

## **"EXPERIENCING GOD'S PRESENCE"**

### **PSALM 139:7-12**

**INTRO:** One of the great THEOLOGICAL TRUTHS ABOUT GOD is His attribute of being **OMNIPRESENT**. That is a word that is applied to the fact that **GOD IS ALL-PRESENT, THAT IS, HE IS EVERYWHERE AT THE SAME TIME**. In addition, for BORN-AGAIN BELIEVERS IN JESUS CHRIST, God is **PRESENT WITHIN US THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** (John 14:16,17; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19). The fact of the matter is that WE CAN NEVER GET AWAY FROM THE PRESENCE OF GOD AS HE IS NOT ONLY ALL AROUND US, BUT DWELLS WITHIN US. ***That is a fact!*** But the serious matter to consider is that there are MANY CHRISTIANS who have ***never really experienced God's presence in their lives that resulted in praise, worship and greater service unto the Lord.*** **WHY IS THAT THE CASE? – WHY IS IT THAT WE CAN GO FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME WITHOUT SENSING GOD'S PRESENCE EVEN THOUGH HE IS RIGHT WITHIN US?** Well, it could be because of UNCONFESED SIN in our lives. (UNCONFESED SIN WILL ALWAYS BLUR GOD'S PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES). BUT it could also be because:

- We are NOT fully prepared to Experience God's Presence in our Lives.
- We are NOT fully focused on God's Presence in our Lives.
- We DO NOT want to Experience God's Presence in our Lives.
- We DO NOT know how to Experience God's Presence in our Lives.

Today we are going to discuss the subject of EXPERIENCING GOD'S PRESENCE that will be impossible to complete in a 40 minute message, but I trust our study will be used of the Lord to encourage us to focus on HIS PRESENCE WITH US DAILY.

### **SCRIPTURES TO CONSIDER**

Proverbs 15:3; Jeremiah 23:23,24; Acts 17:27

**QUESTION:** AS A BORN-AGAIN BELIEVER, IN WHOM GOD'S PRESENCE DWELLS, DO YOU SENSE HIS PRESENCE AT THIS MOMENT?

**OBSERVATION:** OUR SPIRITUAL HEALTH, SERVICE AND WORSHIP DEPENDS UPON THE LEVEL WITH WHICH WE EXPERIENCE THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN OUR LIVES!

### **SEVEN BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES ON EXPERIENCEING GOD'S PRESENCE**

#### ***I. PRINCIPLE ONE: WE MUST MEDITATE UPON GOD'S WORD***

– **PSALM 1:1-3**

A. The Foundational Reality – We must thirst for God's Word – 1 Peter 2:2,3

B. The Fundamental Fact – We must digest God's Word – Joshua 1:8

**NOTE:** GOD MANIFESTS HIS PRESENCE TO THOSE WHO MEDITATE UPON HIS WORD THROUGH THE TEACHING AND ILLUMINATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

#### ***II. PRINCIPLE TWO: WE MUST OBEY GOD'S WORD***

– **ECCLESIASTES 12:13**

A. The Matter of Initial Obedience at Salvation – Matthew 7:21

B. The Matter of Increasing Obedience Day by Day – Deuteronomy 26:16

**NOTE:** GOD MANIFESTS HIS PRESENCE TO THOSE WHO HABITUALLY OBEY HIM.

#### ***III. PRINCIPLE THREE: WE MUST SEPARATE FROM THE WORLD***

– **Romans 12:2**

A. The World System is in total opposition to God. – 1 John 2:15-17

B. The World System around us is in conflict with the Word of God that is in us.

C. The World System will greatly hinder our relationship with God

1. It will hinder our Concentration upon God
2. It will hinder our Expectation of God
3. It will hinder our Anticipation of God

**NOTE:** THE WORLD SYSTEM WILL DIM OUR VIEW OF GOD

**IV. PRINCIPLE FOUR: WE MUST SPEND TIME IN SILENCE WITH GOD**

**- Zechariah 2:13**

- A. Silence before God is the Result of Recognizing His Holiness.
- B. Silence before God enables God to Speak to Us Clearly.

**NOTE: SILENCE BEFORE GOD WILL BRING HIS WORD ALIVE IN OUR HEARTS**

**V. PRINCIPLE FIVE: WE MUST EXPECT GOD TO MAKE HIS PRESENCE KNOWN**

**-Jeremiah 29:11-13**

- A. Seek God's Presence at the Beginning of the Day.
- B. Search for God's Presence as the Day Progresses.
- C. Sensitize yourself to God's Presence Moment by Moment

**NOTE: IF WE EXPECT GOD TO REVEAL HIS PRESENCE TO US, HE WILL DO SO**

**VI. PRINCIPLE SIX: WE MUST MAINTAIN A REVERENTIAL RESPECT FOR GOD**

**-Psalm 96:6**

- A. A Negative Observation: We have a great lack of respect of God today.
- B. A Positive Application: As we get to know God more, we will respect Him more and we will experience Him more.

**NOTE: THE MORE WE RESPECT GOD THE MORE HE WILL REVEAL HIMSELF TO US.**

**VII. PRINCIPLE SEVEN: WE MUST MAKE ROOM FOR GOD'S PRESENCE**

**-Revelation 3:20**

- A. A Sad Reality – Some Christians never sense the presence of God because too many other things fill their lives.
- B. A Sure Fact – When we make room for God FIRST, we will experience His presence without any doubt.

**NOTE: KEEPING OUR LIVES EMPTY OF THINGS WILL ENABLE OUR LIVES TO BE PERMEATED WITH GOD**

**LESSON/APPLICATION**

**GOD WANTS US TO EXPERIENCE HIS PRESENCE EVERY MOMENT OF EVERY DAY. AND EXPERIENCING HIS PRESENCE WILL GIVE US STRENGTH AND DIRECTION IN LIFE. APPLYING EACH OF THESE PRINCIPLES DAILY WILL ENHANCE OUR SENSE OF GOD'S PRESENCE IN GREATER WAYS THAN WE CAN IMAGINE...AND THE RESULT WILL BE A LIFE LIVED FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.**