

## SMALL TALK

1. What fills your tank and restores your joy?

## VIEWPOINT

2. **READ Genesis 3:8 (ESV).** What did Adam and Eve do after they sinned? Why?
3. **READ Exodus 33:14-15 (ESV).** How important is “His presence”? Why? (see also: 1 Chronicles 16:11 compare translations; Psalm 16:11; and 51:11-12)
4. **READ Leviticus 22:3 (ESV).** Why is this threat a big deal? (Compare Genesis 3:24)
5. **READ Hebrews 9:24.** What did Jesus do to make it possible for us to experience God’s presence?

## GETTING PERSONAL

6. What comes to mind personally as it relates to experiencing “His Presence”?

## PRACTICE!

**Devote Daily:** Are you seeking his “face” / “presence” daily? What does that look like in your routine these days?

April 25, 2021

## His Presence--(Week 1) The Place of God's Presence

Adapted from , Adrian Rogers "The Power of His Presence" chapter 1

### The Mascot Story:

Adrian Rogers tells the story about some college boys that wanted to keep the team mascot in the college dorm, and the team mascot was a goat! Some of the guys in the DORM said, "You can't do that. What about the smell?" "Oh, don't worry" replied their friends, "the goat can get used to that smell. ...We did."

**Here's the point of that story:** Although college boys will often live in a dirty house, God refuses to do so; and unlike the goat, God never gets used to sin as if it doesn't bother him.

AND YET...the Bible is one continuous story of the extent to which God will go to make it possible to be close to us.

This series is a short synopsis of what God did, does, and will do to make it possible for us to experience His Presence.

- How many of you want to experience the presence of God?
- How many of you would like to experience his presence more frequently and more meaningfully?

These are important questions and I think this series will help you experience his presence more frequently and more meaningfully!

### Theme Verse:

*1 Chronicles 16:11 (ESV) Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!*

We like to say it like this around here: DEVOTE DAILY.

To understand this topic let's begin where God began when he revealed his desire to dwell with us.

## I. His Presence in the PROTOTYPE

**Exodus 25:8 (CSB)** “They are to make a sanctuary for me **so that I may dwell among them.**

**Exodus 25:9 (CSB)** You must make it according to all that I show you—**the pattern** of the tabernacle as well as **the pattern** of all its furnishings.

This Exodus “sanctuary” was the “Tabernacle,” an elaborate tent, the mobile version of what would become the Temple which was the version in their “Promised Land”. But all of this was a prototype. But these were only **prototypes** or models for something more than that.

**Hebrews 9:24 (CSB)** For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with hands (only a **model** of the true one) but into heaven itself, **so that he might now appear in the presence of God for us.**

But wait, there’s more!

## II. His Presence in JESUS

John introduces Jesus in this way:

**John 1:1–2 (CSB)** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning.

**John 1:14 (CSB)** The Word became flesh and **dwelt among us.** We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The word “*dwelt*” in this phrase, can be more literally translated, “*dwelt in a tent*” or “*tented*”, or “*tabernacled*” among us.

These were John’s words, but now check out Jesus’ words in the very next chapter of John. Jesus said something astonishing that created quite a ruckus.

**John 2:18–22 (CSB)** So the Jews replied to him, “What sign will you show us for doing these things?” <sup>19</sup> Jesus answered, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days.” <sup>20</sup> Therefore the Jews said, “This temple took forty-six years to build, and will you raise it up in three days?” <sup>21</sup> But he was speaking about **the temple of his**

*body.* <sup>22</sup> *So when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the statement Jesus had made.*

All of this is background information to quickly establish the possibility of this profound reality!!

### III. His Presence in YOU

*John 16:7 (CSB) Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don't go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send him to you.*

The context from John chapters 14 - 16 makes it clear that he is speaking of the Holy Spirit.

*1 Corinthians 3:16 (CSB) Don't you yourselves know that you are God's temple and that the Spirit of God lives in you?*

#### A House With Three Rooms

Do you remember when the tabernacle design was given as a precise prototype. Is it a grand object lesson?

Could it be said that we too are a house of three rooms: Spirit, Soul, and Body?

*1 Corinthians 6:19 (CSB) Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,*

Where did God's presence rest in the Old Covenant? In the Temple, yes, but which room in the temple? In the most holy place. So it is also when we say now our body is the temple of the Spirit. It is true, but we could also ask, yes but which room in the body?

The Spirit inhabits the body of a believer to be sure, but each of us is also a house with three rooms! The threefold nature of man is seen in the scriptures.

*1 Thessalonians 5:23 (CSB) Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely. And may your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Some theologians prefer to think of a human as a dichotomy (2 parts) only soul/spirit and body and some theologians think of a human as a trichotomy (3 parts). There is some validity in the 2 part view if you categorize according to the material and the immaterial, or the inner being and the outer being. However, it seems to me that the Bible gets more specific with its categories as it relates to our inner being. Here are two examples:

*Hebrews 4:12 (CSB) For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as **the separation of soul and spirit**, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

How does our human spirit function differently than our soul?

*Proverbs 20:27 (NIV) The human spirit is the lamp of the Lord that sheds light on one's inmost being.*

A lamp in those days was fed with oil. Our human spirit is like a lamp, and God's Spirit inhabiting our human spirit fuels our spirit illuminating and giving direction to our soul (mind, will, and emotions) which in turn leads and gives direction to our body.

Restored: whole and healthy. Before we are restored, everything is ... well... out of order! [Hold up "out of order" sign].

### **OUT OF ORDER:**

Before we are restored by the work of Holy Spirit through the work of the cross and resurrection, God's design was "out of order." Instead of God's Spirit fueling our human spirit, directing our Soul (mind, will, and emotions) which gives direction to our body, INSTEAD, things will be out of order. The spiritual side of us is dead to God, and we direct independently, either from the Mind, or from the Will, or from the emotions, or from the body. No matter which way we take our cues,

emotionally in the moment, or rationally and thoroughly over time, or in bondage to the urges of our body (just as the addicted person about this one) we will find our lives stuck, and in conflict. Only by the work of the cross and resurrection, applied by the Holy Spirit will things be restored to God's intended design, and be well-ordered!  
We've covered a lot fast. Let's get back to where we started.

God wants to live closely with us.

Jesus made this possible for us to receive the Holy Spirit.

The rest of the series helps us learn how to seek "His Presence" continually to live a blessed life!

Do you want to start now: Devote daily, yield to him, we can be filled with the Spirit and grace fuels us fully.

Next week, "What does it mean to be "Saved"?"