

Articles and Sermons :: Do you know the presence of God?

Do you know the presence of God?, on: 2010/11/3 16:12

Today there is an invasion into the church as there was in the 90s. So many false, deceiving spirits have flooded into the church. They have flooded into a dry and parched land. Men and woman are getting "high," on Jesus and acting like they are drunk. It is so sad to see. It has especially taken hold of the younger generation. Such a hungry and thirsty generation, devoid of any knowledge of the actual presence of the Lord.

On the other end of the spectrum we see a deadness in so many churches. Now, it's the same malady, just with different expressions. One is dry, dead, life-less bones, the other is people "rising up to play," in calf-worshiping madness but both groups are in the same camp, they are devoid of the presence of God.

And there in lies the root of the problem, the presence of God. When men who are called by the name of Jesus, but are devoid of the presence of God, try and serve Him in their own strength, they will fail spectacularly. We live in such a generation. Deadness or madness. Yet God has His people, His remnant people. God's people are those who walk in His presence, or those who desire too. Here are examples of both of these camps. These are two letters I received in the last two years. The first one is from one who desires His presence and the second is from one who walks in His presence. Both of these camps are His, one is just further down the road. Letter # 1.

"I have heard there was a time when you could go into a church and feel the presence of God. You would tiptoe in and cry at the altar and tiptoe out. You would talk about church all day and at bedtime. You would talk to your neighbors about the Lord. Does anyone know what I am talking about? Does your church have God's presence there? When we witness to neighbors about the Lord, do we tell them about our church, do we tell them about the programs we offer? Do we tell them about our softball team or about our free cup or our free espresso from our Coffee Bar? Or, do we say, just come and I guarantee you that you will meet God. Come to Him and He will reveal Himself to you if you will humble yourself. I got saved in my 20s and was a professing sinner, then I really got saved about 6 years ago, now I am in my mid 40s. I hear about the old days from all the grey headed ladies in church. I am hungry for God's manifest presence and I need to know what to do about it. I pray, I confess, I do not live in any known sin, yet I stumble at times and the Holy Spirit convicts me and I immediately repent. I go to prayer meetings at church. I read my Bible, I talk about Jesus at work and try to get them to come to my, or any church. What are we doing wrong, or me? Is my church under judgment? Or our nation? Is there churches out there experiencing God where the Spirit is moving and people are confessing and their lives are being changed? They are living for Christ and dying to self and carrying their cross? Jesus, please show yourself."

That letter was from a seeker. She longs for the presence of God. This next letter is from a man who responded to a question that I had asked in a post, the question was "Can you say I have no King but Jesus." Now listen to what the man writes, for in this letter you will read the words from a man who walks in the presence of God. You could only hear these words from one who walks in the presence of God. You will not hear it from those who get "high," on Jesus or get "drunk," on Jesus. For one who has truly encountered the majesty of the Risen King can only bow and speak in hushed tones of something so remarkable that, unless given words by the Holy Spirit, that one could not even begin to describe His King.

"I was overshadowed by the Presence of the Spirit of God.

In that moment I felt His deep love rest upon me... an indescribable release and rapture in my spirit, accompanied by a peace and a joy unspeakable that only comes from the Holy Spirit... it felt as if my innocence was completely returned to me in that moment before God, and indeed it was, as the Blood of the Lamb was sprinkled over my sins. It was in that moment, while the Spirit of God was upon me, that I humbly looked up into heaven and I worshipped Him who made the Heavens and the Earth. It was in that moment that I decided that I would love the God of heaven forever... I decided this, and I told Him so.

In that moment I understood the beauty of the Lord, His magnificence and His majesty; I felt my soul knit to the Lord. My soul loves Him above all else in this life, for He is my lot and my portion forever. In that moment I understood Him in the depths of my spirit; I cried out to the one who formed me from the dust of the Earth and I said to Him... I will love you in my heart forever! I made my abode with Him, and He came into my heart and He made His abode with me.

My mind is continually upon Him... His anointing remains with me. I feel His Spirit continually drawing me... and my heart is tender and loves Him above anything else in this world. It is hard to put such things into words because these things

s are Spirit. I love Him in my very soul; in the very center of my being...I cannot explain it. I extol Him above all things as standing before Him. I yield to your Spirit Lord Jesus, that I should love you in this way. I desire you above the love of women; my soul yearns and thirsts for you; I am born of you. I choose to love you in my heart, for you are beautiful to me, I love everything about you...your gentleness, your kindness, your long suffering, forgiveness and patience for me, the list goes on and on...Oh to worship you in your beautiful glory, in the beauty of holiness. Oh to behold you...how my soul is transformed into your image as I worship you...Oh to be as you are my Lord and my King. To be like you, to be called your son is the greatest gift and reward of love...to have your beautiful Holy Spirit in my soul changing me into your image. I have no King but Jesus!

My heart is tender and contrite...melted within me by the holy fire of God's love, as wax before the Flame. Oh how I love and extol the living God of heaven!! Oh how truly pleased I am with Him!! With deepest humility I want to state how grateful I am that the Lord has saved me, and washed me from my sins, and that my name is written down in heaven! With humility of spirit, meekness, unpretentiousness and modesty, I gladly accept your calling on my life oh love of my soul...with the joy and communion of the Holy Spirit. Your word, your pure and holy word burns within me with indescribable and unquenchable fire and zeal; I love, worship and extol you oh living God of heaven...beyond all else in this life. I have no King but Jesus!"

You see brothers and sisters, these are the words of a man who has encountered the living God. He speaks only of His Lord, he is enraptured in a love that has led to a grand obsession. His life has been overtaken, he has certainly been overshadowed by the presence of God. Listen to what A.W. Tozer says about the same subject..."

"When I was a young man, I happened to get into the company of an elderly woman. God bless her memory. She did not have too much theology. But she believed that the way to get filled by the Holy Spirit was to get down on your knees and die out and open your heart. Not having very much theology either, at the time, I thank God, I obeyed. The result was an old-fashioned mighty invasion of my nature by the Holy Spirit."

Oh brothers and sisters, can I ask you, have you had such an invasion? Has your nature been captured by the beauty of Holiness? Have you gotten down on your knees and died out and opened up your heart, your whole heart, to Jesus? We need the baptism- we need the presence of God. The enemy knows that and he knows that if a sleeping church gets a hold of that then his plans and his kingdom will suffer direct damage.

D. L. Moody

D.L. Moody was a successful minister but by his own admission later, he lacked the power in his ministry. One day two women came up to him after a service. They said, "We have been praying for you." "Why don't you pray for the people?" he asked. "Because you need the power of the Spirit," they said. "I need the power! Why," said Mr. Moody, in relating the incident years after, "I thought I had power. I had the largest congregations in Chicago, and there were many conversions."

Moody also said that in a sense, he was satisfied. He was in a comfort zone. But these two praying women rocked the boat. They told him that they were praying for an anointing by the Holy Spirit for D.L. to have a special service to God. He could not get this off his mind and he said, "There came a great hunger in my soul. I did not know what it was and I began to cry out to God as never before. I felt I did not want to live if I could not have this power for service". After the great fire of Chicago, DL was working to raise money to rebuild a tabernacle. He said his heart was not into it because he kept crying out to God to fill him. He withdrew and prayed during a visit to New York to raise money and he cried that God would fill him with His Spirit. DL describes it this way:

"Well, one day, in the city of New York -- oh, what a day! -- I cannot describe it, I seldom refer to it; it is almost too sacred an experience to name. Paul had an experience of which he never spoke for fourteen years. I can only say that God revealed Himself to me, and I had such an experience of His love that I had to ask Him to stay His hand. I went to preaching again. The sermons were not different; I did not present any new truths, and yet hundreds were converted. I would not now be placed back where I was before that blessed experience if you should give me all the world -- it would be as the small dust of the balance.

R. A. Torrey gives his testimony:

The address of this afternoon, and the addresses of the days immediately to follow, are the outcome of an experience, and that experience was the outcome of a study of the Word of God. After I had been a Christian for some years, and after I had been in the ministry for some years, my attention was strongly attracted to certain phrases found in the Gospels a

and in the Acts of the Apostles, and in the Epistles, such as "baptized with the Holy Spirit," "filled with the Spirit," "the Holy Spirit fell upon them," "the gift of the Holy Spirit," "endued with power from on high," and other closely allied phrases. As I studied these various phrases in their context, it became clear to me that they all stood for essentially the same experience; and it also became clear to me that God has provided for each child of His in this present dispensation that they should be thus "baptized with the Spirit," or, "filled with the Spirit."

As I studied the subject still further, I became convinced that they described an experience which I did not myself possess, and I went to work to secure for myself the experience thus described. I sought earnestly that I might "be baptized with the Holy Spirit." I went at it very ignorantly. I have often wondered if anyone ever went at it any more ignorantly than I did. But while I was ignorant, I was thoroughly sincere and in earnest, and God met me, as He always meets the sincere and earnest soul, no matter how ignorant he may be; and God gave me what I sought, I was "baptized with the Holy Spirit." And the result was a transformed Christian life and a transformed ministry.

So my question is, what is this presence of God in a believer's life, what does it look like? Listen to the lyrics of a once popular Christian song...

When I look into Your holiness
When I gaze into Your loveliness
When all things that surround become shadows
In the light of You

When I've found the joy of reaching Your heart
When my will become enthroned in Your love
When all things that surround become shadows
In the light of You

I worship You I worship You
The reason I live is to worship You

Can you answer these questions brothers and sisters...

- a. Have you found the joy of reaching His heart?
 - b. Has your will become enthralled in His love?
 - c. Have all things that surround you become shadows in the light of Him?
 - d. Can you say that the reason that you live is to worship Jesus?
 - e. Can you say that your soul longs after Him as the deer pants for the water brooks?
- D Can you say your soul longs, yea, even faints for the courts of Jehovah; my heart and my flesh shout for joy to the living God. ?

Rev 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts; and shuts and no one opens, says these things:

Rev 3:8 I know your works. Behold, I have given before you an open door, and no one can shut it. For you have a little strength and have kept My Word and have not denied My name.

Rev 3:9 Behold, I give out of those of the synagogue of Satan, those saying themselves to be Jews and are not, but lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

Rev 3:10 Because you have kept the Word of My patience, I also will keep you from the hour of temptation which will come upon all the habitable world, to try those who dwell upon the earth.

Rev 3:11 Behold, I come quickly. Hold fast to that which you have, so that no one may take your crown.

Rev 3:12 Him who overcomes I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will go out no more. And I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of Heaven from My God, and My new name.

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him and he with Me.

Rev 4:1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door was opened in Heaven. And the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me, saying, Come up here, and I will show you what must occur after these things.

Rev 4:2 And immediately I became in spirit. And behold, a throne was set in Heaven, and One sat upon the throne.

And so, for God's people, this open door is nothing less than the presence of God Himself. No matter our circumstances, we have this promise. Many company bosses have an "open door" policy which means any of his employees can come and talk to him any time they want. God's people have such an open door before them. No power in the universe can shut this door. And because of this open door that He sets before His people, in the hour of temptation, and here is the Greek word hora which means season and temptation is the Greek word pi-ras-mos meaning "a putting to the proof," God's people will not be swept away. This season is beginning to unfold, when all things will be put to the proof. God's people who have this open door before them will stand fast, because this open door is the way to the throne of Grace and His grace is sufficient for every situation.

Those who stand upon the Rock of Christ are immovable, even in the midst of mighty storms. When all around them fall, God's people do not fall because they come before the throne of grace and stand in the presence of Almighty God. Jesus Christ our Lord is our fore-runner. Heb 6:19 says that Jesus is an anchor for our soul, He is sure and steadfast and has entered within the veil- meaning that He went before us and made a way back to the Father. He stands as the door, calling, beckoning us into the presence of God. He is our High priest who by dying on the cross, ripped the veil from top to bottom to show us what lay behind it. Can you imagine the horror when the veil was rent in two, it did not expose the ark of the covenant, it exposed the fact that there was nothing there, nothing there. In Act chapter 7, Stephen, speaking by the Holy Spirit of God says this...
"The Most High does not dwell in Temples made with hands." God was not behind the veil, hidden and inaccessible to man, look!!!!!! The presence of God was hung high upon a tree, humbled and naked for all the world to see. The presence of God is Jesus and Jesus is the door to His people and the door leads directly into the holy of holies, God's own throne-room where Jesus stands at the right hand of the Father.

This is our promise, we stand upon this, this is our refuge, this is our high tower. In the times that are to come, in the midst of persecution and tribulation, in the hour of our temptation, in the season where all men are put to the proof, we will stand in this place. Even as Stephen was being stoned to death, there was an open door set before him.

When Moses and the children of Israel stood with their backs to the sea with the mightiest army in the world bearing down on them, behold there was an open door set before them. And Ezekiel and Daniel in Babylonian captivity, it did not stop them having an open door before them, each seeing visions and coming into the presence of God. What about the three Hebrew children in the midst of a fiery furnace, was their even one hair on their head singed? No, and why? There was an open door before them, there stood in the midst of the fire, Jesus Himself.

Paul and Silas, after being scourged and thrown into the deepest dungeon at the midnight hour, was not an open door set before them? The very presence of God, so much so that a mighty earthquake shook the whole jail. Oh brothers and sisters, if we will only be still, trust and believe shall we not see the glory of God?

Isa 6:3 And one cried to another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is Jehovah of Hosts; the whole earth full of His glory.

Isa 6:4 And the doorposts moved at the voice of the one who cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

Joh 10:1 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who does not enter into the sheepfold by the door, but going up by another way, that one is a thief and a robber.

Joh 10:2 But he who enters in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

Joh 10:7 Then Jesus said to them again, Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

Joh 10:9 I am the door.

And so brothers and sisters, if you can say yes to

- a. Have you found the joy of reaching His heart?
 - b. Has your will become enthralled in His love?
 - c. Have all things that surround you become shadows in the light of Him?
 - d. Can you say that the reason that you live is to worship Jesus?
 - e. Can you say that your soul longs after Him as the deer pants for the water brooks?
- D Can you say your soul longs, yea, even faints for the courts of Jehovah; my heart and my flesh shout for joy to the living God

Then you can say that you have found this open door that was set before you. This is the beauty of His presence, this is what it means to walk with Him. If you cannot say yes to this, but you are seeking the genuine presence of God, do what Tozer said "Get down on your knees and die out and open your heart." The result will be an invasion of your nature by the Holy Spirit that will ruin you for all of this world. He will burn at the center of your heart and the reason that you will live and breathe and rise each day is to worship Him.

Re: Do you know the presence of God? - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2010/11/3 17:05

Quote:

-----Get down on your knees and die out and open your heart."-----

This is an important point, I think. I have noticed that when I get down on my knees to pour out my heart to the LORD his presence seems to be much closer than when I sit.

Anybody else notice this?

It is very insightful that the conditions for one experiencing real joy is when you have nothing left but Him - it is when you know it and He knows it as well...seems as though God delights in this state of affairs!

ginnyrose

Re: Do you know the presence of God?, on: 2010/11/3 17:16

Excellent Post Frank!

Re: Do you know the presence of God? - posted by UntoBabes (), on: 2010/11/3 17:33

Frank, Blessings to you brother.

The presence of God is the most important thing to the Christian, yet very few of us truly experience the fullness of it.

Satan has done two things to the church that were devastating.

(1) He allowed his evil spirits to roam in the church and mislead the unstable.

(2) That in turn had caused the people of God to be turned off from pursuing the supernatural elements of salvation, namely the dwelling of the Holy Spirit.

We can not afford either.

Re: , on: 2010/11/3 18:45

Quote:

------(1) He allowed his evil Spirits to roam in the church and mislead the unstable.

UntoBabes, just a very small correction if you don't mind.

The church allowed evil spirits in.

I have always said, a Christian can have whatever he asks for.

We (the church) open the door for unclean spirits to come in.

Re: , on: 2010/11/3 20:30

"The presence of God is the most important thing to the Christian"

We can do nothing without Him.....brother Frank

Re: Do you know the presence of God? - posted by ADisciple (), on: 2010/11/3 21:36

I wish this hunger for His Presence would so grip people that Malachi's words would just lay hold of them, when he said - it's a little vague in the KJV, but the thought is, "Who is there among you that would shut the doors!" (Mal. 1.10).

In other words... shut the doors of the church, close down, shut 'er down... till His Presence is with us again!

THEN open the doors!

Oh we could never do that: what about all our programs! What about the budget!

...Someone has said you don't have to advertise a fire, people just come running when they see a fire.

Oh for the Fire of His Presence in our midst!

Re: , on: 2010/11/3 23:34

AD writes

"Oh for the Fire of His Presence in our midst!"

"In other words... shut the doors of the church, close down, shut 'er down... till His Presence is with us again!"

I personally would shut down every program in every church in America until the fire of His presence burned in the midst . The land cries out for water, the fields are turning to sand, the wind is blowing away all the soil. Without His presence, what will we be left with?brother Frank

Re: Do you know the presence of God?, on: 2010/11/4 7:57

Quote:
-----Can you imagine the horror when the veil was rent in two, it did not expose the ark of the covenant, it exposed the fact that there was nothing there, nothing there.

Frank, I'd never put together the two points. I knew the ark of the covenant was missing, yes, but what that meant for any Day of Atonement in Herod's Temple: no. And yet is IS obvious, now you've pointed it out.

Quote:
-----oh, what a day! -- I cannot describe it, I seldom refer to it

2 Thes 2:14b '... to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.'

May we not let it go.

Re: , on: 2010/11/4 8:11

Isaiah 5

1Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:

2And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.

3And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard.

4What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?

5And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down:

6And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

7For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.

Re: , on: 2010/11/4 9:41

Alive-to-God quotes.....

Quote:
-----Can you imagine the horror when the veil was rent in two, it did not expose the ark of the covenant, it exposed the fact that there was nothing there, nothing there.

Frank, I'd never put together the two points. I knew the ark of the covenant was missing, yes, but what that meant for any Day of Atonement in Herod's Temple: no. And yet is IS obvious, now you've pointed it out.

Alive, I think the parallels of that point to today's situation is striking. To look at the Temple situation in that day, you would see a bustling busy, business as usual situation. Feasts continued, sacrifices were made, monies were collected, priests were employed and yet at the very heart of the system, where the presence of God was supposed to dwell, when you pulled back the curtain, there was nothing. I believe that the veil that covers today's system is being pulled back. It was

30 something short years after this revelation that the whole system was destroyed in judgement. Without the presence of God, the present system will collapse, but it may take some time.....brother Frank

Re: , on: 2010/11/4 10:00

Yes, Frank, very striking example!

The Lord is faithful to expose pretension.

Re: , on: 2010/11/4 10:15

Quote:

-----It was 30 something short years after this revelation that the whole system was destroyed in judgment. Without the presence of God , the present system will collapse, but it may take some time..

Which is a good thing I think. This current system was never to replace the body/remnant of God. We've built the literal walls up around us and called that the "Church" and that was never to be the place where the presence of God would be , it was were His Church would be, the body. But we turned to the building, the structure, the program, the pride, the arrogance and we erected that as some idol in our mind that this some how is the church.

Every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God shall be torn down. I think the knowledge of God here speaks of whatever is not of Christ because Christ inherited all things, being the first born.

The presence of God should be something that we should sense within us, it should be a normal occurrence for every believer, and when joined together with other believers it should be intoxicating.

Oh to feel the presence of God.

God bless us with His presence. As the song writer said, "His presence makes me whole".

Re: , on: 2010/11/4 12:16

Snuf writes.....

"This current system was never to replace the body/remnant of God. We've built the literal walls up around us and called that the "Church" and that was never to be the place where the presence of God would be, it was were His Church would be, the body. But we turned to the building, the structure, the program, the pride, the arrogance and we erected that as some idol in our mind that this some how is the church"

"Oh to feel the presence of God."

Amen.....brother Frank