

# **The Presence of the Lord God**

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## The Historical Presence of God

After Adam and Eve sinned by eating of the forbidden fruit, they hid from God. Gen. 3:8-9, *“And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?”*

God had created man to be with him. He created and blessed man (Gen. 1:28), placed him in the garden of Eden (Gen. 2:8), brought animals to Adam for Adam to name (Gen. 2:19-20), and made woman for him (Gen. 2:21-24). We can see from these verses that what God wanted was a close and special relationship with man. He wanted to walk with them, talk with them, and be present in their lives day by day.

But they lost that beautiful garden because of their sin. Gen.3:23, *“Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.”* The sentence of death was passed on mankind at that time. 1 Cor. 15:21-22, *“For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”*

When Cain killed Abel, his punishment was to leave the presence of God. Gen. 4:14, *“Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.”* Verse 16, *“And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.”*

Sin separates man from God. Isa. 59:1-2, *“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”* Rom. 6:23, *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

Yet, throughout history, God maintained contact with His people in various ways. Heb. 1:1, *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,”*. He spoke directly to Noah (Gen. 6:13-21); He answered Job out of a whirlwind (Job 38:1); He called unto Moses out of the burning bush (Exo. 3:4); He was a still, small voice to Elijah (1 Kings 19:9-13). And in other ways He spoke to other prophets, as well.

## The Forgiving Presence of God

Matt. 1:21-23, “*And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”*

John 3:16-17, “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*” This was to be done through His death. Verse 14, “*And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up.*”

He died to forgive us our sins. 1 Pet. 2:24, speaking of Jesus, says, “*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*”

He forgave our sins so that we could once again have that close relationship with God. The next verse, 1 Pet. 2:25, says, “*For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.*” 1 Pet. 3:18, “*For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.*”

We receive the gift of His sacrifice by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9), in baptism (Eph. 2:5; Col. 2:12). Baptism is where we as individuals partake of His death, burial and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-6; Col. 2:12). So our sins are then washed away (Acts 22:16), and we are again the children of God through Christ (Gal. 3:26-27).

## The Worshipped Presence of God

Jesus said in Matt. 18:20, “*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*” Psa. 22:3, speaking of God, says, “*But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.*” Rev. 5:8, “*And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.*” Christ is with us when we worship God. God dwells in our praises. Our prayers are presented as a beautiful fragrance to God. The presence of the Lord God is with us when we worship Him.

## The Abiding Presence of God

Having been forgiven of our sins we can now have the presence of the Lord God abiding in our lives day by day.

God dwells within our hearts. Eph. 2:22, *“In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”* 1 John 3:24, *“And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.”*

Jesus Christ dwells within us. Eph. 3:17, *“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,”*. Jesus said in John 15:9-10, *“As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.”*

The Holy Spirit dwells within us. 1 Cor. 3:16, *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”* Rom. 8:16, *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”* Rom. 5:5, *“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”*

So we have the presence of God in our hearts every day, every hour. We can talk to Him in prayer any time we want. Do so often. Col. 4:2, *“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.”* And we can listen to what God has to say by reading His word often. 2 Tim. 3:16-17, *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*

A favorite verse about the abiding presence of God is found in 2 Cor. 13:14, *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.”*

## The Eternal Presence of the Lord God

Notice the pictures of abiding with God (and Jesus) forever in Matt. 25. First, verse 23, *“His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”* And verse 34, *“Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”*

It’s important, of course to read the whole stories, to see what we are to be faithfully doing. But what we are showing here is that if we are

faithful we will live with God forever in Heaven. Jesus told the church in Smyrna (and the same promise applies to us today) in Rev. 2:10, *“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”*

In Rev. 3:21, Jesus says, *“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”*

In Rev. 21:7, God says, *“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”*

Rev. 22:3-5, *“And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.”*

In Jesus Name,

Bro. Terry Warford



