

Responding to His Presence

“There is not in the world a kind of life more sweet and delightful than that of a continual conversation with God.” – Brother Lawrence. How we should show up when we are in the manifest presence of God. Is there a code of behaviour for His presence? When God is tangibly present and experienced are there any guidelines from scripture regarding how we ought to be? These are important questions for believers to answer because many have short circuited his presence because they were ignorant concerning these matters. **“Our pursuit of God is successful just because He is forever seeking to manifest Himself to us.” – AW Tozer, *The Pursuit of God***

The presence of God is the most precious asset in heaven and on earth. Heaven is what it is today because of God’s presence there. **“God is not a presence...He is a person with a presence. His presence is evidence of His person.” Mike Murdock.**

God’s presence changes our perspective. Those who spend time in His presence see things differently.

Psalm 73:3 *For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.*

Psalm 73:17–20 *till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.*

18 Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin.

19 How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!

20 They are like a dream when one awakes; when you arise, Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.

Verses 25 and 26 are part of the climax which states **25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.**

Genesis 3:8–9 *Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.*

9 But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

We tend to focus a lot on seeking God’s presence yet in many ways we hide from it. This scripture shows us that God’s desire is to have us in His presence. When we hide, He finds it strange and abnormal. His norm is to have us in His presence. He is seeking us out. So when you then say, “Lord, I want more of you”, it is actually in response to Him seeking you out. You are speaking to a God who has already been enquiring after you. It’s so much easier phoning someone who has been trying to get hold of you, than cold calling a stranger where you don’t know what response you will get.

The distinguishing factor for the patriarchs in the Old Testament was the presence of God.

Genesis 39:2 *The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.*

Tsalach – to prosper, to be successful. God can be with you so that.....His presence with an assignment.

Joshua 1:17 Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you. Only may the Lord your God be with you as he was with Moses.

Many people want to lead but are not willing to carry the presence. People want to follow leaders when they know God is with them. The people value the presence.

I wonder what Joshua thought, "I am sure God will be with me, but I don't know if it will be at the level of Moses."

2 Corinthians 6:16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

In all our discussions on the manifest presence of God, let's remember the presence within. Sometimes we have this image of finding His presence in a place we go to. However, sometimes it's God manifest in and through you. What does this mean? **If we are to be carriers of His presence and glory dispensers we cannot afford to grieve the Holy Spirit.**

When God is in our midst He is here by His Spirit, yet we can do things that repel His Spirit.

I want to share with you 6 things that sustain the presence:

1. A Posture of Reverence and Awe

Exodus 3:5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

→ Posture: Reverence, holiness, humility.

Hebrews 12:28-29 (ESV) "Let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire."

→ Posture: Worship with holy fear.

This instruction is given in the New Testament. This is not something that is supposed to be difficult. **"The one thing for which we are all being prepared is the presence of God."** **Oswald Chambers.** — My Utmost for His Highest

2. Brokenness and Humility

Isaiah 57:15 "I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit..."

→ Posture: Contrite, lowly, deeply aware of your need for Him.

This is similar to when Jesus spoke of being poor in spirit. God here is emphasizing both His otherness and also the fact that He is not a remote God. He loves to draw near to His people when they are broken and contrite in heart.

Contrite = Daka = break into pieces, crushed, pictures a force that presses down until the object is broken, shattered, or pulverized. Therefore we must allow God to break us if necessary.

Psalm 51:17 (ESV) "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."

→ Posture: Brokenness over sin, genuine repentance.

Broken = Shabar = The verb moves easily from the concrete (smashing pottery) to the abstract (shattering pride), creating a rich vocabulary of judgment, repentance, and deliverance.

3. Worship and Adoration

Psalm 95:6 “Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.”

→ Posture: Physical and spiritual surrender in worship.

Revelation 4:10-11 “The twenty-four elders fall down before Him... They lay their crowns before the throne and say: ‘You are worthy, our Lord and God...’”

→ Posture: Laying down your own glory to honour His.

Philippians 3:7-8 *But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.*

1 Corinthians 4:7 *For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?*

James 1:17 *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*

This affirms that even our greatest “crowns” come from God alone.

Galatians 6:14 *May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

An attitude of boasting only in what Christ has done.

Each time, before you intercede, be quiet first, and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do, and how He delights to hear the prayers of His redeemed people. Think of your place and privilege in Christ, and expect great things! — Andrew Murray, *The Ministry of Intercession*

4. Purity and Holiness

Psalm 24:3-4 “Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart...”

→ Posture: Purity, integrity, and examined heart.

We have blind spots. **When was the last time you asked the Holy Spirit to examine your heart?**

1 Peter 1:15-16 “Be holy, because I am holy.”

→ Posture: Living lives that reflect God's nature.

5. Surrender and Obedience

In God's manifest presence we hear Him speak. Often when He speaks, He gives instructions. In that atmosphere we are called to obey.

Isaiah 6:8 (ESV) “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send?’ And I said, ‘Here I am. Send me!’”

→ Posture: Willingness and responsiveness in His presence.

Romans 12:1 “Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

→ Posture: Total surrender, not just emotions but your whole self.

6. Love and Intimacy

God will linger when we communicate that we want to experience this manifest presence forever. We are saying, “More Lord more.”

Psalm 27:4 “One thing I ask from the Lord... that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life... to seek Him in His temple.”

→ Posture: Deep desire to remain near Him. Keep seeking Him continually. We can never say we have arrived.

John 15:4 (ESV) “Abide in me, and I in you...”

→ Posture: Ongoing intimacy and dependence.

We need never shout across the spaces to an absent God. He is nearer than our own soul, closer than our most secret thoughts. AW Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*

We are called to pursue God daily, not just occasionally. We must humbly yield our hearts, removing distractions. He wants us to speak simply and honestly to Him. If we maintain a posture of worship and adoration, we will be carriers of His glory.