

How to Keep God's Presence in your Life Part 1

"12 And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight. 13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people. 14 And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest. 15 And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence. 16 For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth. 17 And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name." (Exodus 33:12-17 KJV)

God's presence in your life is that what you need, so that your life will be possible, fruitful and enjoyable. You might have riches, power, talents authority and influences, but all these will not replace or take place the presence of God in your life. Moses told the Lord, *"If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence."* Moses knew and was aware of the importance of the presence of the Lord in his life and in the life of God's people, the church. **From this time onward start to seek the presence of God in your life, and do not move if the presence of God is not with you.**

At the time of Moses and after God had delivered His people from the Egyptians and Pharaoh's army, God's presence was among His people with cloud in the day time and fire in the night, and that continued. Even when Moses was meeting with the Lord the cloud was there over that place of the meeting, *"7 And Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. And it came to pass, that every one which sought the LORD went out unto the tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp. 8 And it came to pass, when Moses went out unto the tabernacle, that all the people rose up, and stood every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he was gone into the tabernacle. 9 And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. 10 And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door. 11 And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle." (Exodus 33:7-11 KJV)* So here we found that the whole people as a congregation of the Lord bounded with the Lord by the movement of the cloud and with their leader Moses. Everyone wanted to enquire of the Lord needed to inquire from the Lord in the *"tabernacle of the congregation"*, and with the presence of the cloud and with the presence of God's servant, Moses. **The application of that for us today that each and every family or individual in each and every decision they do, the church should get involved in that decision making.**

From the above Scripture we found also that everyone worshipped in his own tent while they were watching Moses meeting with the Lord in the tabernacle of the congregation. **This here it shows the importance of First, the family worship; every family is to worship the Lord daily,**

which they can do in their suitable time, and Second, the corporate worship together as a congregation of the Lord, that we come together as a church to serve the Lord and worship Him.

After that the Lord instructed Moses to make the tent of meeting and arranged it as the following as we can read Here: *"1 Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. 2 For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. 3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; 4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; 5 And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly." (Hebrews 9:1-5 KJV)*

The ark of the covenant and the mercy seat in it was the place that supposed God to sit and throne in the mid of the congregation of His people. Further description of the ark of the covenant and the mercy seat where God was seated we can read here: *"1 And Bezaleel made the ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half was the length of it, and a cubit and a half the breadth of it, and a cubit and a half the height of it: 2 And he overlaid it with pure gold within and without, and made a crown of gold to it round about. 3 And he cast for it four rings of gold, to be set by the four corners of it; even two rings upon the one side of it, and two rings upon the other side of it. 4 And he made staves of shittim wood, and overlaid them with gold. 5 And he put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, to bear the ark. 6 And he made the mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half was the length thereof, and one cubit and a half the breadth thereof. 7 And he made two cherubims of gold, beaten out of one piece made he them, on the two ends of the mercy seat;" (Exodus 37:1-7 KJV)* The people were really bounded with the presence of God, His tabernacle, His ark of covenant, and the mercy seat. Their movement was in timetable; their direction and planning were totally in link with God's presence and His decision for them. No one would have a personal decision to decide to go and move or to stay and rest unless it is bound with God's presence and decision. We can read further about that here: *"15 And on the day that the tabernacle was reared up the cloud covered the tabernacle, namely, the tent of the testimony: and at even there was upon the tabernacle as it were the appearance of fire, until the morning. 16 So it was alway: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night. 17 And when the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, then after that the children of Israel journeyed: and in the place where the cloud abode, there the children of Israel pitched their tents. 18 At the commandment of the LORD the children of Israel journeyed, and at the commandment of the LORD they pitched: as long as the cloud abode upon the tabernacle they rested in their tents. 19 And when the cloud tarried long upon the tabernacle many days, then the children of Israel kept the charge of the LORD, and journeyed not. 20 And so it was, when the cloud was a few days upon the tabernacle; according to the commandment of the LORD they abode in their tents, and according to the commandment of the LORD they journeyed. 21 And so it was, when the cloud abode from even unto the morning, and that the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they journeyed: whether it was by day or by night that the cloud was taken up, they journeyed. 22 Or whether it were two days, or a month, or a year, that the cloud tarried upon the tabernacle, remaining thereon, the children of Israel abode in their tents, and journeyed not: but when it was taken up, they journeyed. 23 At the commandment of the LORD they rested in the tents, and at the commandment of the LORD they journeyed: they*

kept the charge of the LORD, at the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses.” (Numbers 9:15-23 KJV) The people of God were so appreciative and aware of the importance of God’s presence and being crucial for any decision and movement in their lives.

The Lord was communicating with His people from the ark of the covenant and the mercy seat through Moses, *“21 And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. 22 And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.” (Exodus 25:21-22 KJV)* God was communing with Moses from above the mercy seat, and was telling him the commandments that he needed to convey to the Israelites to hear and to obey.

Inside the ark of the covenant and under the mercy seat there were three things associated with God’s presence, *“and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;” (Hebrews 9:4 KJV)* Therefore the following were the things that associated with God’s presence:

1. *The golden pot that had manna.*
2. *Aaron’s rod that budded.*
3. *The tables of the covenant.*

When we speak about God’s presence we cannot put aside the above elements from our lives. Some people they say that Jesus in my heart but they are not observing the things that Jesus wants them to observe and as the following:

1. The tables of the covenant: “1 And the LORD said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest. 2 And be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto mount Sinai, and present thyself there to me in the top of the mount. 3 And no man shall come up with thee, neither let any man be seen throughout all the mount; neither let the flocks nor herds feed before that mount. 4 And he hewed two tables of stone like unto the first; and Moses rose up early in the morning, and went up unto mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tables of stone. 5 And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth generation. 8 And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped. 9 And he said, If now I have found grace in thy sight, O LORD, let my LORD, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a stiffnecked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance. 10 And he said, Behold, I make a covenant: before all thy people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which thou art shall see the work of the LORD: for it is a terrible thing that I will do with thee. 11 Observe thou that which I command thee this day: behold, I drive out before thee the Amorite, and the Canaanite, and

the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite. 12 Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee: 13 But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves: 14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:” (Exodus 34:1-14 KJV) These tables are known now as the ten commandments of God’s Word that God wrote on the tables that Moses chiseled out. And these were the tables of the covenant between God and His people. **For us today the tables of the covenant is the Word of God that is in the Bible that we need to read, meditate and obey so the Lord will bring to us what He promised to do in His Word.**

Moses asked the Lord that He will go with them as you can read here, *“15 And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence.” (Exodus 33:15 KJV)* Moses was asking the Lord that His presence will be with them because Moses knew that without God being with them they couldn’t do anything. **You cannot go in life without God’s presence in your life. And to keep God’s presence in your life that He will walk with you, will happen only when you will abide with His Word and walk with Him in His ways. The Lord promised His people that He will drive out the people of the land and make them inhabit it. In the same way as you obey God’s Word He shall enable you to overcome and settle in the place that He had allocated to you to stay**

The Lord when He went down to meet Moses He proclaimed the following: *“6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.” (Exodus 34:6-7 KJV)* **So our God is a God of love but He is also a God of justice. He will show love and compassion and He will also exercise judgment in dealing with sin.**

“10 And he said, Behold, I make a covenant: before all thy people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which thou art shall see the work of the LORD: for it is a terrible thing that I will do with thee.” (Exodus 34:10 KJV) **The Lord will do all that for you and for this reason He wants you to abide and live in obedience to His Word, “11 Observe thou that which I command thee this day: behold, I drive out before thee the Amorite, and the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite.” (Exodus 34:11 KJV)** **Big part of your obedience to God’s Word is that you will not go along the people of the world and follow their example and way of life. If you live in worldliness and keep friends and do the same sins of those who do not believe in Jesus and follow Him then you will not have God’s presence in your life. Therefore, “12 Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee: 13 But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves: 14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:” (Exodus 34:12-14 KJV)**

My Dear and Beloved: * The ark of the covenant and the mercy seat in the mid of it is supposed to be your heart that Jesus entered and ruled over your life when you give your life to God. * Where God’s presence is, there is the best place for you to abide with, for this will be

the source for your joy, peace and that will be the source of protection and provision in your life, and above all the sense of direction and the assurance for whatever tomorrow may hide to you.

“28 And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.” (Exodus 34:28 KJV) “20 And he took and put the testimony into the ark, and set the staves on the ark, and put the mercy seat above upon the ark:” (Exodus 40:20 KJV) To keep God’s presence in your life, then keep your covenant with Him and abide with His Word that we have in the Bible. Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word to me, and thank you for explaining to me your ways, and how to keep your presence in my life. Lord thank you for all your blessings in my life and thank you for your presence with me. Lord thank you for all the teaching, the rebukes, the corrections and the admonishments we received in this message.

Repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce all your worldliness and your love for material things. Repent and renounce of being yoked with non believers, many friends, and following the worldly practices and the worldly styles of the people of this world. Repent and renounce all your idol worship and celebrating feasts offered to idols. Repent and renounce your disobedience to God’s Word and commands. Repent and renounce your lack of daily Bible reading and lack of prayers. Repent of your lack of daily family worship and being irregular in attending the congregational worship. Repent of your independence and taking your decision without coming and opening the matter to the church. Repent of doing your own will and plan. Repent of your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord I repent, forgive me, I renounce the following sins _____.

O Lord forgive me being un-keen to cherish and to keep your presence in my life. Lord help me to realize my mistakes and to repent from all sins that had taken away your presence from my life, so that once again you will come to me and be with me, and that I will enjoy and have fruitful life. Lord I commit myself to read your Word in the Bible daily and to abide with your Word and to keep your covenant. Lord help me, support me and sustain me to do that, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and were willing to amend their ways and obey and listen to your Word. Lord bless them and restore your presence back to them in their lives. Lord guide them with your Word and with your Holy Spirit to go into your ways and in the direction that you want them to move. Lord protect them and provide for them their daily needs so they will continue to serve you and be good example to others to follow you.

Lord bless us as your church to continue to teach your Word and admonish our families, workers and members with your will and how to keep your presence in their lives. Lord refill us once again with your Holy Spirit, and lead us to evangelize and reach new people and serve them, to make new disciples and train new workers, planting new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord prepare us for your coming to go with you when you come.

Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God’, Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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