

His Promised Presence

Romans 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Amen!

We are going to give our attention to God's promise of "His Presence" being with you as it is stated throughout the Scriptures. Truly understanding and believing the reality of God's constant presence in your life will change the way you think, the way you act and the way you face each new day!

First: God Exist - Exodus 3:14 "I Am That I Am" is God's name. The Great I Am! Not the "I Was" but "I Am"! This is the response God used when Moses asked for His name. "I Am".... God said, Meaning that I Exist Now and for all Eternity

Exodus 20:2 I Am the "LORD" (Yahweh) ... The Existing One...Comes from the Hebrew verb "hayah" - "to be".

Some will refute that God exist but evidence is all around us. Just open your eyes and see!

Rom 1:19-20 But the basic reality of God is plain enough. Open your eyes and there it is! By taking a long and thoughtful look at what God has created, people have always been able to see what their eyes as such can't see: eternal power, for instance, and the mystery of his divine being. **So nobody has a good excuse.** (From THE MESSAGE)

Psalms 19:1 The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known.

The reality of God is evident to all!

God Is Omnipresent: The psalmist David is aware of the mystery that God is everywhere present at the same time. Quite a mystery to the natural mind!

Psalms 139: 5-7 You go before me and follow me.... **I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence!** If I ascend into heaven you are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, you are there.

Jeremiah 23:24 Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him?" says the Lord;"Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the Lord.

But the cry of God's heart is for you to know His presence in a personal way.... to know Him not as an omnipresent being who doesn't relate to you, but as an ever present personal God who desires for you to know Him, believe Him, and remain steadfast to Him; to have relationship with Him. Isaiah 43: 10 reveals this truth.

Isaiah 43:10 "But you are my witnesses, O Israel!" says the LORD. "You are my servant. You have been chosen **to know me, believe in me, and understand that I alone am God.** There is no other God--there never has been, and there never will be.

In the O.T. God promised his presence to Israel. His Presence was manifested in many visible ways amongst them. Their God would be right there for them; to lead them and guide them, protect and provide for them.

He promised His Presence to chosen individuals who would serve Him. He promises His Presence to you and me when we believe on His Son Jesus. **His Presence empowers and equips us to fulfill His will and be victorious in life.**

Let's examine this promise in both O.T. and N.T. We will discover the power and the impact it is to have in one's life.

1. God's Promised Presence to "Moses" at The Burning Bush

Ex 3:1-6 One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush.... When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!" "Here I am!" Moses replied.... Then the Lord told him, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land....! Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."

But Moses protested to God, "**Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?**"

God answered, "I will be with you."

It did not matter who Moses was, but who God was and what God was going to do through Moses.

Moses was hiding on the back side of a desert. Moses had fled from Egypt for the safety of his life forty years ago; running from Pharaoh's threat to kill him. He was a fugitive and some would call him a murderer. Now God is saying it is a new chapter in

your life. Shake off the fear that has brought you to this place. Leave your past failures behind. Be courageous! Now go back and accomplish what I am calling you to do for **I will be with you!**

Humility is important. We must not ever walk in pride or arrogance; but fear, insecurity and lack of confidence are thieves which will rob you of God's perfect will for your life. Whatever God calls you to do or requires of you, He will equip and empower you to do it. God said "I have come down to rescue them.... Now you go! I will do the rescuing; you go as my servant. Forget the past and let's begin anew! **I am with you!**

Question: Is God calling you to a new chapter in your life? Will it require you to walk in faith? Will you have to leave what is familiar or comfortable to you? Shake off fear; forget your past failures and walk with God into a new faith filled future.

2. God's Promised Presence to "Moses" When Instructed to Lead the Israelites Onward

Exodus 33:12 One day Moses said to the Lord, "You have been telling me, "Take these people up to the Promised land. But you haven't told me whom you will send with me.

Exodus 33:13-17 if it is true that you look favorably on me, let me know your ways so I may understand you more fully and continue to enjoy your favor.... **The Lord replied, "I will personally go with you, Moses, and I will give you rest—everything will be fine for you."**

Then Moses said, "If you don't personally go with us, don't make us leave this place. How will anyone know that you look favorably on me—on me and on your people—if you don't go with us? **For your presence among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth.** "The Lord replied to Moses, "I will indeed do what you have asked, for I look favorably on you, and I know you by name."

Moses is feeling inadequate. He is afraid. He feels it is a job too big for him. He is facing fear once again. He knows it will require God's Presence and help.

Question: How do you feel about the challenges facing you today? Are you fearful or overwhelmed? Are you secure that with God you are able to do what he is calling you to do? The apostle Paul learned the truth that he could do all things through Christ who strengthened him. (Philippians 4:13) The reality of this truth will cause you to move forward and succeed in life.

3. God's Promised Presence to "Joshua" When Called to Leadership

Josh 1:1-9 after the death of Moses the Lord's servant, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant. He said, "Moses my servant is dead. Therefore, the time has come **for you to lead** these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so **I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.** ... Be careful to obey... This Book of the Law... meditate in it day and night.... Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; **do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**"

Joshua is 90 years old when called to this huge undertaking. He must lead the Israelites into the Promised Land, conquer the enemy inhabitants there, and possess the land. He will be at constant war to conquer the enemies and possess the land.

Question: God commanded Joshua not to be afraid although he would be fighting with the enemies one battle after another. Why was Joshua not to be afraid? What reason are you given to let go of fear?

Joshua must walk in faith. Joshua's very name means "the Lord saves" or "the Lord gives victory"! He must live it out now!

Be not "afraid": OT 6206 'arat (aw-rats') here it means to **dread**; to anticipate with anxiety; **In other words: Joshua, Don't worry or dread what tomorrow will bring. Have faith! I will be with you! What a lesson for us to learn!**

Matthew 6:25-34 don't worry about your life..... Look at the birds of the air.... Your Heavenly Father feeds them... therefore do not worry about tomorrow.

Nor be "Dismayed": OT 2865 chathath (khaw-thath), to prostrate; hence, to **break down**, either (literally) by violence, or (figuratively) by confusion and fear: (having no strength to stand any longer and completely breaking down)

Therefore Joshua 1:9 means: Don't dread, anticipate with anxiety or worry about tomorrow. Don't lose strength. Don't collapse and have a break down. There may be many battles ahead of you but **I promise I will be with you.** I will strengthen you and see you through! You are not alone. I am with you! You will have victory through me!

4. God's Promised Presence When "Jeremiah" is Called to be a Prophet

Jeremiah 1:4-8 then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." Then said I: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth." But the Lord said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth, for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak'. **Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you,**" says the Lord.

Jeremiah 1:19 They will fight against you, But they shall not prevail against you. For I am with you," says the Lord, **"to deliver you."**

Jeremiah is promised success. He is never promised that it would be an easy job being a prophet to Judah, but he is promised that he would accomplish what he had to do victoriously because God was with him. Even though he would be confronted with evil opposition it would not overcome him. The same is true for you today!

Jeremiah was not well received being that he had a heavy message of doom and destruction for Judah if they would not repent! Their religion would not save them. They must repent of their evil ways. Jeremiah's help and deliverance would come from the Lord. Yours does to! God would be with him to see him through.

Jeremiah's excuse could not stand before God! ...God knew Jeremiah's age.... God knew Jeremiah before he was formed in his mother's womb. He was not too young to serve God! God said, "Don't talk like that"!

Question: Are you making excuses for not allowing God to use you to the fullest in His Kingdom? When God calls you to an assignment he knows everything about you beforehand. No need for excuses! He will take insecure people like Jeremiah and transform them into powerful vessels for His glory. No excuses! He purposes to do wonders through you!

5. God's Promised Presence With "Gideon"

Judges 6:11-16 then the angel of the Lord came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah... Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, **"Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!"**

I love those words of faith! Truly God sees the great potential He created each one of us with. He sees us with eyes of faith! Yes, He knows the great paths He has prepared for us to take in His Kingdom. God was speaking faith over Gideon. He was speaking what was not yet seen as though it already was!

Gideon was a mighty hero in God's eyes even though he was not one in his own eyes!

"Sir," Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, why all this has happened to us... Then the Lord turned to him and said, **"Go with the strength** you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!" "But Lord," Gideon replied, "how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!"

Gideon's excuse: Listen to me, Lord! "You say go with the strength you have. I have no strength. My clan is the poorest and most helpless one and I myself am the youngest and most insignificant one in the family"! (God thinks: You're just the one I want to use to show forth my Glory.)

Gideon was engulfed with fear because of the Medianite enemies. He felt like he had nothing going for him and could never accomplish anything significant because he was focused on the enemy and not on God! Fear and a negative self image is a terrible combination for success! Gideon had the strength because God was in his life. He needed to put His confidence in God and not in himself. The same is true for you and for me!

A negative mindset will stop the perfect plan of God in your life. When God wants to do something in your life it does not matter if you are weak or strong, young or old, educated or not, fluent in speech or not... God is not limited in any way by what you think you have or do not have, for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. He will provide all you need. Philippians 2:13

Ps 18:1-2 I will love You, O Lord, **my strength** The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; **My God, my strength**, in whom I will trust;

The Lord said to him, **"I will be with you.** And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man."

6. David Knows God's Presence is With Him.

Psalms 23:1, 4 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for **"You are with me"**.

This is the young David who killed the lion and the bear and who accomplished a humanly impossible task of killing a giant with a slingshot and a few stones. For

David's confidence was in God. He knew that whatever he would face that God would see him through to victory. He would not fear for God was with him!

Note: God's presence with us is to be dynamic, not a static presence. It is a presence with power and purpose...He protects, He helps, He conquers, He delivers, He strengthens. His presence empowers and equips us for whatever He is requiring of us in this life. Despite our feelings of personal inadequacy His Presence will see us through to victory. Life can be one challenge after another, yet there is encouragement and strength to know the truth that God's Presence is with us in whatever we face ...no matter how demanding it may appear. We have what it takes to get us through to victory because we have Him!

His Promised Presence

In the NT the most delicate announcement of God's Presence being with someone was the announcement of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary. The angel set the stage by announcing that God was with Mary!

1. The Angel Gabriel's Announcement to Mary

Luke 1:26-38 now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God ... to a virgin ... The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice (be glad), highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" ... She was troubled at his saying..., Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. ... Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you...Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."

Mary was confused and troubled by the angel's announcement. She was well aware that this was way beyond anything she could ask for or imagine. It seemed impossible to her! She would trust God for its fulfillment.

Gabriel assures her that "**God is with her**" and that it will be a work of the Holy Spirit and not a work of man.

How amazing! The same Holy Spirit comes upon us and fills us to bring about God's purposes for our lives. What we believe is impossible for us to accomplish becomes possible with God in our life!

Eph. 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us...

Question: How many times have you felt like Mary when she said, “How can this be”? How can the promise of God ever come to pass in my life? Perhaps you are facing an impossible situation in the natural. Trust in God; rely on the power of the Holy Spirit, and pray like Mary for it to be done according to His Word.

2. Jesus Affirms That God the Father is With Him.

John 16:31-33 Jesus asked, “Do you finally believe? But the time is coming - indeed it’s here now-when you will be scattered, each one going his own way, leaving me alone. **Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me.**

This truth gives Jesus the power to overcome and to accomplish what was set before Him.

Jesus has been commissioned by the Father for a huge undertaking: He must be the sacrifice for the sins of the world. Never the less He finds encouragement and strength knowing that the Father is with Him to meet the humanly impossible task. The Father will not forsake Him although man will soon betray Him with a kiss and the disciples abandon him due to fear.

Acts 10:38 And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for **God was with Him.**

Because God was with Jesus in the flesh as a man He was able to do extraordinary works by the power of the Holy Spirit. So we must pray and expect to accomplish great works in the name of Jesus because God also promises to be with us who believe!

John 14:12 2 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

3. The Promise of His Holy Spirit - “God’s abiding Presence” with us.

John 14:15-18 “If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever -

The Spirit of truth, whom, the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and **will be in you.**

Through the New Birth and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit we are assured God's Presence is with us and in us. John 3:1-8 - New Birth; Matthew 3:11, John 1:33 - Baptism with the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is to be our Helper, Comforter, Strengthener, Standby...The one who is called alongside to give us aid.

4. The Divine Adage: "I Will Never Leave You or Forsake You".

Promised to Jacob: Genesis 28:15; to Israel: Deut 31, 6, 8; to Joshua: Joshua 1:5; to Solomon: 1 Chronicles 28:20

Hebrews 13:5b **He promises this to you and to me!**

Amplified version: ...for **He God Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. I will not, I will not, I will not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let you down - nor relax My hold on you! Assuredly not!**

So we take comfort and are encouraged and confidently and boldly say, The Lord is my Helper; I will not be seized with alarm....

What an antidote for anxiety! This scripture is your spiritual medicine (your gospel) to eliminate worry and fear; to live a victorious life in Christ!

The Message version... God assured us, "I'll never let you down, never walk off and leave you," we can boldly quote, **God is there, ready to help; I'm fearless no matter what. Who or what can get to me?**

5. Jesus Assures His disciples at His Departure That He Will be With Them.

The risen Jesus ends the gospel by promising His Presence to His disciples till the very end of time! They are fully equipped to accomplish what is being asked of them for He will be with them to the end.

Matthew 28: 19,20 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and **lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**

This is our confidence that we have in this passing world that God has promised to be with us for all eternity. He assures us that He will not abandon us as man will quickly do. He will not walk out on us as man will do; nor leave us alone. Thank God for this! The promise of His presence is till the end of this age and for always! Take courage and have faith. He promises to be with you always!

“THE MANIFEST PRESENCE OF GOD”

John 14:21 (Amp) The person who has My commands and keeps them is the one who really loves Me; and whoever really loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love him and will show (reveal, manifest) Myself to him. I will let Myself be “clearly seen” by him and make “Myself real” to him.

What a Promise!

The reality of God making Himself known in the life of a true Believer is an absolute promise! He will not hide himself from you, but will show you who He is and what He can do in your life! God desires to reveal Himself (Jehovah - LORD - I AM that I AM) and make Himself know to the one who cherishes an unbroken communion of love with Him. Make this your highest priority: to love and obey Him, and expect this promise of His manifest presence to be a reality in your life! Believe His Word and watch Him show up; especially in your prayer life! You will see His Glory!

1 Tim 1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen!