

The Powerful Presence of God

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Introduction: It is vital that we grow in our faith.

- A. A major element of our growth comes in knowing God better.
 - 1. Jesus described one of “little faith” as one failing to understand the power and nature of God! **(Lk 12:27-30)**
 - 2. The real growth comes in better understanding that which ultimately passes understanding. **(Eph 3:14-19)**
- B. How well have we developed an understanding of God’s presence?
 - 1. We act differently in different groups of people! A presence matters!
 - 2. As we grow in “seeing the unseen” this world will become distant and vain. **(Heb 11:13)**

I. What is God’s presence?

- A. There is a sense where it is always there for all men! **(2 Chron 16:9)**
 - 1. There are many who wish to run from this truth.
 - 2. This is a powerful source of encouragement to the one seeking God.
- B. God’s presence represents *the fellowship and protection of God* to the faithful.
 - 1. Moses pleaded for this and the sign of this for all to see. **(Ex 33:13-14)**
 - 2. Israel was reminded about the power and protection that allowed them to not just survive but to be greatly blessed. **(Deut 4:37-40)**
 - 3. This knowledge should have made *His presence the greatest priority!*
 - 4. Each generation had to develop a taught consciousness of this.
- C. The presence of God comes as a result of broadly learning about God’s revealed nature.
 - 1. We learn about God’s love and how He seeks our good.
 - 2. We learn about His holiness so that we can approach Him. **(Lev 22:3)**
 - 3. We learn about a faith that receives forgiveness through God’s conditional promises. **(Psa 51:9-12)**
 - 4. We learn about His longsuffering so that we can have assurance that He will not cast us off in our weakness. **(2 Kgs 13:23)**

II. Men of faith are strong and courageous because of God’s presence

- A. Knowing that God see you right now can create great courage.
 - 1. How did Moses have the courage to confront Pharaoh? **(Ex 3:12)**
 - 2. How did Joshua have the courage to take the promised land? **(Josh 1:5; 3:7)**
 - 3. How was David able to face Goliath? **(1 Sam 17:37)**
- B. Confidence in God’s vengeance keeps faithful men from becoming consumed in bitterness. **(Psa 9:3-4; 17:1-2)**
 - 1. When you are hurt you want others to know and you also desire vindication.
 - 2. What a blessing to *know that God knows!*
 - 3. We rejoice in God’s blessing while in the presence of our enemies! **(Psa 23:5)**

- C. When we clearly know God's presence then *the fear of man is greatly diminished*.
1. We need unbiased judges that simply seek God's judgement. When we see God *we will play no favorites*. **(Deut 1:17)**
 2. God can calm our spirits and bless us in those things that matter when men try to hurt us. **(Psa 31:19-20)**
 3. What a blessing to know that God is with us. The burdens of what others do or not do is lifted from us. We will seek their good!

III. Worship is vital to developing a consciousness of God's presence

A. What is worship? (Jn 4:23-24)

προσκυνέω - proskuneo (Verb) - from a basic sense *bow down to kiss* someone's feet, garment hem, or the ground in front of him; (2) in the NT of worship or veneration of a divine or supposedly divine object, expressed concretely with falling face down in front of someone *worship, venerate, do obeisance to*; - **Friberg Dictionary**

1. God is the audience and to Him worship must be found to be acceptable. **(Lev 2:2; Mal 1:9)**
 2. God's desire is to have a people that "*cling*" to Him for "renown, praise and glory." We come into His presence. **(Jer 13:10-11)**
- B. Worship must be based on an acceptable relationship with Him.
1. It is the people that ultimately God finds acceptable. **(Ezk 20:40-41)**
 2. If the heart is untouched then the worship is vain. **(Mt 15:8-9)**
 3. Do worldly men desire a worship that challenges them to change?
- C. Worship will naturally involve great thanksgiving and rejoicing. **(Psa 95:2-3; 100:2-3)**
1. When we worship we consider and glory in God's nature.
 2. Are we a people that love to talk about God?

IV. Jesus showed us the power of the presence of God

- A. He knew that God would be with Him and would never forsake Him. **(Jn 16:32-33)**
1. He knew that death would not hold Him. **(Psa 16:10-11)**
 2. He wants each of us to have such a faith!
- B. Knowing Christ keeps us from pride! **(1 Cor 1:26-29)**
1. The excellency of the knowledge of Jesus makes worldly wisdom seem as trash.
 2. When God is in view then men's presence is nothing. Moses and Aaron went from the presence of people to the presence of God. **(Num 20:6)**
 3. May God grant each of us to be emptied of all but the Lord! **(1 Cor 1:22-24)**
- C. Jesus is working for us right now in the presence of God!
1. How are we "saved by His life?" **(Rom 5:10)**
 2. Jesus Christ now appears in heaven for us! **(Heb 9:24)**
 3. In our sin we have an advocate that appears constantly before God on our behalf!

Conclusion: Do you know His presence? **(Jude 24-25)**