

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

1. How to enter the Presence of God

a. Repentance & surrender

- **Acts 3:19** (NKJV) – “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord”
- **Psalms 34:18** (NKJV) – “The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.”

b. Thanksgiving, Praise & Worship

- **Psalms 100:2-5** (NKJV) – “Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. 3 Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. 4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. 5 For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.”

c. Prayer

- **Luke 5:16** - But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.

2. In the presence of God...

a. We are safe.

- **John 6:18-20** - Soon a gale swept down upon them, and the sea grew very rough. 19 They had rowed three or four miles[a] when suddenly they saw Jesus walking on the water toward the boat. They were terrified, 20 but he called out to them, “Don’t be afraid. I am here!” 21 Then they were eager to let him in the boat, and immediately they arrived at their destination!
- **Psalms 91:1** - He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

b. We’re convicted of sin.

- **1 Corinthians 1:29** - As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.
- **Ezra 9:15** - O Lord, God of Israel, you are just. We come before you in our guilt as nothing but an escaped remnant, though in such a condition none of us can stand in your presence.”

c. We’re healed.

- **Matthew 15:30** - A vast crowd brought to him people who were lame, blind, crippled, those who couldn’t speak, and many others. They laid them before Jesus, and he healed them all.

d. We’re challenged to grow.

- **Matthew 5:20** - “But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

e. We’re changed for the better (we receive the fruit of the Spirit).

- **Galatians 5:22-23** - But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

f. We’re refreshed.

- **Psalms 16:11** (NKJV) – “You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”
- **Psalms 68:3** - But let the godly rejoice. Let them be glad in God’s presence. Let them be filled with joy.

g. We’re made holy (sanctified).

- **Jude 1:24** - Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault.

- h. We're able to be still.*
- **Psalm 46:10** - "Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world."
- i. We learn Truth.*
- **2 Timothy 1:14** - Through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you.
 - **2 Timothy 2:25** - Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth.
- j. We receive wisdom, vision and direction.*
- **Acts 19:21** - Afterward Paul felt compelled by the Spirit to go over to Macedonia and Achaia before going to Jerusalem. "And after that," he said, "I must go on to Rome!"
 - **Luke 6:12** - One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night. 13 At daybreak he called together all of his disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles..."
- k. We die, and He lives through us.*
- **Galatians 2:20** - My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- l. There is unspeakable power.*
- **Judges 5:5** - The mountains quaked in the presence of the Lord, the God of Mount Sinai—in the presence of the Lord, the God of Israel.
- m. We're called to remain.*
- **Psalm 140:13** - Surely righteous people are praising your name; the godly will live in your presence.