



Sunday February 05, 2017
Manifesting His Glory Series
Part 1 : Presence & Glory

We begin a new series today called "Manifesting His Glory". We will do 4 sermons in this series.

Today, as an introduction, we will talk about: Presence & Glory

We are hungry for God for more of Him.

Because we are hungry for more of Him, we draw near to Him. The Bible promises He will draw near to us.

James 4:8

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

God is seated on His throne in heaven.

Psalm 47:8 God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne.

Matthew 23:22 And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it.

So in what sense does God draw near to me, when I draw near to Him?
When I draw near to Him, I encounter more of His presence.

So lets try to understand some things about the presence of God. The Bible has a lot to say about His presence.

God dwells outside time and space.

God is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent.

God is seated on His throne in heaven, and is still present every where in all parts of His vast creation.

Psalm 139:7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

The presence of God is the very person of God, (His nature, His attributes, the very substance of who He is) diffused or dispensed through all of His creation, in time and space.

So who God is, is 'made available' through all of His creation by His presence.

We can state it like this: the presence of God is a vehicle for the Person of God through all of His creation.



When you encounter His presence, you are encountering Him, the very person of God.

So as an example:

Genesis 3:8

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 (Heb. = face) of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

The word presence literally means "face". So when you encounter the presence of God, you are coming face to face with God.

We have already covered several things about the presence of God in a series we did last year and we will quickly review some of these:

The Tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant, the Temple

In the Old Testament we read about the Tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant and the Temple where people encountered the presence of God.

In His presence

We know that when we encounter His presence things happen in our lives. We are changed.

We also understand that there are varying degrees of His presence.

There is the **omnipresence** of God - but nobody bothers much. People do not fall down and repent on their own, because of the omnipresence of God. Adam and Eve were in the omnipresence of God and still sinned.

There is the **indwelling presence** of God in every believer. But even believers can do wrong things and not be too conscious of the indwelling presence.

There is the **promised presence** where He said I will never leave you and where two or more of you are gathered, I am there. But even here, believers can be totally aware of His promised presence and go about things as though He was not there at all.

Then there is the **recognizable presence** (or manifest presence) of God, where we become aware of God's presence spiritually. This is where we are powerfully changed.

There can be different degrees of the recognizable presence of God just like varying levels of temperature, etc..and powerful things happen when we have heightened measures of His recognizable presence.

Recognizing, responding, receiving from His presence

The presence of God is the person of God becoming recognizable to our spiritual senses.

We can recognize or become aware of God's presence in our spirit.

When His presence comes, it means He has come to do something.



We must learn to recognize, respond and receive from His presence.

God uses things that we are familiar with in creation to make His presence recognizable to us: Fire, Light, Rain, Wind, River.

Each of these help us recognize (become spiritually aware) of His presence and help us respond and receive from His presence:

The fire of His presence purifies, rekindles, etc.

The light of His presence exposes sin, brings understanding, etc.

The rain of His presence causes refreshing and fruitfulness.

The wind of His presence lifts us to higher realms, propels us into God's purposes, etc.

The river of His presence brings healing, renewing and life.

Now, the Bible also has a lot to say about the glory of God. So let's learn some things about the glory of God.

The Glory of God

John 17:5

And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Glory is used to refer to the very substance of His Person. Glory is used to refer to God's splendor, greatness, brightness, holiness.

In Scripture we find many different titles for God in relation to His glory, essentially indicating to us that He is the possessor of glory and hence glory is the very nature and substance of God.

God of glory (Psalm 29:3, Acts 7:2)

Lord of glory (1 Corinthians 2:8, James 2:1)

King of glory (Psalm 24:7-10)

The Father of glory (Ephesians 1:17, Matthew 16:27)

The Excellent glory (2 Peter 1:17)

Glory is also used to refer to heaven. Christ in you the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27).

The presence and glory refer to His Person - His attributes, His nature, His ways - who He is and what He does.

The Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed

Isaiah 40:5

The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."



The glory of the LORD is revealed, made visible to us, to our senses.

The presence of God is an extension of His Person (who He is and what He does) in our realm. Glory is a visible manifestation of His Person. The glory of God is a visible manifestation of His Person (who He is and what He does) in our realm. The glory is a manifestation of who God His (His character, virtues) and what He does.

The presence of God, God is present. He is here.
The glory of God is God revealing Himself. He is making Himself known.

The presence of God is the Person of God recognizable to our spirit.
The glory of God is the Person of God recognizable to our senses.

"...you shall see the glory of the LORD..." (Exodus 16:7)

"...the glory of the Lord appeared...." (Exodus 16:10, Leviticus 9:6,23, Numbers 14:10, Numbers 16:19)

"...the glory of the LORD filled..." (1 Kings 8:11, 2 Chronicles 5:14, 2 Chronicles 7:1-3, Ezekiel 43:5 Ezekiel 44:4)

the glory of the LORD stood (Ezekiel 3:23) went up (Ezekiel 10:4, Ezekiel 11:23), came in (Ezekiel 43:4), departed (Ezekiel 10:18).

The glory of God is visible and also dynamic (moves in time and space realm). We see movement associated with the glory.

Glory - The Atmosphere of Heaven

Heaven is filled with the glory of God. Glory is the atmosphere of heaven just like air is the atmosphere of earth.

When we are in the glory, we are in the realm where God is. For God there is no distance and no time. He dwells in eternity. He is omnipresent. In the glory there is no distance. In the glory there is no time.

His Glory Seen In His Creation

Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Psalm 19:1

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge.



The glory of God - His infinite wisdom, power and eternal attributes are displayed in His creation.

The Glory of His Presence

The Ark of the Covenant was a symbol of God's presence. When the Ark was taken away, the glory departed from Israel (1 Samuel 4:21-22).

The presence of God is a carrier of the glory of God.

We must host God's presence in order to see manifestations of His glory.

Physical Manifestations of His Glory

What are some visible manifestations of the glory of God in our realm?

Glory Cloud

Exodus 24:16

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.

Glory Fire

Exodus 24:17

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.

Radiance

Exodus 34:33-35 Moses face shone

Heavy, Weighty Presence

2 Chronicles 5:14

A Rainbow In A Cloud On A Rainy Day

Ezekiel 1:28

Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. So when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking.

A Great Thunderous Voice

Ezekiel 3:12

Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me a great thunderous voice: "Blessed is the glory of the LORD from His place!"

Brightness

Ezekiel 10:4

Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, and paused over the threshold of the temple; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD's glory.



In summary, God can use any thing in His creation to reveal His glory to us.

When Glory Manifests We Receive of His Nature, Goodness, Mercy, Greatness

What happens when God manifests His glory to us?

We receive demonstrations of who He is, His goodness, mercy and His power. He releases miracles, healings, answers to prayer and a whole lot more. The glory of God transforms our lives, sets us free.

Exodus 33:18-19

18 And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."

19 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."

Conclusion

Over the coming weeks we are going to learn more about the glory of God.

We must hunger for more of His presence and more of His glory to be made manifest amongst us.

We will also learn how to be carriers and dispensers of His glory.

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.

Psalm 63:1-2

1 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.

2 So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory (*kabod*).

Get hungry for the glory presence of God!

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