

MORE OF YOUR PRESENCE

Our lives will be continually transformed as God reveals more of His presence to us.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ The presence of the Lord is everywhere, at all times. God is omnipresent and "in him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28).
- ❖ However, His presence is not always revealed or made known to people.
- ❖ Moses was tending to his father-in-law's sheep when God revealed Himself to him, calling to him out of the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-4).
- ❖ Moses had possibly led the flock to that place many times and God was always there. However, on this occasion God decided to reveal Himself to Moses.
- ❖ The presence of God we are referring to here is the revealed or manifested presence of God.
- ❖ The presence of God represents His character, His nature and His attributes.
- ❖ The presence of God is the very essence of life itself.
- ❖ Over the course of his life Moses had been exposed to the presence of God many times.
- ❖ The presence of God gave Jochebed, Moses's mother, the courage to keep him alive when he was a baby, in spite of Pharaoh's order that all male Hebrew babies should be killed. The presence of God moved her to act in faith and to put Moses into the Nile River, in a basket, when she was no longer able to hide him.
- ❖ After revealing Himself to Moses, God used him to deliver the children of Israel out of the bondage of Egyptian slavery.
- ❖ The Key Scripture text finds Moses having a conversation with God at the tent of meeting, interceding with God for himself and the children of Israel that God's presence wouldn't abandon them.
- ❖ Before this conversation, Moses had been on Mount Sinai with God for 40 days. The Israelites had begun to speculate that Moses was never coming back; they then decided to make an idol, and gave the idol credit for their glorious deliverance from Egyptian slavery.
- ❖ Exodus 32:35 says, "...the Lord smote the people, because of what they did with the calf which Aaron had made." Nevertheless, God was still willing to fulfill His designed destiny for their lives and to allow them to enter the Promised Land.
- ❖ But God also said, "I can't let My Presence go with the children of Israel, or I will end up killing them on the way because of their sinful ways" (see v. 3). So, Moses started pleading with God, saying, "If your presence is not with us then we don't want to go (see v. 15)"
- ❖ For Moses, the God-designed destiny of Israel, the favour and blessings God had in store for them, meant *nothing* if the presence of God was not with them.
- ❖ In fact, he said, it was the presence of God that distinguished the Israelites from everybody else.
- ❖ Even though we are by nature sinful beings, God will still allow us to accomplish His will for our lives if we

KEY SCRIPTURE: Exodus 33:12-18 NASB

- are willing to have a humble attitude, obey His word, repent and allow Him to change us.
- ❖ It is important to recognize that God has a designed destiny for each and every one of us.
- ❖ God has a purpose for our lives and He has preordained favour and blessings over us.
- ❖ The thing that makes us unique or a chosen generation and a peculiar people (*see 1 Peter 2:9*) is the revealed presence of God in our lives.
- ❖ After all that Moses had witnessed and experienced of the presence of God, he asked God to show him His glory; to show him more of His presence!
- ❖ If we want more of the presence of God to be manifested in our lives, we need to cry out to God. To seek after Him. To desire Him.
- ❖ God answered Moses' cry for more of His presence and revealed even more of Himself – more things about His character and nature – to Moses (Exodus 34:5-7).
- ❖ This is how we will know that God is giving us more of His presence: He will reveal more of Himself to us.
- ❖ We will experience more of the fruit of God's Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22).
- ❖ Our response to God revealing more of His presence to us should be to worship Him (Exodus 34:8).
- ❖ More of the presence of God is the answer to many of the challenges that some of us are facing.
- ❖ His presence will bring us liberty (2 Corinthians 3:17), personal transformation (2 Cor. 3:18) and joy (Psalm 16:11).

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. How would you describe the "presence of the Lord"?
2. Why was Moses so desirous of the presence of the Lord? Discuss.
3. Describe two ways a person's life could be changed by having more of the presence of God revealed to them.
4. How do you think *your* life would be impacted by having more of the presence of God revealed to you?
5. Discuss what "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (2 Cor. 3:17) means.

Prayer Time

Lord, please reveal more of Your presence to me so that I can be transformed to be more like You.

Start-up: Tell of a time when you saw something/someone and thought it was something/someone else. Were you scared? Embarrassed? Amused?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

- ✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)
- 🗣️ (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↺ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
 CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
 Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline