

CONCLUSION

In **I Corinthians 10:31**, all is to be done to the glory of God, *“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”* That is, even down to small matters as eating and drinking. That is exactly what Jesus Christ, our example, did. In **John 8:29**, He said, *“for I do all always all those things that please Him.”* As A. W. Tozer clearly pointed out in his writings, the Lord Jesus lived in a real human body and yet never performed a non-sacred act. We are always dividing between sacred and secular, crossing back and forth between the two worlds. This is not only frustrating but also confusing. For, we need to let every act of life be sacred. Whether it be eating, drinking, laboring, or even planting a garden, it can be an act of worship acceptable to God. Sacred things can apply to much more than worship, Bible study, and prayer. When a Christian sanctifies the Lord in his or her heart, then nothing is a common act. When we give God His rightful place, everything we do is sacred. May we strive to walk in God’s presence daily. Amen.

*“And ye shall seek me, and find me,
when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”*

Jeremiah 29:13

*“It is not what a man does that determines
whether his work is sacred or secular,
it is why he does it. The motive is everything.”*

- A. W. Tozer

The RICHIES

OF GRACE

“hath appeared to all men.” Titus 2:11

**Robert Reed
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The Presence of God

*“Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make
a joyful noise unto him with psalms.”*

Psalms 95:2

+ The Nearness of God +

Every believer has experienced the sweetness of the nearness of God and has also felt times of distance as well. In order to experience the presence of God, we must believe the Bible is the Word of the Living God. The Word of God is the voice of God speaking to us in the present tense and not just a record book. It is a living book. Jesus himself is called the Word to show us the importance of God speaking to His people. Many believe God is too Holy to be approached, and others believe He is accessible and reduce Him to just one of the guys. May we approach this subject with reverence and seek the presence of a Holy and Righteous God.

*“I want the presence of God Himself, or I don’t
want anything at all to do with religion...I want all that
God has or I don’t want any.”*

-A. W. Tozer



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***“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”***
Acts 16:31

In this article we will consider three things concerning the presence of God: The Reality, The Pursuit, and The Experience of God's Presence.

THE REALITY OF GOD'S PRESENCE

There are at least three dimensions of God's Presence. First, according to **Psalm 139:7-12**, we see God's universal presence. God is omnipresent meaning that He is everywhere, for He is not limited to space and time. There is no where we could go in the universe and not see His presence. **Jonah** tried to flee from God's presence and could not (**ch. 1:3**). In **Acts 17:28-29**, we know that God is very near and in **Isaiah 6:3**, we are told that the whole earth is filled with His glory.

Second, the Bible is very clear about God's indwelling presence. In **I Corinthians 3:16**, God dwells in every believer by the Holy Spirit, making us the temple of God.

Third, God's manifest presence is a reality, that is, God manifests Himself in particular ways at specific times to certain individuals or groups. For example, in worship God is present with His people, "*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them*" (**Matthew 18:20**).

THE PURSUIT OF GOD'S PRESENCE

The pursuit of God simply means the seeking of God's presence in our every day life. Our chief concern should be to ensure God's presence with us. We should desire His presence and fear losing it (**Psalm 51:11**). Piety prepares us for this experience and sin hinders it (**Isaiah 58:2; Psalm 66:18**). The presence of God is more than a Sunday experience, it is to be on a daily basis. Many seek the salvation of God and the knowledge of God, but not the presence of God.

Many times in Scripture we see God's people seeking the presence of God and especially in the book of Psalms. The psalmist, and in particular David, had a true heart for God, "*My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?*" (**Psalm 42:2**). There are many other examples in the book of Psalms (**Psalms 16:11; 62:1,5; 63:8; Psalm 84:2,5**). God reveals Himself to those who earnestly seek Him with the whole heart (**Deuteronomy 4:29; II Chronicles 15:2; 16:9; Psalm 34:18**). There are those who sought hard to dwell in God's presence and there were others who went out from God's presence (**Genesis 38:11; 4:8, Phil. 3:8**). In **Hebrews 10:22**, we are told, "*Let us draw near with a true*

heart. . . ." Too many today do not believe that silence is golden. Most do not know what it means to get alone with the Lord and let Him speak to them. The Bible says in **Psalms 46:10**, "*Be still and know that I am God.*" The missionary Hudson Taylor believed this was the secret to spiritual living. We allow too many distractions in our modern society to rob us of the nearness of God. Unnecessary noise and impatience plague our society and leaves us spiritually lifeless. We must learn to seek and enjoy the God we love.

THE EXPERIENCE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

By this we mean, to personally experience, enjoy, and practice God's presence; to live, walk, breath, and abide in His presence; to be conscious of God and His nearness. The Lord came near to holy men and women in Bible times. Please consider the fact that there are many wonderful and glorious things that accompany God's presence, such as, peace, joy, contentment, confidence, calmness, rest, delight, glory, power over sin, courage, satisfaction, no fear of man, etc.

In **Exodus 33:14-15**, Moses asked for the presence of God to be with them. This is immediately after Israel's sin and rebellion with the golden calf in **chapter thirty-two**. God spoke to Moses face to face in **Exodus 33:8-18**, showing God's divine presence in his life. In **verses thirteen to eighteen**, there are three things in the text that accompany God's presence: Divine guidance in **verse thirteen** which is much needed in a world filled with confusion; Divine Rest in **verse fourteen**, which includes peace, harmony, tranquility in a restless and hostile society, and in **verse eighteen**, Divine Glory which was a display of God's majesty and power. Moses' desire to see God's glory was given to him in **Exodus 33 and 34**.

There are many other examples of God's manifest presence in individual's lives (**Joshua 1:5-9; Genesis 21:22; Judges 6:12-14; Jeremiah 15:20; Isaiah 43:1-5, and Daniel 3**). For example, in **Joshua 1:5**, the Lord told Joshua, "*As I was with Moses, so shall I be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*" This promise of God's presence caused Joshua to be courageous in his leadership of the children of Israel into the promise land. Also in **Daniel 3**, in the midst of adversity, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood firm in their convictions because of God's manifest presence in their lives. They stood when everyone else was sitting, for their God was with them and they knew it.