

# The Presence of God in our World

Psalms 16:9-11

In your presence is fullness of joy

Have you ever wondered about the presence of God? Thought about it, mulled over it. Every day God wants to impact our world through His presence. As we head into a super morning on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September "presence" it would be good for us to explore the word of God and gain some revelation about the Presence of God.

1. **The presence of God moves.** It is not resident in a location permanently. It flows. It's very much like a river.

We can step into in and out of it. It can flow right past us and we not even notice. It moves.

**Religion will always stifle the presence of God because it wants to define it and chain it to a location, act or belief.** God is not defined by our 3 dimensional life! Anything that criticizes, pulls down or attempts to lampoon God to a specific formality will hinder the presence of God.

There are two main things which stop the flow.

- a. Disunity stops the flow.
- b. Criticism stops the flow. We all have a right to speak what we believe or like, but more importantly we all have a responsibility to walk in unity. Too often in modern society we are critical. God wants us to walk in faith. He wants us to walk in His presence.

The presence of God moves. It can move away from us and we can move away from it. It can move towards us and we can move towards it.

## 2. The presence of God changes people.

Our response to the presence of God is paramount when looking at how it affects our world.

In the Bible we have two men named Saul. Each of these guys came under the presence of God. They were touched by something outside of themselves.

### **1 Samuel 19:20-24**

#### ***Saul in the Old Testament***

Saul comes to a company of prophets all mad and wanting to kill David. He falls down and then starts to prophesy. Wow. He is touched by the power of God. He starts to do something that previously he was unable to do. He prophesied. We don't know what he said or how he prophesied but what we do know is that he came under the influence of the presence of God. He was touched.

**When the Spirit of God/ The presence of God comes on you, it comes with the capacity for change.** Whether we embrace that change is up to us?

**The presence of God has the capacity to change:**

**1. Attitudes**

- a. Saul comes in all heated up and then starts prophesying 'in like manner'. With the same attitudes and mannerisms as if God is speaking.

**2. Abilities/Strengths**

- a. Saul lays down (v24). When we encounter the presence of God our physical strength takes second place to the presence of God. That's why sometimes people fall over when the presence of God hits them. Sometimes people cry or shake.

**3. Giftings**

- a. Saul is a King not a prophet. Yet when the presence of God hits him he starts to prophesy. This is something he could not do before. Want to increase in your giftings? Get in the Presence of God.

**4. Desires**

- a. Saul came with a desire to capture and kill David. Yet when he encounters the presence of God, something changes. 'All that day and all that Night'. His desires change and he prophesies instead. His desire is to prophesy not kill while under the presence of God.

Amazingly even though the presence of God touches his life and these four areas Saul isn't changed. He did not allow the presence of God to change him he was still the same.

In 1 Samuel 20:30-31 we see that his attitude, strengths, and desires haven't changed. His words hadn't changed. His desire was still to kill. He used the gift of prophesy to speak our words of death.

**When we meet the presence of God we choose whether we allow that presence to change us.** It's our choice. That's why people can come to church, sit under the presence of God, cry, get healed, shake, fall down and even get visions. Yet many of these same people can leave church still carrying un-forgiveness, bitterness, anger, jealousy, criticism and division and then many of these people turn around and blame others as to why God is not coming through for them.

***Saul in the New Testament  
Acts 9:1-9***

**The presence of God brings a capacity to change:**

**1. Attitudes**

- a. In verse one Saul was 'still breathing threats' yet in v6 he is 'trembling and astonished'. This is one major change in attitude

## **2. Strength**

- a. He fell to the ground. (v4)

## **3. Gifting**

- a. He saw no one. (v5) His gifting was changed. He couldn't see. Seeing is the art of prophesying. God changed his ability under His Presence.

## **4. Desires**

- a. Saul asks 'What do you want me to do?' What a turn around, from someone who wanted to zealously pursue Christians to one who wanted to follow God.

Want to have God's presence do something for you? Allow it to change you. **Change comes from obedience to the word of God.** Obedience always brings favour and fruitfulness.

What's even more amazing than these obvious differences is that the New Testament's Saul whole identity changes. His name changed from Saul to Paul.

**When we get under and allow the presence of God to alter us we get a new identity with none of the hang ups of the old one.**

Saul number two was touched by God and his response meant that he changed. It even led to a name change. A Change in Identity. A Change in the way he walked, talked and thought. His whole world got turned upside down and he changed.

We can let the presence of God change us or we can just be touched by God. Many people come to church, or connect with God. But not everyone allows God's presence to change them.

- 3. The presence of God relocates people.

Relocation is moving from one place to another. For us as Christians its about changing

- a. identity
- b. Attitudes
- c. Softness of heart

- 4. The presence of God brings freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17 Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is Liberty.

This a statement. A strong statement about the work of the Presence of the Lord.

- 5. The Presence of God doesn't come from actions but flows through the heart.