

God's Presence



Psalm 16:11

You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.

Ever feel completely and utterly alone? Or just the opposite-while alone you sense you really aren't...that Someone is there with you?

As Christians, the latter is truth. We are NEVER alone as our Lord and Savior lives within us. Even before Jesus came to Earth, the Old Testament faithful could sense God's presence with them. They were joyful in His presence and miserable when they couldn't sense Him.

Knowing without a doubt that God is here with us, lives within us and is always a presence in our lives can bring such comfort and joy even in the most difficult moments of this life.

We are never alone.

Let's dig into seeking, knowing, and living with His presence in this life. He's always here-we just need to better recognize and rest in the joy of His presence.

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Psalm 16: 7-11

I will bless the Lord who guides me;
 even at night my heart instructs me.
 8 I know the Lord is always with me.
 I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.
 9 No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice.
 My body rests in safety.
 10 For you will not leave my soul among the dead
 or allow your holy one to rot in the grave.
 11 You will show me the way of life,
 granting me the joy of your presence
 and the pleasures of living with you forever.

True joy is found in His presence, not our circumstances. Like David writes, let's not be shaken by this world but follow the Lord who guides and shows us the way of life to eternity.

Psalm 37:3-7

Trust in the Lord and do good.
 Then you will live safely in the land and prosper.
 4 Take delight in the Lord,
 and he will give you your heart's desires.
 5 Commit everything you do to the Lord.
 Trust him, and he will help you.
 6 He will make your innocence radiate like the dawn,
 and the justice of your cause will shine like the
 noonday sun.
 7 Be still in the presence of the Lord,
 and wait patiently for him to act.
 Don't worry about evil people who prosper
 or fret about their wicked schemes.

The key words here of **trust**-complete faith in Him, **delight**- joy found by knowing Him well, **commit**-fully engaged because we know He knows all, and finally **being still** in His presence are the byproducts of sensing and understanding His presence.

How do we do this? We don't DO anything except know Him and follow His path...

Be Still in His Presence

Psalm 37:23-24, 34a, 39-40

The Lord directs the steps of the godly.
He delights in every detail of their lives.

24 Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand.

34a Put your hope in the Lord.
Travel steadily along his path.

39 The Lord rescues the godly;
he is their fortress in times of trouble.

40 The Lord helps them,
rescuing them from the wicked.

He saves them, and they find shelter in him.

Our Lord directs, holds, rescues, saves and provides shelter from this world for us. This is how He is present within and among us in this world. We simply need to trust and follow.

Psalm 40: 1-4, 8

I waited patiently for the Lord to help me,
and he turned to me and heard my cry.

2 He lifted me out of the pit of despair,
out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along.

3 He has given me a new song to sing,
a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the Lord.

4 Oh, the joys of those who trust the Lord, who have no confidence in the proud or in those who worship idols. I take joy in doing your will, my God, for your instructions are written on my heart."

David knew God rescued and would always rescue Him, just like we know Jesus did for us. This verse is referenced in Hebrews 10:5-10. Trusting in Him, we then know what to do because His instructions are within us when we trust in His presence.

10 Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who trust in the Lord will lack no good thing.

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17 The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles.

18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

19 The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time.

20 For the Lord protects the bones of the righteous; not one of them is broken!

God's presence is enough! Let's praise, pray, look to Him and radiate joy! When we fear (honor) Him we can take refuge, trust and lack nothing! (Psalm 84 will also reference this later) He is here and has and will rescue us. Verse 20 is the prophesy regarding no broken bones of Jesus.

Psalm 33:12, 18-22

What joy for the nation whose God is the Lord, whose people he has chosen as his inheritance.

18 But the Lord watches over those who fear him, those who rely on his unfailing love.

19 He rescues them from death and keeps them alive in times of famine.

20 We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield.

21 In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.

22 Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone.

We put our trust in God, His presence and provision and receive rescue from our sins, joy, and hope. God was, is and an ever will be present in our lives. Let His love and presence fill us!

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Psalm 84:5a, 11

5 What joy for those whose strength comes from the Lord,

11 For the Lord God is our sun and our shield. He gives us grace and glory.

The Lord will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right.

12 O Lord of Heaven's Armies, what joy for those who trust in you.

What JOY for those who trust and find strength in God's presence!

Psalm 116: 1-2, 6-9

I love the Lord because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy.

2 Because he bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath!

6 The Lord protects those of childlike faith; I was facing death, and he saved me.

7 Let my soul be at rest again, for the Lord has been good to me.

8 He has saved me from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

9 And so I walk in the Lord's presence as I live here on earth!

We never walk alone as our Lord is always with us. He directs our paths as we walk in His presence.

Find **Joy** in His **Presence**

Joshua 4:15-18

15 The Lord had said to Joshua, 16 "Command the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant to come up out of the riverbed." 17 So Joshua gave the command. 18 As soon as the priests carrying the Ark of the Lord's Covenant came up out of the riverbed and their feet were on high ground, the water of the Jordan returned and overflowed its banks as before.

God's presence (in the Ark of the Covenant) was all they needed to stop the Jordan River. God's presence is all we need too.

Luke 5:12-13, 16

12 In one of the villages, Jesus met a man with an advanced case of leprosy. When the man saw Jesus, he bowed with his face to the ground, begging to be healed. "Lord," he said, "if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean." 13 Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared.

God is willing to answer our prayers when only we seek His presence and ask.

16 But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.

Jesus sought the presence of God in prayer. If He needed this presence and sought it out, so should we. Let's follow His example and seek God's presence in prayer.

Matthew 5: 14-15

14 "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.

Jesus teaches us to shine our lights-not ours alone but His presence within us guiding our thoughts, words and deeds.

Ecclesiastes 3: 11-14

Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end. 12 So I concluded there is nothing better than to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we can. 13 And people should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor, for these are gifts from God. 14 And I know that whatever God does is final. Nothing can be added to it or taken from it. God's purpose is that people should fear him. Be joyful in His presence, the present and fear (honor) Him. We can't fulfill our purpose unless we put Him first. We cannot see everything as God does. Let's instead trust in His presence to lead us and then follow!

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