

ENTERING HIS PRESENCE

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- ❖ Right from the beginning of time,
 - God has wanted man to know him as their true God
 - To have close fellowship with him

TO KNOW HIM- WHO HE IS:

- He demonstrated who he is (his power and majesty); love and concern; mercy and compassion when he brought out Israel out of Egypt (Ex 7:5)
- That he is greater than all gods; (Ex 18:11)
- That he is a covenant maker and keeper (Ex 31:13)
- That he can dispossess nations for the elites' sake (Rev 23:43)
- That he is holy awesome and life changing

TO KNOW HIM- BY EXPERIENCE

- David- a humble shepherd boy who longed to know this God that had made him brave asked and he was given
- David- knew the God he served at the time of Goliath (1sam 17:45)
- Job- (by Experience)knew and he was sure that God is just and was rewarded (Job 19:25)

Note

- We also need to know God by our own Experience of him
- To get to know him; we need to spend time in his presence
- We need to seek him with our whole hearts (Jer 24:7)
- When we begin to seek him these will follow
 - He will give us his revelation in greater details (Eph1:17-19)
 - We shall know in certainty and in truth that he is the only true God and that Jesus his son came from the father (Jn17:2-3, 6-8)
 - We will have security and identity and our destiny is assured (Jn10:14)

Conclusion:

- We need to spend time in his presence that we may learn his ways: think the way he thinks and see things the way he sees them.

ABIDING IN HIM (Jn 15:2)

- One must abide not only in him; but in his love for love breaks down the hard crust in our hearts and out comes streams of living waters (Jn7:37)
- When he abide in him, his love, the following will occur
 - We will then be able to serve him sincerely (out of love)
 - Through us he will be able to reach and touch others through his love (1 Jn 4:11-12)
 - It will prepare us for Eternal life (1 Jn 2:24-25)

Note

In abiding there are degrees or stages the deeper the oneness the more the power of the risen life of Christ can operate in and through us

HOW DO WE ENTER INTO HIS PRESENCE;

We will learn this through the building of the tabernacle which God showed Moses

- ❖ The outer court;
 - It was used for sacrificing animals for the forgiveness of sins
 - In this outer area; people asked for forgiveness, blessings, help etc
- ❖ The holy place;
 - This was an inner area after the outer court
 - In this place was a table for the showbread and in it incense was offered.
- ❖ Holy of holies;
 - There was a curtain that divided the holy place from the holy of holies
 - The holy of holies contained the following; the ark of the covenant (which contained Aarons budding staff; manna and the stone tablets
 - On top of the Ark of the Covenant; it was overlaid in Gold. This is where the priest would pour the blood of animals, it was called the mercy seat
 - Its where the cloud of his presence would stand
 - The priest entered the holy of holies once a year
 - The ark was covered by two cherubim's with wings
 - The outer court- corresponds with the death of Christ on the cross and rising on the third day (1 Pet 2:24)
 - He died for the forgiveness of our sins and rose for our justification
 - Just like the outer court: Christ died outside the city
 - The only way into his presence is through the cross
- ❖ The Holy place- correspond with the praying for others (offering incense)
This is where after being accepted we offer thanksgiving; praise and bless his name (Ps 100:4)
- ❖ This is where many stop
- ❖ The Holy of holies- corresponds with the activity Jesus did when he died on the cross
 - The curtain was torn from top to bottom allowing us to access the very presence of God (Heb 10:19-22)
 - This he did with his own blood and gave a once for all sacrifice for our sins (Heb 9:12-14)

NB

1. God is with the believer all the time. The believer knows he/she is loved but entering his presence does not only knowing but experiencing that love and presence
 2. Worship always goes in ahead of us entering in just as the burnt scent of the incense entered the holy of holies before the priest
- In his presence these things may occur
 - He may speak/ instruct you
 - He may open the scriptures to you
 - He may direct you to intercede for someone
 - He may choose to move/act as we pray

The lamp stand in the tabernacle was lit 24hrs a day; seven days a week; in the same way the revelation of God is to be received 24hrs a day.

TO DWELL IN HIS PRESENCE

- There is a different in abiding and dwelling
- Abide-remain; continue; sustain

- Dwell-keep one's attention fixed, live in a specific place or state. (Ps 91:1-2)
- In order to dwell in his presence certain conditions must be met;
 - ❖ Living in righteousness
 - ❖ Righteousness will cause us to;
 - Have a Holy fear within
 - Guard ourselves against carnal fear
 - Cause us to repent quickly
 - Have a new hunger for the things of God
 - Seek him with our whole hearts daily (Ps 27:4-5)
 - ❖ When all these is done the End results is that we will find him
 - ❖ Results of finding God is
 - His peace will cover us like a tent
 - We will not be offended anymore by things that used to trouble us before
 - We will be able to deal with problems that come our way with wisdom and understanding justice and the righteousness of God
 - We will become more and more positive joyful and stronger in the Lord (Ps 84:4-6)

FOR HIM TO DWELL IN US

- For the holy spirit to dwell in us;
 - We have to be cleansed from every sin within us.
 - Sin must be confessed and dealt with for sin brings separation from God.
 - Must be careful not to grieve his holy spirit.
- The holy spirit dwells in us for we are his temple (1 cor 3:16-17)
- The temple within us can be likened to a physical temple with four pillars; a roof, a wall, and windows.
 - Pillar 1. Holiness - living a life clean from sin.
 - Pillar 2. Faith - living a life in Jesus.
 - Pillar 3. Love - love God and through his love, love one another.
 - Pillar 4. Power - through living for Jesus; dying to self in order to live for others releases Gods power through us in the gifts the lord has given us.
- ❖ The roof: we call this the truth, need to walk and live by total complete truth
- ❖ Walls; wisdom - keeps outside what should be outside(sin) and keeps inside what should be kept inside (the presence of the lord)
- ❖ Windows - let in the light of the lord, his full glory. Here is where the holy of holies lives.
- ❖ Senses;
 - Eyes are the windows of our bodies letting the light in (do not look at bad things which will pollute and let the darkness in)

(Through the Holy Spirit; God is able to dwell in our hearts (Eph 3:14-19)

 - Ears - like eyes, can let darkness and negative things enter in.
 - Ears let darkness into us through;
 - Gossip.
 - Unbelief.

We must;

 - Learn to fix our eyes on Jesus.
 - Look on the positive things in life.
 - Insist on doing well.
- The mouth;
 - The door way to the overflow

- Out of the heart's abundance, the mouth overflows.

Note

We will give an account of every foolish word we speak.

- The power the word can be very destructive, therefore we need to use it to;
 - Bless
 - Encourage
 - Forgive
 - Create life
 - Speak spiritual truth using spiritual language
 - Through the holy spirit ;
 - God is able to dwell in our hearts
 - We will be able to comprehend the fullness and completeness of his love towards us(Rom 8:35-39)
 - We need to receive the holy spirit;
 - Daily
 - Into our hearts, spirit mind and body.
 - To be able to discern his nature
 - To be able to also receive his love joy and peace
 - To be able to see from his perspective, think and understand others as he would.
 - Receiving him in our bodies will enable us to:
 - Actively feel his presence
 - Experience his cleansing
 - Access his power to walk in his ways.
 - As he dwells in us;
 - We are able to hear his voice
 - We are able to speak forth his words
 - We are able to allow him to touch and heal others through our hands
- The end result of this is;
- No unholiness will remain in us.
 - Even sicknesses will leave if Jesus indwells us to this extent.
 - We will be transformed.

TO WALK IN THE LIGHT OF HIS PRESENCE

The light of God's presence brings the light of life

- The light of life makes us to see clearly where we are going.

Example of a Torch

- The bulb has to be connected to the battery. (In the same way we must be connected to God)
- Any rust between the light bulb and the battery will cause it not to work. (any rust of sin between the believer and God will make the connection fail)
- Battery has to be replaced or recharged regularly. (In the same way our hearts must be recharged by prayer in God's presence.
- Prayer; spending time in his presence and receiving from him is most important. The busier we are for Him, the more time in His presence is needed. Not only to pray, but to rest in Him, wait on Him to fill us and prepare us for our day.
The Jews had to gather manna daily to eat as they journeyed to the Promised Land. It could not be preserved.

In the same way;

- A believer needs a spiritual infilling from God each day.
- Like manna in the desert yesterdays bread is no longer good enough for today
- We cannot save today's bread for tomorrow.
- A believer needs the true bread of life daily. (Jn 6:31-39)

NB: Just like have eating physical food to keep our bodies alive, we have to eat of the spiritual manna from God to keep our spirits alive and our lights burning. (Mt 5:16)

DIVINE COMMUNICATION (Ps 105:1-4)

From early times man has called on the name of the lord. (Gen 4:26)

- Throughout generations men continue calling on the name of the Lord these are some examples;
 - Abram (Gen 13:4)
 - Samson (Judges 16:28)
 - Solomon (1 Ki 8:39)
- From these examples; we learn that all have to call on the name of the lord. (2Ti 2:22)

Note:

Not only has man called on God but also God has called on man (Ex 3:4, 19:20, 1 Sam 3:4)

- God calls to man; Man hears and responds to him.
- This is 2 way communication Job 13:22,, 14:15

How do we learn to hear God?

- We have to put God first
- We have to thirst for his presence
- We must desire a higher deeper relationship Ex 33:13-14) only God's people seek this presence (for the world does not know it)
- We must call upon him in truth (Ps 145:18)
- When we call him:
 - He has promised to answer (Jer 33:2-3)
 - He has promised to protect us (Ps 91:14-16)
 - His presence will go with us
- Serving God is not a project it's an overflow
- As we wait on God for his presence and anointing only then we are able to go with his presence
- This will make us
 - Distinct in Christ
 - Different from all other people
 - Walk in his perfect love
- It is in his presence; that the Lord calms us and he activates his presence and Glory
- In silence we are able to hear him speak; Job 4:1617

HOLY FIRE

In scripture (Mt 22:11) a man was found in a wedding but without the proper Garments and he was thrown out

Which Garment is this?

- Walking in righteousness within the holy spirit upon us: (Eccl 9:8)
- Rev 16:15 states that if we are not clothed; we shall be shamelessly exposed. What does it mean?

- That the Lord's cloak of righteousness of white can cover any confessed sin; that would otherwise be exposed
- A soiled Garment versus a white Garment
- A soiled Garment is him who is soiled by sin; while a white Garment means righteousness (Job 29:14-16)

NB: It's important to note that our own righteousness cannot cloth us (for it's like filthy rags) but rather the righteousness of Christ through the forgiveness of sins

PURIFICATION OF FIRE (my own title)

- It's the Lord himself who baptizes us with his spirit and fire Mt (3:11)
- This fire appeared in the time of Pentecost (acts 2:1-4)
- At the burning bush also the fire burned and Moses drew closer to look Ex 3:2
- The most important about this fire is that it did not consume those involved
- The scripture states that our God is a consuming fire yet we are not consumed. How?
 - i. His fire burns within us and purges every sin in us to chaff and he refines the Good within us (1 Cor 3:10)

NB: like the burning bush; it will burn within us but will not consume us.

- This will;
 - Refine us until our characters are transformed into the image of Jesus
 - Penetrate into every area of our hearts and lives bringing to surface things that need dealing with
 - Heal the inner hurts of the past and bring in his life in abundance
- Many are called but few are chosen; spending time in the presence of God is the most worthwhile time you can spend on this earth.

The refiner's fire must first refine us.

 - We must pass through this fire;
 - then we can become God's chosen
 - it causes a brokenness in us as we open our hearts more and more to him

NB; Jesus went into the wilderness baptized in the Holy spirit and he came out of the wilderness full of the Holy spirit resulting in his miraculous ministry

TO BE CHOSEN BY HIM

There's no higher calling in our lives than to be chosen by God. But we have been trapped by earthly callings and are content with it, living on a lower level than God intended for us. (Eph 1:3-5)

To be chosen by him we have to;

- come to God through the cross
- enter in through the blood of Christ
- be sanctified cleansed and refined
- go through a time of testing first; Jesus in wilderness Moses Paul David etc
- these will produce in us good qualities in prayers and everyday life (Col 3:12-5)

TO BE LOVED BY HIM (2 Cor 5:14-15, Ro 5:5, Jn 15:9 17-23)

- Anybody can have a love relationship with Jesus 1 Jn 3:1 Eph 5:1
- with each of us he reveals himself differently, why;
 - because we are all so different in personalities and callings

How?

- Through pictures; visions or ideas to some it maybe in silence or words

Note:

- In every way, it is precious as the other and as meaningful to each individual
- It is biblical to hear from God as it is to speak to Him
- The joy of hearing God speak to you is that it confirms scripture (if it doesn't then the words are not from God) (Phil 1:9-10)
- Hearing God makes the word personal to us

When we obey Him and His commands and spend more time in Him

- We then receive more of His love (2 Cor 2:15)
 - It enables us to walk in His love and also die to self (Gal 2:20)
- His love enables us to;
- Become conquerors in our world
 - Connect to God
 - Walk in meekness and lowliness
 - See Him as greater and greater
 - Walk and think differently
- It is not how much we do but the amount of love with which we do it.
- To receive God's love within is different from living out God's love towards others
- God pours his love into our hearts that we may also it out to others
- This will continue until we become joined to Him with everlasting cords of love, invisible yet stronger than steel (Hos 11:4, 1 Cor 6:17)

NEW LIFE IN HIM

- The word life means; a living state, the time for which it lasts, the conscious existence of the soul after death (can also escape death) immortal, eternal, everlasting.
- Life is both physical and spiritual (where God dwells in us)
- It enriches: enhances; it brings God's life into us and through us in life, power, healing and vitality.

Results of the new life in God

- Healings
- Deliverance
- Power over
- There is an invitation from the Holy Spirit himself to all who would find life in Him (Rev 22:7)
- This invitation is of the Water of life which is priceless (Rev 21:5-6)

How can we receive it?

- By coming to him in prayer
- Drinking from Him without measure

Note;

- We have to be conquerors in order to receive the water of life
- Rev 2:7 speaks about the tree of life. This is where all life started in Genesis
- In order to eat it, we must:
- Conquer over sin

- Overcome temptation and tricks of the devil (2 Cor 4:10-12)

Carry the death of Christ within us so that we may also

- Carry His resurrected life
- He may become life to those who are dead to sin

The letter of the law condemns us but anyone dead to sin is given life in Christ by His spirit (2 Cor 3:6)

The Holy Spirit moves us from;

- Life to life
- One level of life to another
- The temporal life to eternal life

This makes us to become a sweet aroma and to show forth His true life

True belief in Christ is life because

- He is the resurrection
- He is God, in God and God
- All life is renewed from the father through the son by the Holy Spirit
- Life is in Him (both eternal as well as physical)

Note

The enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy; in contrast, Jesus came to give life and in abundance. As we live in His life, his purpose in the world can become our personal purpose as well

When we partake of the water that Christ gives us;

- His life dwells in us
- We become full of his life within us
- We become a spring of living water welling up to eternal life
- It enables us to share His life and word with others
- It enables us to pray for others
- The Holy Spirit enables us to walk on this earth in a new dimension in His life
- His life radiates through our lives wherever we go
- Life and light go together and Christ is life and light
- Where the light shines, darkness disappears
- His light shows us the way and brings truth and hope to all men
- Anyone who does not allow the lord into their lives;
- Cannot partake of the life that he wills to give
- Christ brings up the soul from the pit and gives it light and life (Job 33:30)
- The breath of God (Holy Spirit) gives life (Job 33:4)
- Christ has loved us so much that he has given us free choice to; (Deut 33:30)
 - Life and goodness in Him
 - Death and evil without Him

Note

- True strength is not power or might but to know what is right and stand for the truth
- The scriptures begin and end with the tree of life thus demonstrating the pattern of constant renewal by God, in God and through God
- By His one everlasting sacrifice on the cross;
 - We have His life working continually through our lives
 - He is now our love, joy, peace, strength, healing, forgiveness, etc
 - He is our victory
 - Through His forgiveness, we can rise into the Lord's unlimited grace

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH

We have been created to worship the Lord

Worship is;

- The highest form of service we can give the Lord
- To bring joy to our Lord

“Who is this great God whom all creation must worship?” (Rev 1:4-8)

- From how the living creatures see God (Rev 4:8) “Holy Holy Holy is the Lord God almighty who was and is and is to come
- From the eyes of the elders (Rev 11:16-17)
- From the angels (Rev 16:4-5)

Worship is an offering acceptable to God (1 Chron 16:27-29)

- The offering of ourselves (Mk 12:32-34, Rom 12)
- The offering of our lives
- The offering of giving ourselves out for others

Note

- In worship, we are able to join the angels in heaven and every living creature to worship Him (Ps 29:1-4, 95:6-7, 96:9, 132:7)
- True worship is;
 - A heart to heart connection with God
 - To become one in Him
 - A giving yourself to Him and also receiving from Him
- Prayer is unlimited treasure here on earth (the only one and it is available to each one of us.

TO REJOICE IN HIM

- In worship, we are able to rejoice in Him
- Like a garment, His presence covers our being (Is 61:10)
- When we receive what Jesus has done for us and live it out for him, God rejoices over us (Is 62:5)
- To live in the presence of the God is to seek Him continually (1 Chron 16:9-11)

This will help us to;

- Dwell in Jesus moment by moment
- Test each action before we do it
- Hopefully stay away from sin
- Constantly live by Him
- Be fully surrendered to Him

Conclusion

- ❖ We need to put on the Armor of God always complete with the garments of salvation which gives us the covering of His glorious presence
- ❖ Whether we worship Him in silence or out loud, in whispers or singing, in tears or in joy, in groans or in dancing, all is worship. And in His ear, it is a sweet aroma of incense that joins with all prayers of all the saints throughout history (Rev 8:1-4)
- ❖ To rejoice in Him and to know him is the most incredible, exulted joy one can ever know.