

## THE UNIVERSAL PRESENCE OF GOD

Ps. 139:8-10    1 Ki. 8:27    Gen. 28:16

**Introduction:** Describe Jacob's experience and his exclamation: "*...Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not!*" Read the other texts.

- God dwells in His creation and is everywhere present in all His works.
- For some reason this wonderful fact has not sunk into the average Christian's heart so as to become a part of his/her believing self.
- **The Lord is among us and we don't even know it!**

### 1. God is here!

- Wherever we are, God is here. There is no place He is not. No place is closer than another.
- "*In the beginning God...*" Not matter, not cause, not law, not mind, **But God!** Behind all things is God!
- Adam sinned and tried to do the impossible - hide from the presence of God.
- David also thought of running from God, for he wrote: *Ps. 139:8-10*.
- Jonah tried to run from God.
- Solomon exclaimed in wonderment how could God be contained in a house? *1 Ki. 8:27*

### 2. If God is indeed here then why has not His presence become the one universally celebrated fact of the world?

- Jacob had never been outside the circle of God's presence, yet he never knew it.
- **Men do not know that God is here. What a difference it would make if they knew.**
- God's **omnipresence** and **manifestation** presence are not the same. Can be one without the other.
  - God's omnipresence is here when we are totally unaware of it.
  - God's manifestation is only when and as we are aware of His Presence.

### 3. How does one become aware of God's manifestation presence?

- When we **surrender** to the Holy Spirit for it is His work to show us the Father and the Son.
- When we **obey** the Holy Spirit, God will manifest Himself to us and that manifestation will be the difference between a nominal Christian life and a glowing life, radiant with the light of God.
- God is not trying to keep His presence a secret. He seeks to reveal Himself and all that He is.
- Nobody ever had to beg God to reveal Himself. (Moses, Jacob, Elijah, Enoch, Noah, etc)
- When we begin to believe that God wants to actually reveal Himself to us, it will be a great moment.
- God does not come from a great distance to pay a brief visit to His children. There is no such thing as space or time separating one from God. One doesn't have to shout to an absent God.
  - God is nearer than our own soul, closer than our most secret thoughts.

**4. Why does God manifest His presence to some and let multitudes struggle along in half-light?**

- God has no favorites - His will is the same for all - All He has done for any of His children, He will do for all of His children.
- **The difference lies not with God, but with us.**
- Pick at random any of the great saints whose lives and testimonies are widely known. None of them are alike (Moses/Isaiah, Elijah/David, John/Paul) including men of our own day.
- Their differences are as wide as human life: race, nationality, education, temperament, habits, personal qualities. Yet they all walked, each in his own day, in the manifest presence of God.
- What did they have in common? What vital quality did they share?

**5. Those to whom God has manifested His Presence were spiritually receptive.**

- Something within them urged them God-ward. (Every human has the capacity to know God)
- They were spiritually aware and went on to cultivate it until it became the biggest thing in their lives.
- When they felt the inward longing, tugging of the Holy Spirit, they did something about it.
- They developed a lifelong habit of spiritual response.

**6. Spiritual awareness must be developed.**

- An affinity for - a bent toward - a sympathetic response to - a desire to have God's manifest presence.
- It can be present in degrees, (a little or more or less), increased by exercise or destroyed by neglect.
- We are a generation of **microwave** christians, pushbuttons, instant this and that, everything automatic.
- We have been trying to apply microwave techniques to our relations with God.
  - We read our chapter in the Bible, have our short prayer and rush away, trying to fill that emptiness by reading a christian book or attending a christian meeting of some kind.
  - We copy each other's spiritual lives and habits, making someone else's experiences our own hoping that somehow we can be like those we read and hear about who have seen God.
- We know nothing of a **crockpot** relation with God. One that is slow, deliberate, thorough, cultivative, gradually absorbing and obeying all that the Holy Spirit is doing until one day God manifests His presence.

**Conclusion:**

1. It will take a determined heart and an enormous amount of courage to break yourself loose from the grip of our times and ways and return to Biblical ways - **Crockpot spiritual awareness.**
2. Let any person seek God's face in earnest, begin to exercise godliness, seek to develop powers of spiritual awareness by trust and obedience and humility, and the results will exceed anything ever hoped for.
3. **God is here! God wants to reveal Himself, personally, to you. He is trying to get your attention and you have within you the resources, the ability for this to happen.**
4. *"O God and Father, I repent of my sinful preoccupation with visible things. The world has been too much for me. Thou hast been here and I knew it not. I have been blind to Thy Presence. Open my eyes that I may behold Thee in and around me. For Christ's sake. Amen."*