

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

(The Joy Of Maintaining Closeness To God)
Isaiah 64:1-12



5 WORDS OF POWER

- ◆ Desire
- ◆ Faith
- ◆ Obedience
- ◆ Repentance
- ◆ Submission

“The mountains flow down at thy presence” (Isaiah 64:1)

Bill Kirk

“THE PRESENCE OF GOD”

Text: Isaiah 64:1-12

Subject: “Maintaining Our Closeness To God”

Introduction

1. Isaiah 63 & 64 deal with the destruction of the enemies of God.
2. Both chapters reveal how Christ is a Mighty Savior.
3. It is an awesome revelation to each of us:
 - ◆ How we are to place confidence in Jehovah.
 - ◆ How Jesus has suffered to ensure our victory.
 - ◆ How God has regard for obedient people.
 - ◆ How heaven waits to answer prayer on earth.

Fact: Isaiah’s emphasis in chapter 64 is “The presence of God”.

Fact: Isaiah reveals to us the process of maintaining God’s presence.

Fact: We have a specific word from God that provokes us to align ourselves with Him.

5 Words Of Power

(To help us live in the presence of God)

I. Desire

“Oh that thou wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence” (Isaiah 64:1)

- ◆ This is a desperate cry from Isaiah.
- ◆ The previous chapter (63) reveals that the city is desolate, the land lies waste, and God’s people are carried captive to a distant land.
- ◆ Thus, Isaiah appeals to that Power and Person who affects deliverance in the midst of difficulty.

Question: What is Isaiah praying for?

Answer: “That the mountains might flow down at God’s presence” (or)

- #1. That God would manifest His glorious presence.
- #2. That God would blaze with the fire of His Spirit.
- #3. That God would cause the mountains (obstacles) to melt as fire consumes dry stubble.
- #4. That God would consume every hindrance to the church’s progress.
- #5. That God would remove all the chaff in His people.
- #6. That God would cause every sin to vanish in His presence.
- #7. That God’s presence would be so intense, we would be refined as silver in the fire (or like impurities removed from boiling water)

“The hills melt like wax in the presence of the Lord” (Psalm 97:5)

Question: Is there anything in my life that God needs to visit, reveal, surface and consume?

II. Faith

“For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what He hath prepared for him that waiteth for Him” (Isa. 64:4)

(What A Promise Here)

“God will show up for those who wait in faith”

- ◆ The word “wait” means” (“To trust and believe”)
- ◆ The words “hath prepared” mean: (“Will do”)

(In Other Words)

- #1. Whoever feels helpless enough to lean on God, will experience God's intervention.
- #2. God will interpose (and come to those) who believe enough to pray and wait.
- #3. God is bent on revealing Himself; He just needs those who will align themselves with His purpose.
- #4. We must exercise faith (believe and trust) that God takes notice when we pray and wait upon the Lord.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6)

"And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer, and while they are yet speaking, I will hear". (Isaiah 65:24)

Question: Am I willing to pray (and wait) upon the Lord?

Answer: Has anything been robbing me of God's intentions (because of impatience?)

III. Obedience

"Thou meetest Him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, those that remember thee in thy ways" (V. 5)

Question: What does it mean to "work righteousness"?

Answer: It means that God is prone and accustomed to bestow His favor upon the obedient.

(**"Those That Remember God In Their Ways" - Means:**)

- ◆ God is delighted to reveal Himself (and meet with) those who live in the spirit of prayer, worship and a desire to obey Him.

Question: Why do we obey God?

- #1. Not because we have to!
- #2. Not because of sins consequences!
- #3. Not because of favors received!

Why Do We Obey?

- ◆ Because obedience reflects the character of God's nature living within us!
- ◆ Because obedience allows God to trust us with what He places in our hands!

(It Is No Secret)

"If ye be willing and **obedient**, ye shall eat the good of the land" (Isaiah 1:19)

"...Through sanctification of the Spirit to **obedience**" (I Peter 1:2)

"...To **obey** is better than sacrifice" (I Samuel 15:22)

"For your **obedience** is come abroad unto all men" (Romans 16:19)

(Remember)

- ◆ Israel had sinned and was confronted with God's anger.
- ◆ When Israel turned back to God, their obedience was rewarded by God!

Question: Am I willing to obey the Lord in every area of my life?

IV. Repentance

"...For we have sinned" (v. 5)

"We are all as an unclean thing" (v. 6)

"O Lord, neither remember our iniquities" (v. 9)

Question: What did God do to Israel?

Answer: (V. 7B) "For thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us because of our iniquities"

Question: What did God want from Israel?

Answer: (V. 7A) "There is none that calleth upon Thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of Thee"

(The Words "Stir Up" Mean:)

1. To excite effort
2. To rouse up
3. To make a move
4. To chose to respond

(The Words "Take Hold" Mean:)

- ◆ To bind fast to God's strength (and therein be strengthened yourself)

Question: Why is repentance so important?

Answer: "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation" (II Corinthians 7:10)

(What Is Godly Sorrow?)

- #1. Godly sorrow is that sorrow in the heart because of the conviction of the Holy Spirit.
- #2. It is sorrow that comes from agreeing with God about sin.
- #3. It is sorrow because I know that my sin had offended God.
- #4. It is pain within because of some action or attitude that does not please God.

(This Sorrow Produces Life)

- ◆ The sorrow of the world is only sad because of the consequences of sin (but godly sorrow sees its sin against God and therefore wants to leave it).
- ◆ The sorrow of the world is preoccupied with how I feel (Godly sorrow is preoccupied with how God feels).
- ◆ The sorrow of the world leads me nowhere but to myself (Godly sorrow leads me to the next step in victorious Christian living).

(What Is Repentance?)

- #1. Repentance is the gift of God that produces lasting change.
- #2. Repentance defined is: "Sorrow for sin with a sincere desire to forsake it".
- #3. Repentance is God's grace that leads me to conviction (or godly sorrow), repentance (or change of mind) and salvation from sin (deliverance that is lasting).

Fact: Remorse is a human feeling that never graduates beyond guilt, regret, and the consequences of behavior.

Fact: Repentance sets the prisoner free because it cries out to God for mercy (and discovers the grace of God in power for holy living).

- ◆ Repentance is the fruit of godly sorrow which says "God, I'm sorry, and I've had it with sin".
- ◆ Repentance results in a change of heart revealed by a change in conduct.
- ◆ Repentance is my part in the process that sees God work a powerful cleansing and freedom within.

V. **Submission**

"Thou art our Father; we are the clay, and you are the Potter".

Fact: Israel was made up of individuals like you and me.

Fact: Israel only needed to submit to the Master Potter.

Fact: The Lord loves us enough to "stay with us" and not give up.

Jeremiah 18:4

"And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again another vessel as seemed good to the potter to make it".

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- #1. The Potter Has A Choice (He can leave the clay alone untouched, or make out of it a vessel of beauty).
 - ◆ So The Lord: Could leave you and me alone and untouched or make a vessel of honor of us.
 - ◆ He does not have to put His hand on you, but aren't you glad He has?
- #2. The Potter Has Tools (He uses the wheel to spin, his hands to press, sharp instruments to slice away rough edges).
 - ◆ So The Lord: Allows you to be pressed on one side and then another in ways you cannot understand.
 - ◆ But God is steadily working out His purpose in you. (His tools are the Word, the Holy spirit, your circumstances and other people).
- #3. The Potter Has Wisdom (He has a wise purpose in mind for every vessel on the wheel).
 - ◆ So The Lord: (Has a unique purpose for your life and mine, to form our character into the likeness of Jesus.
 - ◆ The wisdom of God is working behind the visible scenes of your life.
- #4. The Potter Has Patience (He takes his time, spins the wheel, ever patient in forming each individual vessel).
 - ◆ So The Lord: Is ever patient with us (always changing us, but never discarding us along the way).
 - ◆ We can frustrate His purpose, but in mercy He doesn't give us what we deserve.

**(If You Are Saved And On The Potter's Wheel)
Remember**

- ◆ God is removing the grit and base materials that will crack the vessel in the fire.
- ◆ God is preparing you on the wheel, so you can take it in the fire.
- ◆ And, lest you be deceived or despairing, remember the kiln or furnace secrets.

(4 Furnace Secrets)

- #1. Clay in the furnace requires just the right preparation
(God is preparing you today for service tomorrow)
- #2. Clay in the furnace requires just the right oven
(Not just any oven will do, God has you right where you belong)
- #3. Clay in the furnace requires just the right heat
(If it's too cold, the clay won't get hard; if it's too hot the clay can be destroyed)
- #4. Clay in the furnace requires just the right timing
(The potter knows exactly when to take the vessel from the heat)

AMEN!
Bill Kirk, Pastor