

WHERE IS GOD NOT?

Genesis 28:16; 1 Kings 8:27; Psalm 139:8-10; Revelation 3:20

Introduction: A man named Jacob was fleeing for his life for he had deceived his brother and lied to his father and was now fearful for his life. Resting finally, he fell asleep and had what turned out to be an experience with God. Upon rising the next morning, he exclaimed, "*...surely the Lord was in this place; and I knew it not...*" Indeed the Lord is in every place and nobody knows it for God dwells in His creation everywhere and is in all that He has created. Why is it that of all people, Christians don't seem to be aware that God is always present, no matter where they are?

1. God is right HERE!

- Wherever anybody is, God is there. There is no place God is not! No place is closer than another.
- "*...In the beginning GOD...*" Behind all things is not matter, not cause, not law, not mind, but God!
- Adam and Eve sinned and they tried to do the impossible - hide from the presence of God.
- David also thought about running from God, for he wrote *Psalm 139:8-10* after giving it more thought.
- Remember Jonah? He tried to run from God. Did he make it?
- Solomon, a wise man, exclaimed in wonder about how could God be contained in a "house?"

1 Kings 8:27

2. If God is HERE, then why has not His presence become one greatly celebrated fact around the world?

- Jacob never knew that he had never been anywhere that God was not.
- What a difference it would make if people would realize that God is wherever they are.
- There is a difference, however, between God's omnipresence and God's manifestation.
 - God's omnipresence is when He is here and nobody is aware of it, an unrevealed presence.
 - God's manifestation is when He is here and people are aware of His revealed presence.

3. How does a person become aware of God's revealed, manifestation, presence?

- When a person surrenders him/herself totally to God, the Holy Spirit will reveal/show God, the Father and Jesus, God, the Son.
- When a person obeys the Holy Spirit, God will manifest Himself to that person and the difference will be that of a nominal Christian life and a glowing, radiant life glowing with the light of God.
- No way is God trying to keep His presence a secret for He seeks to reveal Himself to everyone, all that He is.
- Nobody ever had to beg God to reveal Himself. Remember Moses, Jacob, Elijah, Enoch, Noah and others mentioned who walked and talked with God?
- When a person begins to believe that God actually wants to reveal Himself to him/her, it will be a great moment in that person's life.
- God does not have to come from a great distance to pay a brief visit to any of His Children. There is no such thing a space or time separating a Christian from God. Neither does one have to shout as if God is not there.
 - God is nearer than a person's own soul, closer than one's most secret thoughts.

4. Why is it that God manifests His presence to some and lets countless struggle along in a little light?

- God has no favorites! God's will is the same for everyone. All/what God has done for any of His Children, He will/has done for all of His children.

- The difference lies not with God but with His Children. (*Revelation 3:20*)
- Think about the great saints of the Bible whose lives and testimonies are widely known. None of them were alike (Moses/Isaiah, Elijah/David, John/Paul), including people of our own time.
- Their differences were as wide as human life/nature: race, nationality, education, temperament, habits, personal qualities, yet they all walked, each in his own day, in the manifest presence of God.
- What then did they have in common? What quality did they share?

5. Those to whom God manifested His presence were SPIRITUALLY receptive.

- There was something within them that urged them God-ward. Every human being has the capacity to know God.
- They were spiritually aware and proceeded to cultivate it until it became the biggest thing in their lives.
- When they felt the inward longing, the tugging of the Holy Spirit, they responded, they did something.
- They developed a lifelong habit of positive spiritual response.

6. Important: Spiritual awareness has to be developed!

- There has to be an affinity for it, a leaning toward it, a sympathetic response to it, a desire to have God's presence manifested (revealed).
- God's presence can be in degrees, a little more or a little less, increased by exercise or destroyed by neglect.
- Ours is a generation of microwave Christians, pushbuttons, instant this and that, everything automatic.
- Christians of today have been applying microwave techniques to their relations with God.
 - One reads a chapter in the Bible, has a short prayer and hurries off to go, trying to fill that pull of the Holy Spirit, that emptiness by reading a Christian book or attending a Christian meeting of some sort.
 - Christians copy each other's spiritual lives and habits, trying to make someone else's spiritual experiences their own, hoping that somehow to be like that person or those people they have seen or read about who have seen God personally and up close.
- Christians know nothing of a slow, deliberate, steady relation with God. They know nothing of a deliberate, thorough, cultivative, gradual, absorbance, bringing obedience to all that the Holy Spirit is doing until God manifests His presence to them. NO! Everything today has to be instant, therefore, few have ever experienced the actual presence of God manifested.

CONCLUSION:

1. If you want to experience God's manifested presence, then you are going to have to have a determined heart and break away from today's "instant" attitude and return to God's ways of "waiting."
2. Any person who seeks God's face in earnest, who begins to exercise godliness, seeks to develop powers of spiritual awareness by trust, obedience and humility will experience things far exceeding anything ever hoped for.
3. **GOD IS HERE!** There is no place that God is not! God wants to reveal Himself to YOU and He has been trying to get your attention. You have within you everything needed to cause this to happen. Open your eyes and behold your God.