

THE PRESENT OF HIS PRESENCE - Sept 22 - PASTOR PETER

2 Chronicles. 7:1-3 "When Solomon finished praying, fire flashed
down from heaven and burned up the burnt offerings and
sacrifices, and the glorious presence of the Lord filled the
Temple. The priests could not enter the Temple of the Lord
because the glorious presence of the Lord filled it. When all the
people of Israel saw the fire coming down and the glorious
presence of the Lord filling the Temple, they fell face down on
the ground and worshiped and praised the Lord, saying, 'He is
good! His faithful love endures forever!""

1. Awareness

Right now, we're more aware of what's going on in this world than at any other point in history. And it feels like the constant drum beat is doom and gloom because bad news sells.

But there is something else we can be aware of that will lift our spirits, it will bring joy to our lives, it will download hope into our hearts and it will bring peace to our minds.

And that something else is the presence of God.

Psalm 139:7 "I can never escape from Your Spirit! I can never get away from Your presence!"

There's nowhere that I can go that God is not. God's universal presence is everywhere.

Matt. 18:20 "For wherever two or three come together in honour of My name, I am right there with them!"
Right now, He is here with us. We don't make God present.

While we ask God to show us His presence every time we're together we also need to ask God to help us empty our hearts and our minds of the clutter and the distractions so that we can become more aware of His presence that's already here.

2 Cor. 10:5 "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

QUESTIONS:

1. How can we be more aware of God's presence in our lives?
2. How does day to day distractions affect our awareness of God?
3. What type of
thoughts or actions in
your day to day distracts
you from God's presence?
processor.

1 Corinthians 3:16 "Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?"	QUESTIONS: 1. How does our attitude in life change our
God's presence isn't locked into a building, God's presence is in His people.	perspective of who God is?
2. Connection	
And then we have the connection to His presence. God doesn't want any of us to live our Christian lives below the level of connection that He wants to have with us.	
God Touches Our Motivations Both the easiest and the hardest things we do are changed when we do them for God's glory. I can't always control what happens to me, but I can control my attitude.	
Colossians 1:17 "He existed before anything else,and He holds all creation together.	2. What do you think 1 Corinthians 10:31 mean?
That includes our lives. Thinking about God changes my attitude.	
Philippians 4:8 "Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise."	
1 Corinthians 10:31 "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."	
Because when we do 'whatever' to the glory of God, we're intentionally engaging Him and that connects us to His presence. God Touches the Small Things	3. Do you thank God for every small thing? Why is this important?
And we look for God's touch in the small things. Mark 6:41 "Then Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, gazed into heaven, and gave thanks to God.	
He's not trying to give us a pattern of saying grace before we eat,	

even though that's a good thing. He's giving us a pattern of

James1:17 "Every gift God freely gives us is good and perfect, streaming down from the Father of lights, who shines from the

thanking God for even small things.

heavens with no hidden shadow or darkness and is never subject to change."

3. Transformation

And finally, the present of His presence brings transformation. Transformation is a Biblical theme and a Biblical goal. 2 Cor. 3:18 "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His image with everincreasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. God is in the business of transformation.

You don't have to stay like you are. In fact, you shouldn't stay like you are.

Putting it all together (Application)

1. Where can we run from his presence? No where. He is omnipresent. But this doesn't mean that by him being present we are acknowledging his presence or even more, connecting with him. You can be present in a room full of people but will only connect with those who acknowledge your presence and interact with you. Can people interact with you without first acknowledging you are present?

In the same way we must acknowledge God's presence and then be intentional on interacting with him. That is when we are going to start seeing God moving in our lives.

2. Moving from theory to practice. We need God to touch our motivations. I can't always control what happens to me, but I can control my attitude. You can't always control what happens to you or what you have to do, but you can control your attitude. And the easiest things and the hardest things are changed when we do them to God's glory, when we have the right motivation. It's easy to complain about lots of things, because there are so many things to complain about. Sometimes we need to change our attitude.

To move from theory to practice, we need to change our attitude and be intentional in connecting and interacting with God every day. How do you consider God in everything you say, every day?

QUESTIONS:

1. Why is spiritual contentment dangerous for us?

2. Why does God transform us?

When you start being intentional about it, in time it will become a habit and you move from theory to practice.	
3. His presence transforms us. God transforms us so that you will more powerfully carry His presence and begin to transform our culture by how I live my day-to-day life. You can change the atmosphere at your school. You can change the atmosphere at your work. You can change the atmosphere in your home. You can change the atmosphere in your marriage. You can change the atmosphere in your relationships. Because you carry the presence of Almighty God and, being transformed by that presence, you can change the world around	
ACTION STEPS:	