
The Presence

Victory Life Church — Pastor Jacob Sheriff

Part 1 - "Marked" – Sunday January 9, 2022

Introduction

"A spiritual kingdom lies all about us, enclosing us, embracing us, altogether within reach of our inner selves, waiting for us to recognize it. God Himself is here waiting for **our response to His presence**. This eternal world will come alive to us the moment we begin to reckon upon its reality." ~ A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*

Body

Exodus 33:12-16 (ESV) Moses said to the Lord, "See, you say to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." And he said, "**My presence will go with you**, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? **Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct**, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?"

The personal presence of God is what marks His people.

Matthew 1:22-23 (ESV) "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, **God with us**).

Jesus is the personal presence of God with us.

John 1:14 (ESV) And the Word **became flesh** and **dwelt among us**, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Matthew 28:20b (ESV) "And behold, **I am with you always**, to the end of the age."

John 14:15-17 (ESV) "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to **be with you forever**, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for **he dwells with you** and will be in you."

The Holy Spirit manifests the personal presence of Jesus with us.

Acts 4:8-14 (ESV) Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—**by him** this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And **there is salvation in no one else**, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And **they recognized that they had been *with* Jesus**. But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition.

The personal presence of Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, is what marks His people.

Conclusion

Acts 3:17-21 (ESV) And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. **Repent therefore**, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that **times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord**, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

Our experience of the personal presence of Jesus is connected to our surrender.