

## **The Presence of the Lord**

In our knowledge of God, we know God is omnipresent – that God is present everywhere at the same time. There is however a distinct difference between him being omnipresent to him manifesting his presence to us. His manifested presence is often referred to as “His Glory”. In simple terms, him showing a bit of himself to us.

How do we get to experience his manifested presence? Is it only at church that we get to experience his presence – when we gather around anointed preachers, and teachers of the word?

***Psa 43:3-4 – Send out your light and your truth; let them guide me. Let them lead me to your holy mountain, to the place where you live. There I will go to the altar of God, to God – the source of all my joy. I will praise you with my harp, O God, my God!***

***Psa 100:2 – Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.***

We are to enter his gates with thanksgiving and with praise. Praise is the key to entering the very presence of God. It is not a time to take lightly. It is a time set aside for the Lord. It is a time of reverence to our God. It is not a performance to watch, that you come to check out at church on a Sunday. It is not a time to chat with the people around you or to look what others are doing in that moment. The time set aside for praise and worship at church is not for the late comers to still arrive so that they also get to hear the word of God. It is used to set the atmosphere to invite the manifested presence of God to a place. If no reverence for God is in that place among the people, it is hard to sense the manifested presence of God moving in that place. That is why you often can go to meetings and find no stirring or moving of the Holy Spirit among the people. It is because the people in the place have not come to seek him or truly praise and worship their God. They have not come to worship and praise the Lord but rather to watch a show, hear the pastor preach and go home.

Praising our God should be a lifestyle and not only meant to be done on a Sunday at church but must be done daily if we desire and want to experience the presence of God in our lives constantly.

***Psa 140:13 – Surely righteous people are praising your name; the godly will live in your presence.***

***Psa 95:2 – Let us come to him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to him.***

We can come to him as often as we want and spent time in his presence as much as we want to. He does not play hide and seek, nor does he make it difficult for us to find him. Praise is what gets you into the courts of the Lord – into the very presence of God. We get to praise him for who he is firstly, then for all the good he does and all he will do in our lives. We are to express our love to him and always thank him for his unfailing love for us.

***Prov 8:17 KJV – I love them that love me, and those who seek me early shall find me.***

***Jer 29:13 – If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.***

***Psa 63: 1-5 – O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole-body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in your sanctuary and gazed upon your power and glory. Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise you! I will praise you as long as I live, lifting up my hands to you in prayer. You satisfy me more than the richest feast. I will praise you with songs of joy.***

When we earnestly seek him and draw near to him, he draws near to us.

How do we draw near to him? After we enter his gates with thanksgiving, we go into his court with praise. We search for him. When we find him, we can go to him.

Just imagine this for a moment: what would you do if you were in front of a King here on earth. What do you do? Your focus will be only on the King in front of you. You would firstly bow down before the King you serve, to show him respect. You are required to show reverence in the presence of the King. You will need to conduct yourself in a respectful manner to that King. Not everyone can come boldly to the King or to address the King freely. Permission needs to be granted before you can speak to the King. You cannot disrespect the King in any way, nor can you go on as usual and not acknowledge his presence.

Now think about how we approach our Lord, our King, when we enter his courts with thanksgiving and praise. Are we expecting him to show himself? How do we behave once we enter his courts? Do we go into the throne room to see our King? Are we aware that we are in the throne room of the King? Do we realise that we are really in his presence? Do we even acknowledge his presence? Do we give him the respect and honour due to him as the King of our lives?

When you realise that you are before your King, you cannot but worship his Majesty for who he is when you are in his presence. You stand in awe of his presence; you are totally aware that you are in front of God Almighty. You are now standing in the presence of your King. You are awestruck in his presence. You are captivated by his splendour. You need to show reverence to your King.

Worship will flow freely when we worship him in Spirit and in truth. The worship that God desires is a heart that truly loves him for who he is and not for all we can get out of him. We are not to just sing nice songs about Jesus which make us feel good when singing these songs. The songs are not there to focus on oneself but rather to focus on our God and who he is to us. We are to have our hearts set on him and truly be grateful and thankful for who he is.

***Psa 89:15 – Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship, for they will walk in the light of your presence, Lord.***

One of the most precious gifts we as children of The Most High God have received, is the opportunity to enjoy being in the presence of our God.

We get to have fellowship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As we journey through this life with Jesus - we get to taste a bit of Heaven right here on earth while we are here, until we can physically be there with our God face to face for all eternity. Through Jesus, we get direct access to ABBA Father and the Holy Spirit.

***Joh 14:6 – Jesus told them, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the father except through me.***

Jesus is the only way to the Father. He reveals his Father to us. No man has access to Father God without Jesus. When you spend time with Jesus and get to know him, he will reveal his Father to you. You will also get to know Father God intimately.

***Luk 10:22 – My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.***

Time spent with him is a pleasure we get to enjoy as often as we want, if only we can make that time daily to indulge in his glorious presence. It is not a task to be done out of duty as a Christian but rather a privilege! We get to spend time with our Lord and King.

***Psa 26:8 – I love your sanctuary, Lord, the place where your glorious presence dwells.***

It still amazes me that God Almighty desires to spend time with you and me. He longs for us to come boldly into his presence, and he allows us the privileged to get to know him more and more with each day spent with him. He takes delight in showing more of himself to those who earnestly seek him. He does not hide away from us but waits eagerly for us to run to him.

***Psa 84: 1-2 – How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of Heaven's Armies. I long, yes, I faint with longing to enter the courts of the Lord. With my whole being, body, and soul, I will shout joyfully to the living God.***

How we view this time spent in his presence will determine the quality of time we will spend in fellowship with our Lord. It is not a ritual or a religious act like the pagan's practice. It is a time of pleasure, a time to delight in the Lord and to engage with him.

***Psa 68:3 – But let the godly rejoice. Let them be glad in God's presence. Let them be filled with joy.***

***Psa 16:11 – You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.***