Pursuing His Presence
Sunday Sermon, November 22, 2026

MORE OF GOD

We can experience God's presence in an increasing measure. God can satisfy our deep desire to know Him. In both the Old and New Testaments, seeking the presence of God is also considered 'seeking the face' of God. In other words, we are meeting with Him 'face to face' when we seek His presence. By seeking His face or presence, we are seeking God's character, His nearness, all that He is and not just what He can provide for us.

We can know Him more and continue experiencing Him in greater ways. This is possible because God is infinite and there is always more of Him to know, experience and receive.

GOD DESIRES COMMUNION WITH MAN

God is omnipresent or everywhere (Psalm 139:7,8) but desires to make Himself known closely so that His nearness may be felt and His character revealed. We see His desire to commune with man throughout scripture.

- The intimate communion of God with man in the **garden of Eden (Genesis 3:8)**
- God causing His glory to dwell in the **tabernacle (Exodus 25:8-9)** and later in the **temple (1 Kings 9:3)** where the High Priest could minister in God's presence.
- God coming to dwell among us through **Jesus Christ, our Immanuel (God with us, Matthew 1:23)**
- The Holy Spirit coming to **dwell inside every believer (1 Corinthians 6:19)** and ministering to the believer in various ways.
- Revelation reveals that when God restores all things, He will dwell with His people. ***"God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them"*** **(Revelation 21:3).**

EXPERIENCING MORE OF GOD

God is omnipresent yet people do not encounter Him at random. It takes a pursuit to experience the varying levels or degrees of His presence. When we seek Him, He

promises that we will find Him! He will satisfy the thirsty or longing heart. There is a hunger in us that only God can satisfy.

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

Isaiah 44:3-4
3 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; 4 They will spring up among the grass like willows by the watercourses.'

The presence of God can be perceived by individuals or a group. Perception or discernment of the presence is through our spiritual senses and not necessarily through our physical senses. The intensity of His presence can be felt in greater measure. When Moses asked to see the glory or the manifest expression of the presence of God, God showed him His goodness and graciousness (Ex 33:19). Similarly, one can sense God's love, compassion, protection or any characteristic that is a part of His nature.

Psalm 97:5
5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

We can sense His presence increasing as we seek Him. This can extend beyond our spiritual senses and be perceived in our emotions or in the body. We can understand the increase in the presence of God using the simple analogy of rising temperature. As temperature increases, it can cause stronger materials to melt that wouldn't otherwise melt at lower temperatures. Similarly, we can see various expressions of God at each degree of His presence and its effect upon us and our circumstances.

AN EARNEST PURSUIT

The pursuit of the presence of God must be wholehearted and sincere.

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

The psalmist describes his pursuit of God's presence as an urgent need and longing, like a deer that has grown thirsty due to a drought or a chase. A need implies that being satisfied is necessary and not optional. Using the picture of the deer, the psalmist is

pointing to his desperate pursuit of God. Nothing else could satisfy him. He couldn't wait to stand in the presence of the living God where he knew that he would meet with God and receive more of Him.

Psalm 63:1-2
1 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.

David declares that his relationship with God is a close one and speaks of God as his God! Most likely, he wrote this psalm in his wilderness years while going through challenges. Despite the circumstances, maintained a sense of a strong relationship with God.

David expresses his desire to know God. The desire was so strong that it woke him up early. He prioritized God as the first pursuit of the day and wanted to be satisfied with His presence more than anything else. This points to an eager pursuit in which every part of him was engaged in this pursuit. The longing of his soul and body is evident. David went looking for God's presence and understood that it was also the place to encountering His power and glory!

ENTERING HIS PRESENCE

In the Old Testament, we see God instructing Moses to establish the tabernacle. The Holy of Holies (Exodus 26:30-34, Exodus 25:21,22) was the place where the glory of God was manifested. Only the High Priest could enter this place once a year.
The earthly tabernacle was a shadow of the true tabernacle or the presence of God in heaven (Hebrews 8:1,2, 5). As new covenant believers we have access into His presence through Jesus Christ (Hebrews 10:19-22).

We can choose to remain in the outer courts of the tabernacle or even make our way 'behind the veil' into the Holy of Holies.

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

MANIFEST EXPRESSIONS OF HIS PRESENCE

The presence of God manifested in various ways and ministered to people. Today, we can experience similar expressions spiritually or sometimes in the natural.

Some expressions include:

1. Rain (Psalm 72:6)
2. Fire (Hebrews 12:29)
3. Light (Psalm 104:2)
4. Cloud (Exodus 19:9)
5. Wind (Acts 2:2)

When the presence of God becomes intense, there comes a time when the glory of God takes over! The glory of God is often described as who God is and what He does. In His glory, the Lord is sovereign, and we can remain still and receive from Him.

BLESSINGS OF HIS PRESENCE

The greatest reward of the presence of God is God Himself (Philippians 3:7-11). We can know Him in deeper ways and experience intimacy with God.

We also experience the following:

1. Personal transformation takes place in His presence; we are changed. (2 Corinthians 3:18)
2. In His presence the Lord has willed to demonstrate His provision, salvation, joy, strength and victory (Psalm 132:14-18)
3. His presence is a place of peace and stillness (Psalm 46:10)
4. There is joy in His presence and pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16:11)
5. Our strength is renewed as we wait upon Him in His presence (Isaiah 40:28-31)
6. Times of refreshing come from His presence (Acts 3:19)
7. Miracles are released in His presence (Deuteronomy 4:37)
8. Evil is overpowered (Isaiah 19:1)
9. We are empowered to represent Him well (Acts 4:13)

HOSTING HIS PRESENCE

We can host His presence as individuals or as a community of believers.

We can commit to the following as individuals:

1. Practice His presence (2 Corinthians 13:14)

2. Dwell in the secret place (Matthew 6:6)
3. Cultivate an intense spiritual hunger (Psalm 27:4)
4. Live a dedicated life of obedience (John 14:21)

There are many communities that have experienced powerful manifestations of the presence of God, especially during revivals. Reading about them stirs up a desire in us to do the same. Corporately, the following steps would help us experience the presence of God.

1. Godly fellowship and prayer (Matthew 18:20)
2. Praise and worship (2 Chronicles 5:13,14)
3. Leaving no place for the flesh to glory in His presence (1 Corinthians 1:29)
4. Pursuing the anointing (Zechariah 10:1, Luke 5:17)

SUMMARY

We can experience more of God.
We must earnestly pursue God to experience more of His presence.
We can move deeper into the Holy of Holies in our pursuit of Him.
God expresses Himself in various ways and at times His presence is tangible.
There are many blessings in His presence.
Let us desire His presence and host it as individuals and as a community.

GOSPEL, SALVATION CALL, SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads
Prayer for salvation
Prayer for miracles: Matthew 6
Send your testimony to: testimony@apcwo.org

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Pursuing His Presence
Sunday Sermon, November 22, 2026

The 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*:*

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.

Q1, Share an experience of the presence of God and how it strengthened your faith.

Q2, Discuss an earnest pursuit of His presence based on Psalm 42:1–2 and Psalm 63:1–3.

Q3, Discuss the blessings that a believer receives in God's presence.

Q4, What steps will you take personally and corporately to experience more of the presence of God?

Each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one key insight 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.

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
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WEEKEND SCHOOLS: https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools
COUNSELING: https://chrysalislife.org
MUSIC: https://apcmusic.org
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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

God is infinite and desires deep communion with us—not just to provide for us, but so we can truly know Him. While He is everywhere, experiencing greater degrees of His manifest presence requires an earnest, wholehearted pursuit. We must learn to long for His presence and determine to seek Him first. As believers, we have access to the Holy of Holies through Jesus where we can experience God's presence powerfully. There are many blessings in His presence, including our transformation, peace, joy, renewed strength, and miracles. Let us cultivate personal obedience and corporate worship to welcome His glory.

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
Presence of God, pursuit of His presence, hosting the presence, intimacy with God, face of God, more of God, communion with God, 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.