

WALKING WITH GOD

Walking with God is all about walking in his presence

Walking in The Presence of God

Hebrews 13:5...for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," (see also Matt.28:20).

God has promised never to leave us. His presence is always with us (Psalm 139:1-12; Isaiah

43:2; Deut.20:1). The question, however, is not whether God is in *our* presence, but whether we are walking in *His* presence.

Psalms 89:15 How blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! O LORD, they walk in the light of Your countenance. (or appearance)

The Heart of Moses

Exodus 33:12-16.

Moses' heart was after more than just the power of God. He desired to know the ways of God

He didn't want to have just an angel - a representative of God - to go before the people of Israel, even though this would have fulfilled all the promises God had given Israel concerning the Promised Land

Moses wanted God's own Presence to go with them, because he knew it was the Presence of God that would distinguish them from all the other peoples of the earth.

As Christians, this is also what distinguishes us from the rest of the world. We are different – not because of something we believe in, but because we walk in the Presence of God.

1. A Friend of God

"The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend." Exodus 33:11

Because Moses walked in the presence of God, he had a *face-to-face* relationship with the Lord.

God spoke to him just like you would speak with your closest friend.

Many of us have come to know God as *our* friend (we can pour out *our* hearts to God at any time), but does God know us as *His* friend (where He can share *His* heart with us)?

2. The Heart of David

"One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple" Psalm 27:4 (NKJB) (see also 23:6; 26:8).

David was called a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22). God, who does not look on the outward appearance but upon the heart (1 Samuel 16:6-12), is still searching out *heart-people*- people who, like David, have one driving desire - to be in the presence of the Lord.

"How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord..." Psalm 84:1-2.

When you walk in the presence of God, He will hide you in secret place

The Secret Place

"For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in his pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock" Psalm 27:5 (NKJB) (see also 31:20; 32:7).

There is a secret place in the presence of God where we can hide in the time of trouble. As you walk in the presence of God, you can find yourself "hidden" from the world (Col.3:1-4). In this "hiding place" you will discover rest (Exodus 33:14-15; Psalm 91:1-16), peace (2 Thess.3:16) and joy (Psalm 16:11; 21:6).

A Dwelling Place

"And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit" Ephesians 2:22.

God has always desired to have us live in His presence without it destroying us (Exodus 33:3,20). In times past, God did this by commanding His people to build special structures that would contain His presence. These included the tabernacles of Moses and David, and the temple of Solomon. But God's desire has always been to indwell people's lives (Acts 7:48-50; Revelation 21:3).

As Christians, we have become temples of God's Spirit. Our lives are now the container of His presence.

2 Corinthians 6:16.

"...For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: 'I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people'"