



The Pursuit of His Presence Sermon Series (Part 4) – Prayer
Sunday Sermon
Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide

Prayer
The Pursuit of His Presence (Part 4)
Sunday Sermon, June 07, 2026 – Sermon Outline

PRAYER – TIME ALONE WITH GOD

In this sermon series on the pursuit of His presence, we have considered several practices that enable us to encounter and carry/host the presence of God: stillness, meditation, and personal worship. Today we are considering another practice: Prayer. Specifically, personal prayer.

We recognize the importance of collective congregational prayer, where two or more are agreeing together in prayer. However, in this message we are specifically addressing personal prayer.

Personal prayer is your time alone with God.

To be alone with God, you must be comfortable being alone, alone with yourself, and alone, without human engagement or distractions. This is a big challenge for us who live in a constantly “connected” world. It is very difficult for us to “disconnect”. Even if we are “alone” we are “connected” through several online tools to people. Yet these connections are very superficial, and rarely meaningful. We need to relieve ourselves from such connections so that we can meaningfully connect with God in prayer.

Our connection with God in prayer is spiritual. God is Spirit, and we connect with Him not in the sense realm, not in the emotional realm, but first and foremost, in the spiritual realm. This requires faith. Prayer is an expression of our faith.

Today, we focus on five things that happen when we intentionally connect with God in private personal prayer.

1, CONTENT IN HIS PRESENCE

First, our inner person is satisfied. It becomes well satiated. We were hungry and after prayer we feel filled up. Our only pursuit was God, and we’ve had the opportunity of meeting and engaging with Him. This is more than sufficient.

Psalm 27:4,8



4 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.

8 When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."

He has promised that if we seek Him, we will find Him. Our reward in seeking Him, is Himself. This is all we've longed for, yearned for and desired for.

In private personal prayer, we are not looking for the applause of people. We are not looking to impress anyone with the length or duration of our prayer, or with the eloquence of our words. Our only desire is to be with Him.

Psalm 16:11

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

In His presence we are satisfied. We are filled with joy. There are pleasures that fill our inner being that cannot be found elsewhere.

Our God is the El-Shaddai (Genesis 17:1), the All Sufficient One, who meets each of us in our areas of need. All of us are personally and individually satisfied.

We also recognize that we do not have our times of private personal prayer, there is a sense of dissatisfaction, something missing, something empty inside of us. Only in Him and in His presence can this be fulfilled.

2, CONFRONTED BY HIS PRESENCE

When we get alone with Him, there are times we are lovingly confronted, rebuked and corrected.

Isaiah 6:1-7

1 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.

2 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.

3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!"



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4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

5 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."

6 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.

7 And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged."

When Isaiah encountered the Lord in this vision, his immediate reaction was the sin that he carried and the people carried. Of course, God immediately provided the remedy to remove sin.

We do not live in sin consciousness, but we have embraced the gift of righteousness that the Lord has provided for us. So we approach God in personal private prayer with confidence. And yet, there are times God has to deal with issues in our heart and mind – pride, jealousy, deceit, vanity, compromise, lust, self, etc. God confronts us by His Spirit. His light exposes the dark things that try to hide.

We confess. We renounce. We repent. His cleansing goes over our soul. The confrontation has brought about cleansing and restoration. We are made whole.

Psalm 139:23-24

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

The best thing to do is to be open and honest and invite the search light of God into our hearts. This way we can constantly keep a watch over our own selves.

3, COUNSELED IN HIS PRESENCE

In the quietness of our personal private time with Him God speaks to us to lead, guide, counsel and direct us.

Psalm 25:12-15

12 Who is the man that fears the LORD? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses.

13 He himself shall dwell in prosperity, And his descendants shall inherit the earth.

14 The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.



15 My eyes are ever toward the LORD, For He shall pluck my feet out of the net.

God speaks to us in these private times.
He teaches us in the way we must go.
He speaks His secrets to us.
He reveals His covenant – His plans and purposes for us.
He gives us counsel to get out of difficult situations (“the net”) that we may have walked in because of our mistakes.

4, CENTERED IN HIS PRESENCE

Another important aspect of change that happens to us in our private personal times of prayer is that we are “centered”.

We are **grounded** during times of anxiety, pressures, challenges, complexities and filled with a sense of calm, focus, assurance and inner peace.
We are **charged up** or recharged with renewed strength.
We are **cheered up and** our spirit is lifted, encouraged, and inspired.
We are **comforted**, soothed off our worries, cares and restored emotionally.

The Psalmist expressed it like this:

Psalm 27:14

Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

We are strengthened in our inner man as we wait on Him.

Psalm 37:7,9,34

7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.

9 For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth.

34 Wait on the LORD, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.

Sometimes, we begin to look at the evil who prosper in their ways, and if we are not careful, we get discouraged.



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When we are in prayer, in conversation with God, He enables us to see things from His perspective. He assures us that we will inherit everything He has ordained for us.

Micah 7:7-8

7 Therefore I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; My God will hear me.

8 Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; When I fall, I will arise; When I sit in darkness, The LORD will be a light to me.

There may be times when we are “down”, we fall, are in “darkness” – things are not clear, we are not sure what to do, etc. As we wait on the Lord in our times of private personal prayer, we know He hears us. He will be a light to us. He will cause us to rise up again.

5, CHERISHED IN HIS PRESENCE

Finally, we know that God delights when we spend time alone with Him.

In these moments, we know we delight His heart.

We know we are cherished in His presence.

In these private moments, He commends us. We hear and receive the commendation He provides. This is all we need.

He commissions us. He charges us with heavenly assignments that He has reserved for us.

He confers upon us His approval, His wisdom, authority and authorization. We emerge from His presence, knowing He is with us. We are unstoppable.

Matthew 6:6

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.

We then see amazing things happen in public, because of those private personal moments in His presence.

Hebrews 11:6

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.

Our time alone with Him is never wasted. He rewards those who diligently seek Him.



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PRACTICAL TIPS

A, Pray without ceasing

1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing

Our private, personal time of prayer happens often in the prayer room. But we carry this with us through the day in ongoing conversations with the Lord.

All that we have considered happens throughout the course of the day.

At any time, we can express our joy and desire for Him (we are content in His presence).

At any time, we can experience Him bringing correction to our hearts.

At any time, we can receive His counsel, experience Him centering our hearts, and receive His embrace.

B, Have extended times of private personal prayer

The Lord Jesus is our example. Though He dwelt in the bosom of the Father, and walked in constant communion with the Father, He took time away to spend extended hours alone with the Father in prayer.

These extended times in private personal prayer become the basis of a life of continuous prayer – the pray without ceasing kind of life.

Maintaining a life of private personal prayer is yet another way we encounter His presence and life in His presence.

SUMMARY

- 1, Content in His presence
- 2, Confronted by His presence
- 3, Counseled in His presence
- 4, Centered in His presence
- 5, Cherished in His presence

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME



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Minister as the Spirit leads



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Prayer

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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 1.5 to 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

Life Group Leader: To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon or review the Sunday Sermon notes. Please do not make your life group read through the complete sermon notes during the life group. All you need to do is have individuals read the Scriptures listed below and then open for a time of discussion, sharing and learning using the questions given below. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *see below*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Life Group is a discussion-based, participatory meeting with everyone given the opportunity to share their learning. Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.



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Q, We presented five things that happen to us as we spend time in private personal prayer alone with God.

- 1, Content in His presence
- 2, Confronted by His presence
- 3, Counseled in His presence
- 4, Centered in His presence
- 5, Cherished in His presence

Reflect and share how you have experienced these in your times of private personal prayer alone with God.

Each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key insights and how they see themselves applying it to their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow, bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.*

Close by thanking God together.



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USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

BELIEVERS BIBLE COMMENTARY: <https://believersbiblecommentary.com>

SERMON OUTLINE

In this sermon we consider private personal prayer - our time alone with God and what happens to us as we pursue God in this manner. We consider these five important changes: 1, Content in His presence. 2, Confronted by His presence. 3, Counseled in His presence. 4, Centered in His presence. 5, Cherished in His presence. Our private, personal time of prayer happens often in the prayer room. But we carry this with us through the day in ongoing conversations with the Lord. Maintaining a life of private personal prayer is yet another way we encounter His presence and life in His presence. This sermon includes free audio (mp3) and video of this powerful, motivational, expository teaching, free printable PDF sermon outlines, sermon notes and small group study guide with discussion questions and presentation slides. All resources (sermon PDF, sermon MP3, sermon video, sermon presentation) are free for use in personal study, small groups, Bible study prayer groups, local churches, conferences, Bible colleges, etc.

KEYWORDS



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private personal prayer, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Thayer's Greek Definitions. Published in 1886, 1889; public domain.

Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. Published in 1890; public domain.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, © 1984, 1996, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, TN

Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary. Edited by William D. Mounce with Rick D. Bennett, Jr. (1993)

Word Pictures in the New Testament. Archibald Thomas Robertson. Published in 1930-1933; public domain.

Word Studies in the New Testament. Marvin R. Vincent, D.D. (1886).

Free Bible software and AI tools are also used as Bible study aids, from time to time.