sound” (1 Kings 1:40). That must have been pretty loud! Shouting for joy is absolutely biblical. Joy is part of the salvation that comes from the Lord. We find the phrase “shout for joy” about 37 times in the Book of Psalms. And I do not think God minds the noise because the Psalms encourage us to “shout joyfully to the Lord” (Psalm 95:1; 98:4).

Joy brings release. Joy brings strength (Nehemiah 8:10). It brings wholeness (Proverbs 17:22). Joy liberates.

We Are Renewed In Our Strength

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint (Isaiah 40:28–31).

As we spend time in God’s presence, our strength is renewed. Spiritual strength is imparted to our inner beings. We are able to soar again with our dreams revived, our hearts inspired and our zeal rekindled. We find new levels of endurance where we can run without tiring. We are able to press through adverse situations without tiring, because we have been in His presence.

We Are Refreshed

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord (Acts 3:19).

Times of refreshing, come from the presence of the Lord. The word for “times” in Greek is *kairos* which literally means ‘opportune time,’ ‘season.’ The word “refreshing” in Greek means “a recovery of breath,” “a revival.” “From the presence of the Lord” in literal Greek can be stated as ‘from the face of the Lord.’

As we turn toward the Lord and seek His face, we are recipients of seasons of reviving and refreshing which He pours out on us. We can experience this at a personal level or corporately, as we seek Him together.

Miracles Take Place

And because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them; and He brought you out of Egypt with His Presence, with His mighty power (Deuteronomy 4:37).

God's presence is also the place of His mighty power. When we are in His presence, we are also in the place of His mighty power. We can expect deliverances, miracles, signs and wonders to take place when we are in His presence.

There Are Pleasures Forevermore

You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16:11).

In the place where we are seeking His face and beholding His beauty, there is fullness of joy! The right hand of the Lord is the place of honor and power (Exodus 15:6; Deuteronomy 33:2; Psalm 20:6; 98:1; 110:1; 118:15,16; Isaiah 62:8; Mark 16:19). The right hand of the Lord brings deliverances, great victories, and demonstrates great power. The pleasures at God's right hand are His mighty works and abundant blessings—the things God does for and gives to His people.

Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence—as fire burns brushwood, as fire causes water to boil—to make Your name known to Your adversaries, that the nations may tremble at Your presence! When You did awesome things for

which we did not look, You came down, the mountains shook at Your presence. For since the beginning of the world men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen any God besides You, who acts for the one who waits for Him (Isaiah 64:1–4).

When God “comes down,” He does awesome things in our midst—even things that we were not looking for and expecting! Things that eyes have not seen, which ears have not heard, which man has not considered before—such things begin to take place in His presence.

Evil Is Overpowered

The burden against Egypt. Behold, the LORD rides on a swift cloud, and will come into Egypt; the idols of Egypt will totter at His presence, and the heart of Egypt will melt in its midst (Isaiah 19:1).

The idols of Egypt literally represent the demonic powers over Egypt. These powers cannot stand in the presence of the Lord. This is so well depicted in what happened when the Ark of the Lord, a symbol of God’s presence was kept near the statue of Dagon as recorded in 1 Samuel 5:2–4. Demonic powers fall in God’s mighty presence!

When my enemies turn back, they shall fall and perish at Your presence (Psalm 9:3).

Let my vindication come from Your presence; let Your eyes look on the things that are upright (Psalm 17:2).

God is able to step into the everyday situations of our lives and cause people who oppose us to turn back. He sends His vindication on our behalf. This comes from the presence of the Lord. Expect evil, oppression, harassment and injustice to be turned back, as you press into the presence of the Lord!

We Dwell with the Most High

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust" (Psalm 91:1,2).

For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock (Psalm 27:5).

You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the plots of man; You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues (Psalm 31:20).

The secret place of the Most High is the place of His tabernacle, the very presence of God.

He who dwells in the presence of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. It is being in His pavilion, His home. It is being upon a rock where no harm can touch you. This is His covering of protection!

Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; for He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone (Psalm 91:9–12).

When we dwell in the secret place, we are making the Most High our dwelling place. We are living in the Most High God. When we are dwelling in the Most High, we are far above all demonic oppression, far above all plague (sickness and disease), far above all evil. We are in a place of great authority from which we rule and reign. We are protected by His angels. When we call He answers immediately (Psalm 91:14).

When we are in His presence, we are in the secret place where the Most High becomes our dwelling place.

We Are Empowered

Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons (Mark 3:14,15).

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13).

When we are in His presence we are radically changed. We are empowered to do His will here on earth. We are not afraid to confront demonic powers. We become bold in the spirit.

Desiring an Outpouring of His Presence

How do you express your desire for an outpouring of His presence?

Thirsting and drinking

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified (John 7:37-39).

In relation to the work of the Spirit and the flow of rivers of living water, Jesus prefixed this by calling those who are thirsty, inviting them to come and drink. There is therefore a correspondence between having rivers of living water flowing out to our thirsting and drinking from the Lord.

We express our desire for an overflow or an outpouring of His presence, by being thirsty and coming to drink. Let us get thirsty for more of Him, of His Spirit. Let us drink deep. "To drink" is to take in more of Him, His presence and who He is into our lives.

Waiting and soaking

The Bible tells us to “wait upon the Lord” In the Book of Psalms, the Bible uses the word “Selah” 70 times, which simply means to ‘pause.’ All music is stopped. It is time to pause, stop and just “be still and know”

I like what Todd Bentley shares about waiting and soaking in the presence of the Lord.

“What our ministry is today can be attributed to a period of three months that I spent soaking in the presence of Almighty God. It was a time of incredible visitation when I encountered God in what I call the glory liquid honey cloud of His presence. For about three months there was grace upon my prayer life where for anything from four to twelve hours a day, all I could do was lie and be still in His presence. I called it soaking. All I was doing was positioning myself away from the clamor of everyday life and seeking God. Not that I wanted to. I began by praying in hunger, pressing in for the power of God to bring me revival. I kept saying, “Holy Spirit please come. God You said if I would draw near to You that You would draw near to me. You said if I would seek You and search for You with all of my heart I’d find You. God I am pressing in violently, aggressively. I’m not letting go.” It was a radical pursuit of God’s presence – crying out, seeking. I was desperately in search of the Lord and I was pursuing His glory. It was a time of holy hunger, a time of extreme anxiety. Mine was a holy desperation for Him as a person and I was determined to be deeper in His glory than I had ever been before. I wanted to experience His presence in way that I had never known and I purposed in my heart to have an encounter with Him unlike any other that I had had before. I did everything

that I could. I prayed in tongues for hours. I mean prayed! With praise, worship, intercession, supplication I would make my requests known to God. When I decided to pray an hour, I would pray an hour, and I was loud about it. I was pressing in and I wanted a breakthrough. I wanted God and I knew how to sense His presence but I was never satisfied with where I had been. I wasn't content with what I had seen. I said, "Lord I want more." And I pressed in. I was almost in a place of striving.

Soaking is mainly quietness, listening and waiting.

There's a similarity between marinating and soaking in the presence of the Holy Ghost. Let's learn how to marinate in the Holy Ghost's sauce. That means to be in His presence with no thought of self, resting in His glory and letting Him, well, pickle us! Godly pickling takes time, maybe weeks. We may have to soak for a long time before we're really tender."

[SOAKING PART 1, by Revivalist Todd Bentley, 2006]

Let us spend time in His presence!

IN HIS PRESENCE

- * **We Are Changed**
- * **We Are Renewed in Our Strength**
- * **We Are Refreshed**
- * **Miracles Take Place**
- * **There Are Pleasures Forevermore**
- * **Evil Is Overpowered**
- * **We Dwell with the Most High**
- * **We Are Empowered**

3

TANGIBLE MANIFESTATIONS OF HIS PRESENCE

Hunger for God is rewarded by an experience of God's very presence and by an encounter with Him that results in a supernatural work done in our lives.

There is the invisible presence of God that is with us always. He said He would never leave us nor forsake us. He also promised that when two or more gather in His name, He is there. This is the invisible intangible presence of God. We know He is there—although we cannot perceive His presence.

However, there are times when God's presence becomes tangible both to our spiritual and natural senses. God who created our spirits, souls and bodies is able to make Himself known in ways that we can recognize His presence in our spirits, souls and bodies.

We must be aware of the different tangible manifestations of His presence, so that we recognize and respond correctly to Him moving upon us individually or corporately.

God uses things in our earthly realm to teach us about the spiritual realm. He draws images out of our earthly realm, things that we are familiar with, to teach us about the heavenly realm (John 3:11,12).

Some of the tangible manifestations of God's presence are listed here and a few of these are elaborated upon in succeeding

chapters. Keep in mind that God has not changed across the Testaments. The God of the Old Testament is the same God of the New Testament (Malachi 3:6). The covenants have changed, but God has not. He is, who He was, and will always be the same. His ‘face’ has not changed, that is, His presence is still the same! So while we list several references from both the Old and New Testaments, all of these are very possible for our day and time. So let us be open to and welcome various tangible manifestations of His presence in our midst and upon our lives.

Fire

There are several places in Scripture where God’s presence is compared to fire.

For our God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29).

The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel (Exodus 24:17).

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1–4).

The Holy Spirit’s presence was manifested as “tongues of fire” descending on the people.

Light/Brightness

Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, who stretch out the heavens like a curtain (Psalm 104:2).

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5).

Cloud

There are about 80 references in Scripture to God's presence coming like the cloud. We list just a few here:

Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud (Exodus 16:10).

And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever." So Moses told the words of the people to the LORD (Exodus 19:9).

Then Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain. Now the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights (Exodus 24:15-18).

Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD (Exodus 34:5).

Indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God (2 Chronicles 5:13,14).

Smoke

The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed (Revelation 15:8).

Rain

He shall come down like rain upon the grass before mowing, like showers that water the earth (Psalm 72:6).

Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, like the latter and former rain to the earth (Hosea 6:3).

Wind

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting (Acts 2:2).

Darkness

He bowed the heavens also, and came down with darkness under His feet. He made darkness canopies around Him, dark waters and thick clouds of the skies (2 Samuel 22:10,12; Psalm 18:11).

Then Solomon spoke: “The LORD said He would dwell in the dark cloud ...” (1 Kings 8:12; 2; Chronicles 6:1)

And there are many more references. God is not limited to this list, neither is He limited to what we have recorded in the Bible. God can manifest His presence in fresh, new ways.

Human Reactions to the Presence of the Lord

What would be some of the human reactions to encountering the presence of God? We have discussed some of these earlier, and are now providing some additional reactions.

- Deep conviction.
- Unexplainable peace.
- Overflowing joy.
- Supernatural healings and miracles.
- Overpowering weight of God’s glory.
- Falling down as dead: There are several recorded instances when people like Daniel, Ezekiel, the Roman soldiers, Saul and John dropped powerless in the presence of God.

- Trembling: If the mountains would melt like wax and the earth tremble at the presence of the Lord (Psalm 97:5; 114:7), would not people also tremble, fall, melt down at His presence (Jeremiah 5:20–22)?
- Physical sensations—heat, tingling, flow of power.
- Deep sleep: There are times when God by His presence drops people into a deep sleep, to get a special work done in them, such as in Adam (Genesis 2:21) and Abraham (Genesis 15:12).
- Drunkenness: The overpowering work of the Spirit is often associated with ‘drunken-like’ behavior (Acts 2:13–15; Ephesians 5:18)
- Visions, trance, encounters.

Historical Account: John Wesley

John Wesley (1703–1791) was a Church of England clergy and he records several manifestations in his *Journal*. Here are some extracts:

1739, a meeting in London along with Charles Wesley and George Whitefield: “*about three in the morning, as we were continuing instant in prayer, the power of God came mightily upon us, in so much that many cried out for exceeding joy, and many fell to the ground. As soon as we recovered, a little from the awe and amazement at the presence of His majesty, we broke out with one voice, ‘We praise thee, O God, we acknowledge thee to be Lord.’*”

A frequent occurrence was that Wesley’s listeners would cry aloud or fall down as if dead.

When preaching at Weavers Hall, Bristol: *‘a young man was suddenly seized with a violent trembling all over, and, in a few minutes, the sorrows of his heart being enlarged, sank down to the ground.’*

On another occasion (April 25) while he was preaching: *‘Immediately one, and another, and another sank to the earth; they dropped on every side as if thunderstruck.’*

Here are other records from his Journal recorded on different occasions:

‘My voice could scarce be heard amidst the groanings of some, and the cries of others, calling aloud to “him that is mighty to save.” ‘

‘Just as we rose from giving thanks, another person reeled four or five steps, and then dropped down.’

‘Twenty-six people were stricken down under conviction of sin. Some sunk down and there remained no strength in them...others exceedingly trembled and quaked; some were torn with a kind of compulsive motion in every part of their bodies.’

May 1740, Wesley reported that as he and his brother were about to sing together, *‘he burst out in a loud laughter. I asked him if he were distracted; and began to be very angry and presently after began to laugh as loud as he. Nor could we possibly refrain, though we were ready to tear ourselves in pieces, but were forced to go home without singing another line.’*

Historical Account: Jonathan Edwards

Jonathan Edwards was an outstanding theologian in American history and was used greatly during the “Great Awakening” a powerful revival in 1740–1745.

In “*Account of Revival of religion in Northampton, 1740–1742*” he wrote: “*It was a very frequent thing to see outcries, faintings, convulsions and such like, both with distress and also admiration and joy.*”

Renowned eighteenth century Revivalist Jonathan Edwards (preacher of the famous Revival sermon, “Sinners in the hands of an angry God”) noted that the two outstanding features of genuine revival were great conviction followed by great praise and rejoicing. The following are the characteristics that he himself observed: “(a) *An extraordinary sense of the awful majesty, greatness and holiness of God so as sometimes to overwhelm soul and body, a sense of the piercing, all-seeing eye of God so as to sometimes take away the bodily strength; and an extraordinary view of the infinite terribleness of the wrath of God, together with the ineffable misery of sinners exposed to this wrath. (b) Especially longing after these two things; to be more perfect in humility and adoration. The person felt a great delight in singing praises to God and Jesus Christ, and longing that this present life may be as it were one continued song of praise to God ...*”

Guidelines as We Yield to God’s Tangible Presence

- The God who created our emotions has a right to touch our emotions in unusual ways. We just yield to Him when He does.


- The God who created our physical senses has a right to touch our physical senses in unusual ways. We just yield to Him when He does.
- God touching our emotions or physical senses in unusual ways is purposeful. He does not do it just to entertain. It is usually to reveal Himself, to heal, to change our hearts, and so on. The accomplishing of that purpose is MORE important than the experience itself.
- Our objective is to seek HIM—not some unusual experience or manifestation. However, IF God does touch us in an unusual way, we must lay aside our pride and ‘dignified’ approach to worship and yield to what He is doing.
- Everything must be done as yielding to God, not for personal attention or recognition.
- Everything must be done with reverence and recognition of who God is.
- Everything must be done to glorify God.
- Exercise self-control.

While it is true that there have been excesses, fleshly manifestations, self-generated emotional exaggerations, yet we cannot deny the genuine!

There have been many theologians and others who question the unusual human reactions that take place to the tangible manifestations of His presence. Many have been very vocal in their opposition. It is difficult to fit an infinite God into our finite understanding and reasoning. The natural man cannot understand the things of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:14).



TANGIBLE MANIFESTATIONS OF GOD'S PRESENCE

- * **Fire**
 - * **Light/Brightness**
 - * **Cloud**
 - * **Smoke**
 - * **Rain**
 - * **Wind**
 - * **Darkness**
- 

4

THE FIRE OF HIS PRESENCE

The presence of God is compared to fire and what fire does.

For our God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29).

And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am" (Exodus 3:2-4).

And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people (Exodus 13:21,22).

Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly (Exodus 19:18).

The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel (Exodus 24:17).

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4).

We recognize the fire of His presence in many different ways. Sometimes it is a spiritual knowing where we know that God is in our midst as a consuming fire and that He is moving upon us with the fire of His presence, seeking to do what the fire of His presence

brings. There are times when people have seen fire, either tongues of fire as on the Day of Pentecost, or larger flames of fire as Moses saw in the burning bush. This is God making the fire of His presence tangible to our sight. There are times when we feel heat, warmth, sometimes gentle, sometimes very intense to the point we think it is unbearable. This is God making the fire of His presence tangible to our feelings.

The Fire of His Presence Purifies

Everything that can endure fire, you shall put through the fire, and it shall be clean (Numbers 31:23a).

Many shall be purified, made white, and refined ... (Daniel 12:10a).

And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire (Matthew 3:10–12).

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts." Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged." Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive' (Isaiah 6:1–9).

The fire of His presence brings cleansing and purification. God baptizes us with the fire of His presence burning out the chaff, the works of the flesh. In one moment all that is not of God can be burnt out in the fire of His presence. Unclean desires, fleshly lifestyle patterns, bondages and addictions are instantly burnt out and removed when the fire of His presence falls upon us. Often, this is preceded or accompanied by deep conviction and spiritual desperation, as Isaiah experience. There is an overwhelming sense of “woe is me, for I am undone!” And then the coals for His altar fall upon our lives, causing His holy fire to burn up all that is unclean.

The Fire of His Presence Rekindles

A rekindling of our love for God and for people

And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold (Matthew 24:12).

And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, “These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth (Revelation 3:14–16).

God desires that we must be red hot in our love for Him. When the presence of God comes upon us, many of us who are lukewarm are rekindled. Our love for God, that seems to be growing cold is revived and begins to burn strong. No one needs to stir us up, motivate us or compel us. The fire of His presence has rekindled our first love! We are on fire for Him!

A rekindling of gifts, ministries, mantles and anointing

Do not quench the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19).

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands (2 Timothy 1:6).

Sometimes, people who have been called and gifted by God, for various reasons, neglect their gifts and calling. In some cases it is a willful quenching of the Spirit, and in other cases, it may be due to the cares of this world, distractions and so on. However, in the presence of God, these are rekindled. The fire of His presence causes these to come alive and they begin to find themselves flowing once again in the gifts, calling and anointing that was once upon their lives. What joy and blessing these bring to many!

A rekindling of zeal for the Lord

Not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord (Romans 12:11).

Over time, due to the rigors of Christian duty, sometimes just being over worked in the ministry, we tend to lose our zeal for the Lord. When we spend time in His presence, our zeal for the Lord is rekindled. We become fervent, red hot, in spirit. There is no more “lagging in diligence.” There is a fresh passion and enthusiasm in what we do for the Lord.

The Fire of His Presence is a Sign of His Acceptance

And David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called on the LORD; and He answered him from heaven by fire on the altar of burnt offering (1 Chronicles 21:26).

When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the temple (2 Chronicles 7:1).

When God visits us with the fire of His presence, it is a sign of His acceptance of the spiritual sacrifices we are offering. It is a tangible sign that our prayers have been heard and our sacrifices

have been pleasing to Him. While we are not dependent on the tangible manifestations of His presence, we welcome this, when He does manifest Himself this way.

The Fire of His Presence Brings Supernatural Impartation

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1–4).

When we are in the presence of God and the fire of His presence is moving upon us, there is spiritual impartation. The power of God, spiritual gifts that we did not previously have, mantles and anointing that we previously did not carry are released upon us (2 Kings 2:11–13)! There is a fresh baptism of Holy Spirit power.

There are times when ministering to people, the person who is ministering or those being ministered to, feel heat or warmth—tangible manifestations of the fire of His presence. For instance, the person ministering may feel heat in his or her right hand. It is a tangible sign of God's presence and power, and that person must know what the Lord wants to do. It could be that most often the person ministering needs to lay hands on people and minister the fire of His presence into their lives. Similarly people receiving ministry may feel a gentle warmth or intense heat. This tangible manifestation of the fire of His presence could be a sign that God is either doing a work of healing and the person needs to step out in faith, receive and start doing what they could not do. Or it could be that God is imparting some thing into that person's life.

Sometimes, the heat can be intense, causing the person to shriek or cry, as though on fire. The fire of God's presence is upon that person burning out the chaff, fleshly and unnecessary things.

The Fire of His Presence Seasons

For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another (Mark 9:49,50).

The fire of His presence produces seasoning—development and maturity. In as much as all that is of the flesh is burnt away, there also comes a spiritual alignment, a change of perception, an alteration of the direction of our hearts, an opening of the eyes, a willingness to yield to His will and purpose. Seasoning happens! We are brought into a new realm of maturity in the fire of His presence.

The Fire of His Presence Overpowers Evil

Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them (Revelation 20:7–9).

The enemy cannot stand the fire of His presence! Works of darkness and demonic powers flee from the fire of God! We can expect great deliverances and powerful victories over demonic powers when the fire of His presence is upon us.


The Fire of His Presence Protects

'For I,' says the LORD, 'will be a wall of fire all around her, and I will be the glory in her midst' (Zechariah 2:5).

The fire of God's presence surrounds His people with supernatural protection. This is God Himself encamping around His people so that no oppressor can pass through (Zechariah 9:8).



THE FIRE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

- * Purifies**
 - * Rekindles**
 - Love for God and for people**
 - Gifts, mantles and anointing**
 - Zeal for the Lord**
 - * Is a sign of His acceptance**
 - * Brings supernatural impartation**
 - * Produces seasoning**
 - * Overpowers evil**
 - * Protects**
- 

5

THE LIGHT OF HIS PRESENCE

The presence of God is compared to light!

God Is Light

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5).

Who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen (1 Timothy 6:16).

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning (James 1:17).

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12).

When we welcome His presence to flood our beings, we are flooded with His Light!

The Light of His Presence Exposes Sin

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth (1 John 1:5,6).

Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known (Matthew 10:26).

He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him (Daniel 2:22b).

In the light of His presence, there is a deep awareness that we are standing naked and bare before the God of this universe. There is nothing we can hide. Our secret sins, our inner desires that are ungodly and the meditations of our hearts are all exposed. We stand accountable for all that we ignored—the things we pretended did not exist and typically glossed over as ‘ok.’ The searchlight of His presence floods in and God begins to let us know that these are not acceptable.

The Light of His Presence Enlightens

Illumination

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men (John 1:4).

The light of His presence brings supernatural enlightening. This is illumination that takes place in our hearts as we are in the light of His presence. Understanding comes into our lives. Things become clear. Confusions disappear. Suddenly, the path that God has been leading us, the direction He has been speaking to us—all seem to make ‘sense.’

Revelation

He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him (Daniel 2:22).

The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inner depths of his heart (Proverbs 20:27).

For You will light my lamp; the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness (Psalm 18:28).

In the light of His presence there is revelation. Hidden things, the secret purposes of God, the work that God has been doing in the unseen world and so on, flood our hearts.

Direction

If you extend your soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul, then your light shall dawn in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail (Isaiah 58:10,11).

In the light of His presence, our darkness becomes like the noonday. The guidance and direction from God that we have been waiting for break through into our lives. We take a hold of His guidance. As we follow His directions, we become like a well-watered garden!

The Light of His Presence Expels Darkness

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it (John 1:4,5).

When His light shines, darkness flees. In the light of His presence everything that is of darkness is vanquished. Our lives are set free. Jesus is glorified!

The Light of His Presence Releases Divine Power

A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, on Shigionoth. O LORD, I have heard Your speech and was afraid; O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy. God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. His brightness was like the light; He had rays flashing from His hand, and there His power was hidden (Habakkuk 3:1-4).

The power of God is hidden in the light of His presence that He releases into our midst. When you are in the light of His presence expect the power of God to give you breakthroughs in areas that were once dominated by darkness!

Brings transformation

As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads" (Acts 9:3–5).

When people encounter the light of His presence, their lives are powerfully transformed. Often an instantaneous change takes place. The power of God accompanying the light of His presence totally transforms them in a moment!

Brings healing and victory

But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves. You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I do this," says the LORD of hosts (Malachi 4:2,3).

The Sun of righteousness shines forth healing! When the light of God's presence shines into our lives, we can expect healing to manifest amongst us.

The Light of His Presence Releases His Glory

Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. "Lift up your eyes all around, and see: they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be nursed at your side. Then you shall see and become radiant, and your heart shall swell with joy; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you (Isaiah 60:1–5).


When we are saturated with the light of His presence, we carry His glory. The light of His presence causes us to become radiant, causing His glory to be seen upon us. The unsaved will see and

come to that light. It will cause wealth and many other things (read Isaiah 60) to be released into our lives.

So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments. Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him. So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him (Exodus 34:28–30).



THE LIGHT OF GOD'S PRESENCE

- * Exposes sin**
 - * Enlightens**
 - * Expels darkness**
 - * Releases divine power**
 - * Releases His glory**
- 

6

THE RAIN OF HIS PRESENCE

It is wonderful to see in Scripture that God refers to coming down upon us like the rain. God's presence released upon us is like the rain that falls upon the earth bringing refreshing and causing the earth to produce.

He shall come down like rain upon the grass before mowing, like showers that water the earth (Psalm 72:6).

Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, like the latter and former rain to the earth (Hosea 6:3).

If we pursue Him, He is sure to come to us like the rain. The Message Bible renders this as: "As sure as dawn breaks, so sure is his daily arrival. He comes as rain comes, as spring rain refreshing the ground." He comes like the rain during seedtime ensuring that the work we do will not be wasted. He comes like the rain just before harvest to cause fruit to ripen and ensuring that we get a good reward for our labor.

Ask the LORD for rain in the time of the latter rain. The LORD will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, grass in the field for everyone (Zechariah 10:1).

God's Word tells us to "ask the Lord for rain" during the rainy season. When it is raining elsewhere, ask Him for rain in your life, in your area. We are in a season of spiritual outpouring, because He said that in the last days He will pour out His Spirit. We are seeing spiritual outpourings taking place in so many places around the world. It is the time of the latter rain. It is time that we asked the

Lord for rain upon our own lives and our own cities, towns and villages. God's Word assures us that the Lord will make clouds and give showers of rain. He will pour out His presence upon us like rain!

The Rain of His Presence Brings Refreshing

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord (Acts 3:19).

The rain of His presence brings refreshing into our lives. Those who are dry spiritually and emotionally are refreshed in His presence. They feel renewed, strengthened and ready to press on in the race ahead of them. Refreshing in God's presence causes a sense of freshness about everything—everything feels new and fresh. Feeding on God's Word, prayer, seeking God, worship, fellowship, reaching out—everything becomes new, fresh and exciting to do. It becomes exciting to be alive!

The Rain of His Presence Causes Fruitfulness

When God releases the rain of His presence, He causes fruitfulness to take place. It is only God who can cause the desert to rejoice and blossom as the rose. It is only God who can cause a dry and thirsty land to become a well-watered garden. This is what the rain of His presence does amongst us. What was once barren becomes fruitful. People begin to see increased fruitfulness in their spiritual walk, in relationships, at the workplace and in every area of life.



THE RAIN OF HIS PRESENCE

- * **Brings refreshing**
- * **Causes fruitfulness**

7

THE GLORY OF HIS PRESENCE

The glory of God is His manifest presence—His presence made tangible to us.

Kabod

The weighty glory presence of God when it comes is the *kabod*. Kabod means weight, splendor or abundance. When this thick, heavy, weighty kabod comes, who can remain on their feet?

And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory (*kabod*) of the LORD filled the house of the LORD (1 Kings 8:10, 11).

Kabod is God's glory presence that you can feel. The Weight of His glory—this is the glory of God manifesting as a heavy, weighty, thick presence that can be felt.

Shekinah

Although this word does not appear in the Bible, in Biblical Hebrew the word means literally to settle, inhabit or dwell.

The following notes are adapted from “Zechariah and Jewish Renewal” by Fred P. Miller.

The word “Shekinah” was coined from verbal cognates in the Bible which describe the “presence” of God in a locality. The word “Shekinah,” itself is not in the biblical text but the concept clearly is. The word is derived from the Hebrew “shakan,” and the word

“Shekinah” was coined as a noun form from the verbal forms used to describe the “abiding, dwelling, or habitation” of the physical manifestations of God described in Exodus 24:16; Exodus 40:35; Numbers 9:16–18; and numerous other places where “shakan” is used. The word is also used to describe the mystical “Shekinah” presence in the tabernacle. The word “mishkan” a derivative of “shakan” is often translated “tabernacle.” The Hebrew for tabernacle is more often simply “ohel”, or tent. “Mishkan” means “dwelling place.” That is, the “dwelling place” of “Him who dwells” or “Shekinah.”

The “kabod YHWH,” (glory of the LORD) and “Shekinah” are identical in many contexts, such as the fire enfolding cloud on Sinai, (Exodus 24:15–17) the dedication of Solomon’s temple, and that which is associated with Ezekiel’s vision of the departure and return of the glory of the LORD.

The Hebrew verb “shakan”, simply means to take up residence with long continuity in a neighborhood. The distinction between this word and “yashav” which is also translated “dwell” is just this: You can use “yashav” to mean an individual doing the dwelling without reference to others or to duration while “shakan” means a protracted dwelling in the midst of a neighborhood or a group of people or might be limited to one other person but only by extension. The primary meaning is to reside and continue as a member of the community.

So the “Shekinah” glory of the Lord refers to God’s abiding, continuing presence among a community of His people. The “Shekinah” therefore refers to the presence of God that was physically manifested in the time-space continuum. It could be

seen. The presence was a vehicle of the person of God in the three dimensional world.

The cloud in Exodus 40:35 is Shekinah.

And he raised up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar, and hung up the screen of the court gate. So Moses finished the work. Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory (*kabod*) of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested (*shakan*) above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle (Exodus 40:33–35).

Shekinah is God's glory presence that you can see. The glory cloud—this is the glory of God manifesting as a thick cloud (Exodus 40:34; 2 Chronicles 5:14). The glory of God can be seen as a cloud.

Historical Account: 'Azusa Street' Revival of 1906

Frank Bartleman described one of the meetings during the 'Azusa Street' Revival of 1906 as follows: *"God came so wonderfully near us the very atmosphere of Heaven seemed to surround us. Such a divine "weight of glory" was upon us we could only lie on our faces. For a long time we could hardly remain seated even. All would be on their faces on the floor, sometimes during the whole service. I was seldom able to keep from lying full length on the floor on my face."* [Azusa Street, 1980 by Frank Bartleman].

What Is the Glory?

And he said, "Please, show me Your glory (*kabod*)." Then He said, **"I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion"** (Exodus 33:18,19).

The glory of God is the goodness, the compassion, the mercy—the very nature and character of God. It is the inner person of God. It is all He is.

We see the glory of God in the person of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6).

This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him (John 2:11).

Jesus manifested the glory of God through signs, wonders and miracles.

The glory presence of God is a tangible manifestation of all who God is—either as a weighty presence or as a visible glory cloud that causes His goodness, mercy, compassions, greatness and so on, to be released into our midst through signs, wonders and miracles.

The God of the Bible has not changed across the Testaments (Malachi 3:6). If His presence manifested in the Old Testament as the glory presence, there is no reason why you and I should not experience His glory presence today!

Even as Moses cried out for more of God when he said “Show me your glory,” we must hunger for more of His glory presence—for more of Him, for more of all that He is, His inner person. We must desire to see His power and His glory. A Psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah:

O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory (*kabod*) (Psalm 63:1,2).

Get hungry for the glory presence of God!

What Causes His Glory to Manifest in Our Realm?

Praise and worship ushers God's glory into our midst

Indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, for His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory (*kabod*) of the LORD filled the house of God (2 Chronicles 5:13,14).

A dedicated life

A dedicated life draws the manifestation of the glory of God.

He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him" (John 14:21).

You need to believe to see

I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living (Psalm 27:13).

The goodness of God is an expression of the glory of God as we saw in Exodus 33:19. We have to believe that we will see the glory of God demonstrated by manifestations of His goodness, "in this present life" (Good News Bible).

Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" (John 11:40).

Glory, which is '*doxa*' in the New Testament is used in this context to refer to a manifestation of who God is and what He does.

What Does the Glory of God Release in Our Midst?

The glory presence of God releases all that God is into our midst—His goodness, grace and mercy. This is manifested through miracles, healings, supernatural signs and everything that God lavishes out of His goodness, grace and mercy!

The glory presence of God releases the thunder (voice) of God (Psalm 18:13,14; Psalm 29:3)

When we gather together and desire for more of His presence, God releases His glory amongst us. We feel the weight of His presence. There can be many and varied tangible manifestations of the glory presence of God—all revealing His goodness, compassions and mercy.

Sometimes God reveals His glory presence by doing things that demonstrate His glory. When gold dust falls, when oil appears in peoples' hands, when God fills teeth with gold, when people with missing organs have new ones, when missing limbs suddenly appear, when deformed body parts straighten out and start functioning, when metal implants are replaced with real flesh and bone suddenly—all these and more are just manifestations of God's glory!

Making a Visitation of God Become a Habitation of His Presence

God is seen as desiring to release His glory presence on the earth. He wants His glory to cover the earth.

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory (*kabod*) of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14).

God released His glory presence to fill the tabernacle that Moses built in the wilderness (Exodus 40:33–35). The same glory cloud of God's presence filled Solomon's Temple (2 Chronicles 5:11–14). God promised that when the temple was rebuilt, the glory of the latter house would be greater than the former (Haggai 2:9)

Today, we the Church are the Temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16) where His glory must dwell.

In whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit (Ephesians 2:21,22).

God dwells in us by His Spirit. This is His invisible and abiding presence among us His people. However God desires to make His presence known. He desires to reveal His glory presence on the earth.

Moses was told to make the tabernacle like the pattern from heaven. God wants a heavenly copy on earth. We must make a place where He is pleased to dwell. When Moses built it according to the heavenly pattern, the glory of God came down and filled the tent. When the tabernacle on earth is like it is in heaven—filled with praise and worship, consecrated, holy— God will fill it with His glory presence. We will become a habitation of His glory presence here on earth.

While we are hungry for a visitation of God, we must continue to press in and maintain this so that His visitation will become a habitation of His glory presence on the earth—in our cities!

THE GLORY OF HIS PRESENCE

- * The glory presence of God is a tangible manifestation of all who God is—either as a weighty presence or as a visible glory cloud that causes His goodness, mercy, compassions, greatness and so on, to be released into our midst through signs, wonders and miracles.
- * Praise and worship, a dedicated life and the belief that we will see the glory of God causes His glory to manifest in our realm.
- * God desires to make His presence known. He desires to reveal His glory presence on the earth.

8

THE POWER OF HIS PRESENCE

O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory (Psalm 63:1,2).

Our longing for God is expressed in a desire to see His power and glory. There is absolutely nothing wrong in having a passionate desire to see manifestations of the glory and power of God.

God's Presence Is the Place of His Power

And because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them; and He brought you out of Egypt with His Presence, with His mighty power (Deuteronomy 4:37).

God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. His brightness was like the light; He had rays flashing from His hand, and there His power was hidden (Habakkuk 3:3,4).

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 5:4).

These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power (2 Thessalonians 1:9).

God's presence is the place of His power. Where God's presence is released we can expect manifestations of His power.

God's Power Releases the Mighty Works of God

Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was present to heal them (Luke 5:17).

And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all (Luke 6:17–19).

And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all (Acts 4:33).

And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed (Acts 5:12–16).

God's power causes mighty miracles, signs and wonders to take place in our midst. We must expect such things to happen each time we are in the presence of God.

Faith Taps into the Power of God

When we are in an atmosphere where the presence of God is released, we need to know that God's power is right there in our midst.

All it takes is a touch of faith for the power of God to be released into our lives—our bodies, our circumstances and so on—to bring healing, cause miracles and much more.

Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it,


Peter and those with him said, “Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’ “ But Jesus said, “Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me.” Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. And He said to her, “Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace” (Luke 8:43–48).

Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power (2 Thessalonians 1:11).

God completes our work of faith with His power. As we exercise our faith, the power of God goes into operation causing manifestations of the supernatural.



THE POWER OF HIS PRESENCE

- * God's presence is the place of His power
 - * God's power releases the mighty works of God
 - * Faith taps into the power of God
- 

9

WELCOMING GOD'S PRESENCE CORPORATELY

This study on the presence of God has been assembled to increase our hunger for His presence and to encourage us to expect the manifestations of His presence.

In your personal time with God, pursue Him and eagerly desire for more of His presence. Do not allow your personal time with God to become a dry, ritualistic, monotonous performance of religious duty. Desire for the freshness of His presence to grace your life each day.

Similarly, as we gather together, let us not just do things for the sake of doing them corporately. When we worship, when we hear the Word, when we pray, let us desire for Him—for His presence being manifested in our midst in tangible ways.

May our corporate gatherings be saturated with God's manifest presence so much that each time we meet there are explosions of mighty miracles, changed lives, notable healings, and so much more!

Lord let the fire of your presence fall on us!

Lord let the light of your presence flood our lives!

Lord let the rain of your presence be poured out on us!

Lord let the glory of your presence rest on us!

Lord let the power of your presence cause wonders amongst us!



All Peoples Church & World Outreach, Bangalore, India, has extended its ministry by launching its Bible College & Ministry Training Center (APC-BC&MTC) in August 2005. APC-BC&MTC equips, trains and releases faithful men and women to impact villages, towns and cities in India and other nations, for Jesus Christ.

APC-BC&MTC offers 2 programs:

- The two-year and three-year **Bible College** programs are for full-time students and provides spiritual and practical ministry training along with academic excellence. The programs are designed to equip and empower students to successfully fulfil the call of God upon their lives. Upon completing the two-year program students will receive a **Diploma in Theology & Christian Ministry (Dip.Th.&CM)**. The three-year program will lead to a **Bachelor's Degree in Theology & Christian Ministry (B.Th.&CM)**.
- The **Practical Ministry Training** is for graduates from the Bible College who desire to undergo practical training. Those completing one or more years receive a **Certificate in Practical Ministry** indicating the duration of involvement.

Classes are conducted in English. The faculty comprises of both trained and anointed teachers of the Word. All faculty and students have access to APC's Study Centre and Library (SC&L). The SC&L contains books, teaching tapes, videos, VCDs/DVDs and music CDs.

Publications from All Peoples Church

A Church in Revival
Ancient Landmarks
A Real Place Called Heaven
A Time for Every Purpose
Being Spiritually Minded and Earthly Wise
Biblical Attitude Towards Work
Breaking Personal and Generational Bondages
Change
Divine Order in the Citywide Church
Don't Compromise Your Calling
Don't Lose Hope
Fulfilling God's Purpose for Your Life
Giving Birth to the Purposes of God
God Is a Good God
God's Word
How to Help Your Pastor
Integrity
Kingdom Builders—Vol. 1
Laying the Axe to the Root
Living Life Without Strife
Open Heavens
Our Redemption
The Conquest of the Mind
The Night Seasons of Life
The Power of Commitment
The Presence of God
The Refiner's Fire
The Spirit of Wisdom, Revelation and Power
Understanding the Prophetic
We Are Different
Who We Are in Christ
Women in the Workplace

Gospel Booklets

He is Here
Love That Is Deeper Than Love Itself
What Can Wash Away My Sins?

About All Peoples Church

At All Peoples Church, our vision is to be salt and light
in the city of Bangalore and a voice to the nation of
India and to the nations of the world

This is a gift from us to you! It's FREE!

We trust you were blessed reading this publication.

Thousands of copies are distributed free to many others like you. We would like to have you partner with us financially to help share God's Word with many people. Your regular financial contributions can help us take God's Word to others. As the Lord leads, become a partner with All Peoples Church. You can send your contributions by Check/Demand Draft/Money Order to "All Peoples Church, Bangalore."

When you write, please request for other publications. Also tell us how this book has ministered to you and include your prayer requests and comments.

You can contact us at:

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All Peoples Church Locations in India

All Peoples Church has the following church locations in India at present.

All Peoples Church – Bangalore (Karnataka)

All Peoples Church – Thokkottu, Mangalore (Karnataka)

All Peoples Church – Kalyan, Mumbai (Maharashtra)

All Peoples Church – Vishakapatanam (Andhra Pradesh)

All Peoples Church – Sanit Pur (Assam)

All Peoples Church – Berhampur (Orissa)

All Peoples Church – Nagpur (Maharashtra)

New churches are being planted all over India periodically. To get the current listing and contact information of All Peoples Church locations, please visit our website at www.apcwo.org or send an email to contact@apcwo.org

DO YOU KNOW THE GOD WHO LOVES YOU?

About 2000 years ago, God came into this world as a man. His name is Jesus. He lived a perfectly sinless life. Since Jesus was God in flesh, everything He said and did revealed God to us. The words He spoke were the very words of God. The things He did were the actions of God. Jesus performed many miracles on the earth. He healed the sick and suffering. He opened blind eyes, unstopped deaf ears, made the lame walk and healed every kind of sickness and disease. He fed the hungry by miraculously multiplying a few loaves of bread, calmed the storm and did many other wonderful things.

All of these actions reveal to us that God is a good God who wants people to be well, whole, healthy and happy. God wants to meet the needs of people.

So why then would God decide to become a man and step into our world? Why did Jesus come?

All of us have sinned and done things that are unacceptable before the God who created us. Sin has its consequences. Sin is like a great unsurpassable wall between God and us. Sin separates us from God. It prevents us from knowing and having a meaningful relationship with the One who created us. Therefore, many of us try to fill this void with other things.

Another consequence of our sins is eternal separation from God. In God's court, the penalty for sin is death. Death is eternal separation from God in hell.

But, the good news is that we can be free from sin and be restored to God. The Bible says, **“For the wages [payment] of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23)**. Jesus paid for the sins of the whole world, when He died on the cross. Then three days later He rose again, showed Himself alive to many and went back to heaven.

God is a God of love and mercy. He does not wish that any person be lost in hell. And so He came, to provide a way for the entire human race to be free from sin and its lasting consequences. He came to save sinners—to rescue people like you and me from sin and eternal death.

To receive this free forgiveness of sins, the Bible tells us that we have to do just one thing—accept what the Lord Jesus Christ did on the cross and to believe in Him whole-heartedly.

Through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins (Acts 10:43).

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).

You too can receive forgiveness and cleansing for your sins if you will believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The following is a simple prayer to help you make a decision to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and what He has done for you on the cross. This prayer will help you express your acceptance of what Jesus has done for you and receive forgiveness and cleansing

for your sins. This prayer is only a guideline. You can also pray in your own words.

Dear Lord Jesus, today, I have understood what You did for me on the cross. You died for me, You shed Your precious blood and paid the penalty for my sins, so that I could be forgiven. The Bible tells me that whoever believes in You will receive forgiveness for their sins.

Today, I make a decision to believe in You and to accept what You did for me, by dying for me on the cross and rising again from the dead. I know I cannot save myself by my own good works, neither can any other human save me. I cannot earn forgiveness for my sins.

Today, I believe in my heart and say with my mouth that You died for me, You paid the penalty for my sins, You rose again from the dead, and by faith in You, I receive forgiveness and cleansing for my sins.

Thank You Jesus. Help me to love You, to know You more and to be faithful to You. Amen.

Notes

Notes

This book is essentially a study from God's Word concerning the glorious presence of God. The objective is to present what the Scriptures reveal about the presence of God, so that believers will be inspired and motivated to seek God and hunger for more of His presence.

Soak in God's Word and invite His presence into your life. Expect to experience His presence as you pursue Him. Hunger and thirst for more of His presence. To be in His presence, simply means to be in a place where you are seeking His face—you are face to face with God.

Get together with other believers and seek the Lord and His presence corporately. Nothing on earth can be compared to being with Him and experiencing His presence!

Ashish Raichur

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