

God's People are Complete in His Presence

By Pastor George D. Cutler

Grace Gospel Ministry

Actualize Dependent on God's Presence

Unfortunately, some misconstrue Isaiah 40:31's statement: "Those who wait on the Lord . . . shall walk and not faint .." as individual exertions in firm enduring qualities of abiding in God's presence. Indeed, "walking and not fainting" exhibits the highest measure of spiritual knowledge, which is the astounding disposition God bestowed on designated ones. However, God's presence isn't summed up in any single experience; e.g., John . . . looking at Jesus as He walked, said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" (John 1:35-36). There is nothing abstract or obscure in God's presence; everything is validly actualized. The essential isn't "be spiritual" but "dwell in knowledge of walking in Christ (Ephesians 3:16). God's people are in an unhealthy spiritual condition when they look for emotional thrills in life as the epitome of communing in Him, because this leads to physical efforts that counterfeit obsessions compromising genuine spirituality. Insistence on the pursuits of exhibitioner connections convey emotionally, arousing thrills mounting up "with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31).

The reality of God's presence isn't dependent on our being in a particular circumstance or place or on our determination to "keep the Lord before us continually." Our problems arise in misconstruing residency of our trust in the reality of His presence. In the Old Testament, Psalm 46:2 states, "We will not fear, even though" . . . as testimony of those grounded in truth of awareness, in understanding the reality of God's presence. Hence, eternal comprehension exclaims: "He has been and is present all the time, in our abode in Him!" At critical moments in our lives, this knowledge affirms that confidence of our constant son-position necessitates God's guidance and accomplices saying, "Oh Lord, direct me in this and in that" rather than demonstrative displays in elaborate settings. Of course, all are purposed in His will and in fact, exist already! Our everyday "decisions" are in restraint according to His will, as they are impressed in it.

God's presence is communicated in Colossians 2:9-10: "For in Him (Christ) dwelled all fullness (completeness) of the Godhead bodily. And you are complete in Him, having been completed, which is the head of all principality and power." Thus, In Christ dwells the glorious, intact, totality of who God is. All that God is resides entirely in Christ. All of God's glorious presence inhabits and dwells in Christ. All that God is ... in essence is Christ. Access to God ... the way to get to God, is in Christ. God's presence is enabled completely in Jesus Christ who is the GOD-MAN in our communications. Colossians 2:9-10 affirms that we are (and were) "complete in Him" or "filled, full in Him." The verb *peplhrwme, noi* (**peh-plee-ro-mehn-ee**) rendered "are complete, having been completed" is "fullness" in verse 9 in its noun form, which invokes completeness and perfectness. The verb in is the perfect tense and passive voice (what was enacted in God's people).

We are because we were filled, full with results of continuous (uninterrupted) fulfillment. We were complete in Christ, in eternity when we were son positioned in Him (Ephesians 1:4) and located in total spiritual completeness. Hence, the revelation is: we are in Him, having been completely filled, full with present results that we are in a state of fullness in Him. The verb is in the passive voice meaning that God solely did the filling in eternity! The terminology, "received Him" in John 1:12 expresses illumination rather than when one received God's FULLNESS. Filled "in Him" isn't a momentous truth initiated in time but what God is and has been in Christ as everything that we have ever needed! Our living in God's presence is exclusively in light of this glorious fact. Christ is all! He is the FULLNESS of God! Christ is all we need! We are COMPLETE (filled, full) in Christ; in all of His fullness is IN YOU (Colossian 1:27). Hence, "Christ in you" is God's PRESENCE or fullness, i.e., Christ is your FULLNESS!

Accordingly, Christ in you (Colossians 1:27) also conveys: you are in Christ (Colossians 2:10). In Christ is the essence of God's Presence "in Christ, as all in His fullness, the beloved is positioned in Him. John 1:16 corroboratively states, "And of His fullness we have all received." Ephesians 3:19 states, "and to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge; that you may be, having been filled with all the fullness of God" (c.f. 4:13). All the PRESENCE of God is in the fact that we are complete in Christ, as is the fullness of God. There is nothing else needed to be IN HIS PRESENCE. "In Christ" is completed sufficiency, because in having Him, we have all! God's people are in vital union in the very fullness of God who supplied them with all they could ever need. Those that have Christ have more joy than they could ever need. He alone is our joy (Romans 14:17), hope (I Timothy 1:1) and peace (Ephesians 2:14). This knowledge is invaluable to our comfort in Christ, because in Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Colossians 2:3). Having Him, what can any lack? "Having all sufficiency in all things" (II Corinthians 9:8), what can be added? What else is missing? We are in Christ and are in HIS PRESENCE in HIS FULLNESS!

Christ in us entails exercise and experience of our fullness in Him is the genuine reality of God's Presence. Fullness in God's accomplishments isn't merely that Christ is in the believing heart but believing hearts are continuously in God's Presence in the core of His fullness. God marvelously placed us in Him, in His essence, fullness, sufficiency and completeness, which aren't in emotional or so-called "supernatural" applications of imaginary qualities abiding in God's presence. Indeed, apparitions can never be initiated in emotional physicality where focus is virtual manifestations in human extravagances. Conversely, it is realized in the acknowledgement of Philippians 4:13 that "I can do all things through Christ," which affirms why none can "work out" their salvation because "it is God that works" in them! God's Presence is actualized in comprehension that "All the riches and fullness of God is Christ as Christ is us as we are in Him!" II Corinthians 4:7 states, "we have this treasure (knowledge) in earthen vessels" Corroboratively, John 14:20 states, " ... You in Me and I in you ... " This is a precious mystery! The blessed relationship of our eternal placement in Christ, which produced constant residency in God's Presence! This comprehensive awareness guarantees in spiritual fellowship of WHERE WE ARE based on the actuality of WHO WE ARE!

Living in God's Presence

Salvation's center is determinately away from separation, tears and stumbling. Thereof, God's people's life definitively abides in the Lord's presence as they function on earth! Comprehension in this sense connotes what it means to reside at all times in God's presence. Eternal focusing exhibits the fact that God is always present in our life. The wondrous association of God's grace is He is always with (in) His beloved. Surely we are always with (in) Him since God is with (in) us, as we with (in) Him. This reality is affirmed in our awareness that we are living each moment with (in) God's presence in our life. Corroboratively, Psalm 116:9 states: "I walk in the Lord's presence in the lands of the living." Communally, this exudes living "before God's face," as the Hebrew might be literally rendered, only when doing obviously religious things, like praying, attending weekly services and reading the Scriptures. Yet the relatively deeper, scriptural sense is in living with (in) God's presence constantly throughout our life on earth.

God's existence isn't realized in pursuits of endeavors to abide in doings things in order to generate it but solely in what He completed in eternity. Therein living before God daily is in responsive locale to His gracious salvation. Inquiries of further evidences are: what facilitates our awareness of God's presence in our life? Are we ever conscious of God's attendance in our daily functions? What difference is this realistically? It is more in what is internalized scripturally than what is resonated in mentality. In this perception, living in His presence each moment entails yearnings in spiritual awareness beyond cravings in physical alertness. Prioritized experiences engender eternal focusing fully on Him, even involving other things. God is continually present in the greatest sense that all exist in Him (Colossians 1:16). "In Christ" entails ALL and ABOUND, lacking nothing, as there is nothing other than in Him; EVERYTHING is in Christ!

The testimonial hymn communicates, "Jesus Christ is made to me, all I need, all I need; He alone is my entire plea, He is all I need." Wisdom, righteousness power and holiness this very hour, my redemption, full and free, He is all I need!" (I Corinthians 1:29-31). Philippians 3:3 references, "who by the Spirit are serving God, and glorying in Christ Jesus and in flesh having no confidence." Thus, glory and boasting in Him is acquired in God's presence, as therein is the expression: "Christ is adequate, i.e., all-sufficient for (in) every location because we are complete IN HIM. Therein are the sole resources in Him from whom we having been filled; incurring nothing lacking in us. II Corinthians 9:8 expresses in this way, "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that you always having all sufficiency in all things may abound to every good work." In this view, God's presence is in what is scripturally known rather than physically vision as spiritual and thus, branded "supernatural."

Christ is the FULLNESS of God and we are COMPLETE in Him thus, His presence! This exudes confidence in what is more than demonstratively partaking of His fullness in emotionalism, as though it is lacking in genuinely spiritual arenas. Corroboratively, John 1:16 states, "And of His fullness have all we received, and grace for grace." Because we have received of His fullness, we are recipients of an endless supply of grace! Here,

avnti (ahn-dee) rendered "for" denotes "instead of, in the place of" or "in behalf of." This is definitively something's sufficiency based upon its unending supply, which beckons the fact that it keeps coming! Thus, there are endless provisions of God's grace. So it is with God's presence continually. Of HIS fullness, we have all received, grace for grace, i.e., grace upon grace! God's presence revolves in the direction of persistent wave upon wave, an endless supply, all that we need! Corroboratively, James 4:6 states, "He gives more grace" (notice the present tense), i.e., He keeps on giving more grace!

II Corinthians 9:8 states, "... and God able all grace to, having abounded to you; that in everything always having all sufficiency, you may abound to every good work." Living in God's presence exhibits more in command of actualized eternal abiding than sorting out its attendances through simulated inspirations, as such are supposedly authenticated in emotional assembling. God's awareness is convincingly the product of communications' scripturally attendant to eternal positioning rather than the physically posturing actions of daily life. We are insolvent in and of ourselves (empty), lacking any kind of fullness, except that we are full of our self filled, sinful nature. We are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked (Revelation 3:17). God's presence resides exclusively in the completed adequacy of Christ; thus we are completely sufficient in our all-sufficient Savior.

It is strictly in this sense that II Corinthians 3:5 states, "not that we are out of ourselves sufficient to think anything out of ourselves but our sufficiency; out of God. The Greek adjectival clause *i`kanoi, evsmen (eek-ahn-ee)* rendered "are sufficient," "worthy or enough" is tempered by *ouvc ofti avfv e`autw/n (ook ot-ee ahph eh-ahf-ton)* rendered "not that we are out of ourselves." Conversely, the significant phrase is *avllV h` i`kano,thj h`mw/n evk tou/ qeou/ (ahll ee eek-ahn-ot-ees ee-mon ehk too Theh-oo)* rendered "but our sufficiency; out of God."

Eternal son-positioned placement in Christ is more than enough for continuous God's presence in His fullness that we all received. As God's beloved, we are in Him and He is in us and we are complete in Him. We lack nothing because we have everything in Him solely appropriated in sufficiency of Christ, in illumination that surpasses sinful nature's bankruptcy. We are sufficient in His sufficiency. II Corinthians 2:16; 3:5 demonstrates, "And who is sufficient for these things?....our sufficiency is out of God." His presence is evidenced in Christ, who is the fullness of God in all and everything in His completeness as the source of all that we need. Philippians 4:19 states, "and my God shall supply all your need, according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Hence, our completeness in His presence was/is without want as eternally supplied, thus never optionally provided or denied! Since we are complete in Christ, we are constantly, completely positioned as chosen ones. Christ is in all we need, accordingly, we are confident that **God's People are Complete in His Presence!**