

Prayer Focus

April 26 - May 2, 2021

The Presence

Cultivate a life of experiencing the presence of God, and expecting Him to act in your life and in the lives of those you touch. The best way to grow in your awareness of the presence of God is to read and meditate on His word.

In "The Practice of the Presence of God the Best Rule of a Holy Life," Conversations and Letters of Brother Lawrence (c. 1614 – 1691), Brother Lawrence makes a few points of note:

"That we should establish ourselves in a sense of God's Presence, by continually conversing with Him. ... That we should feed and nourish our souls with high notions of God; which would yield us great joy in being devoted to Him. That we ought to quicken, i.e., to enliven, our faith. That it was lamentable we had so little; and that instead of taking faith for the rule of their conduct, men amused themselves with trivial devotions, which changed daily. That the way of Faith was the spirit of the Church, and that it was sufficient to bring us to a high degree of perfection." pgs. 3-4.

"You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore." Psalm 16:11

"But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made my Lord ADONAI my refuge. So I will tell of all Your works." Psalm 73:28 (TLV)

May we understand the gift of the Holy Spirit. The very presence of God residing within us, leading us, gifting/empowering us to carry out works which bring glory to the Father through the Son.

"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" 1 Corinthians 3:16

When Paul was in Athens, the book of Acts tells us that his spirit was aroused within him when he saw the city was full of idols. Many wanted to hear his "new teaching."

"22 So Paul stood in the middle of Aereopagus and said, 'Men of Athens, I see that in all ways you are very religious. 23 For while I was passing through and observing the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: 'To an Unknown God.' Therefore what you worship without knowing, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by hands. 25 Nor is He served by human hands, as if He needed anything, since He Himself gives to everyone life and breath and all things. 26 From one He made every nation of men to live on the face of the earth, having set appointed times and the boundaries of their territory. 27 They were to search for Him, and perhaps grope around for Him and find Him. Yet He is not far from each one of us, 3 for 'In Him we live and move and have our being.'" Acts 17:22-28

- 1) When we are aware that we are in the presence of God, He uses us to reach out to others, speak words of wisdom, and draw them to Himself.
- 2) In His presence, He perfects us. He tenderly molds us and shapes us to be more Christlike. He also desires to minister to each one of us personally, all the time.

"When You said, 'Seek My face,' My heart said to You, 'Your face, LORD, I will seek."
Psalm 27:8

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." James 4:8, 10

- 3) His presence increases our faith. As He speaks, and we obey; He moves, and our faith increases.
- 4) Our faith also attracts His presence, i.e., when we live by faith, we are more aware of His presence.

Pray

- That intimacy with Your Savior would increase as You draw near to Him. May we
 feel His heartbeat, understand His will and word better; and long for His will to be
 done.
- For our faith to increase, that we would live by faith and not by sight, and that we would have a palpable sense of God's presence.

- Dr. Jason Hubbard, who was referencing Dave Gibson of the GO Movement, recommended to pray for BOB everyday:
 - B Burden, that we would have the burden of the Lord for the lost.
 - O Open Doors, that we would have doors opened to us to share the Gospel with those around us.
 - B Boldness, that we would be bold in making known the mystery of the Gospel.
- That our first instinct would be to listen to God before we do anything. May we begin, and never end, the ongoing conversation as Brother Lawrence described.
- For His perfect peace and joy to fill and overflow His church, the body of Messiah, and that we would experience His Presence moment by moment.

In Your Presence - Jesus Culture, ft. Kim Walker-Smith

https://youtu.be/uag979ObpBc

Website: http://www.prayerforce.live/

Prayer Force Weekly Equipping Hour Thursday's at 7:00pm Pacific

Prayer Force Room Sign-Up