

## Being in the Presence of God

### Psalm 16:1-11

What is Revival? A sovereign move of God among those who are seeking His Presence.

Many Churches this very morning are saying they want to see Revival come to their Church and their Community. This will ONLY happen if believers have a right heart and mind, and are seeking God's presence.

The first step to revival is prayer and the second step to revival is giving (money & time). One must sow before one can reap.

Prayer is sowing spiritual seed.

*"No man is greater than his prayer life. The pastor who is not praying is playing; the people who are not praying are straying. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few pray-ers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here, we fail everywhere."*

(Author & Evangelist - Leonard Ravenhill)

*"We do well to ponder the fact that revival comes as a result of a cleansed section of the Church, bent and bowed in supplication and intercession. It views an age shackled with false religion and sickened at the sight of perishing millions; then they wait—perhaps days, weeks, and even months until the Spirit moves upon them, and heaven opens in revival blessing."*

(Author & Evangelist - Leonard Ravenhill)

This morning I want to encourage you with the Blessings of being in God's Presence.

David gives us a clear picture of being in the presence of God.

#### **Psalm 16:1-11 (ESV)**

I want to read again each verse, one at a time and reflect on what we receive from being in God's presence.

**(vs.1)** - There is Safety in His presence.

*"Keep me safe, O God, for I have come to you for refuge"*

Two words of note in verse 1; “Preserve” means to keep safe, “place a hedge around” In ancient Israel they would plant a hedgerow of thorn bushes around their vineyards and sheep pens to keep enemies and predators out.

The second word is “Refuge“. It means, “a place to flee to for protection”.

If you take refuge in God’s presence who can harm you?

Do you truly believe that this morning? Isn’t that why we pray for the safety of our children when they are out with their friends? Isn’t that why we prayer for “traveling mercies” while on a trip?

The fact is, if you continue to live in God’s presence, His hedge of protection will keep you from harm. Satan does not have a free hand towards those who abide in God’s presence. He is under the constraints or limits set by God. (ex. of Job.)

**(vs.2)** - Nothing Good exists outside of God’s presence.

*“I said to the Lord, “You are my Master. All the good things I have are from you”*

Outside of God’s presence there is no real satisfaction in life.

**Revelation 3:15-22 (ESV)**

**(vs.3)** - There is a joy that comes from being in the presence of God’s people.

*“The godly people in the land are my true heroes. I take pleasure in them.”*

**Psalms 122:1 (ESV)**

I hope that you couldn’t wait to get here this morning to worship the Lord. Our Joy hinges on who God is and what He wants to do in our midst today and every day.

**(vs.4)** - There are consequences that come from running away from God’s presence.

*“Those who chase after other gods will be filled with sorrow. I will not take part in their sacrifices or even speak the names of their gods “*

David recognizes the tragedy that awaits those who run after other god’s. (money, pleasure, power)

For those who just can’t seem to keep a grasp on a Christian life, maybe you need to examine yourselves and see if there are some foreign god’s that you are chasing after.

The sorrows of these will increase who run after other gods... David says, “I don’t want anything to do with them. I won’t join with them in their idolatrous practices. I won’t even talk about them.

Maybe you have been caught up in an innocent way that was so subtle that you don't even realize that you are out of God's will and following other god's.

You need to get back into God's presence.

**(vs.5)** - There is Security in God's presence.

*"Lord, you alone are my inheritance, my cup of blessing. You guard all that is mine"*

King James version says "my lot" ...Do you remember in the Bible how sometimes the priests or Israel's leaders would seek God's will by casting lots?

That is the same thing the Roman soldiers did to see who would get Jesus' robe. That is the "lot" that David is referring to here ... you have made my lot secure... you hold my lot.

We don't know exactly how they cast lots but the word "lot" translates as a small pebble. Somehow in the casting of the pebble, God's will was perceived. What David means is that being in God's presence has secured his destiny.

**(vs.6)** - There are boundary lines that are set in God's presence and they are pleasing.

*"The land you have given me is a pleasant land. What a wonderful inheritance"*

Most people in the world look at Christianity as being too restrictive.

When you become a Christian there are just too many things that you can't do... They have missed the reality of a beautiful inheritance.

What do you see as your inheritance in the Lord? We have an eternal inheritance. We will reign with Jesus in His heavenly kingdom forever. But according to scripture, a portion of our inheritance has been given for this life as well.

**Colossians 2:9-10 (ESV)**

**Colossians 2:9-10 (NCV)**

It is easier to remember who you are in Christ when you are in God's presence.

**(vs.7)** - You can stay in God's presence because He has given you His Counselor.

*"I will bless the Lord who guides me; even at night my heart instructs me"*

Do we think that God's presence is something that we experience only in church?

The truth is that He wants you to know that He is with you right now and will be with you when you walk out of this building. He is with you when you need to make that important decision in your life. He is with you when you take the time to ask him questions.

In the Old Testament, the kings would often call the prophets to inquire of the Lord for them. They wanted to seek counsel from God... to know His will for specific situations.

Today it is too easy to make decisions based on self-centered knowledge or experience without even considering God's counsel.

**John 15:26 (ESV)**

If Jesus called the Holy Spirit the Counselor, what do you think that He intended the role of the Holy Spirit to play in your life? ...even at night my heart instructs me.

I suppose that we have all had that happen – the Lord speaking to you at night – telling you to pray or possibly giving you a dream or you are just lying there knowing that you are in the presence of God.

**(vs.8)** - There is Strength knowing that you are in His presence...

*“I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me”*

**Hebrews 12:28-29 (ESV)**

We have strength in knowing that;

- 1) God's kingdom cannot be shaken...
- 2) We are in the process of receiving our inheritance – we are co-heirs with Christ. We have His authority. We have His power. We have His word.
- 3) Since we are in His presence – we are seated with Christ right now in the heavenly realms – we should not be shaken by whatever circumstance we find ourselves in – as long as we continue in His presence... Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

**(vs.9)** - In God's presence the Heart is Glad.

*“No wonder my heart is filled with joy, and my mouth shouts his praises. My body rests in safety”*

When we are in the presence of God the total person will be affected.

- 1) “Therefore my heart is glad...” Heart is the inner man – the spirit man. The heart is brightened because God is at your right hand...
- 2) My tongue rejoices... out of the abundance of the heart what happens? The mouth speaks...
- 3) My body also will rest secure... the result of making a positive confession that God is with me.

**(vs.10)** - In God's presence we are Assured of Eternal life...

*"For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your godly one to rot in the grave"*

Some people that I talk to about their salvation tell me that they are not sure about eternity. They say that they have asked Jesus into their hearts but they just aren't sure there saved.

I often wonder if somebody just led them in a prayer without explaining what has happened.

**Romans 8:14-17 (ESV)**

In other words, you will know that as you seek His presence you will know that you have heaven waiting as your home.

Because Jesus conquered death, Death is not the end of my existence. Just as we sing "I will rise when He calls my name... no more sorrow no more pain..."

**(vs.11)** - In God's presence his Word comes Alive...

*"You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever"*

The path of life is revealed to us through the "logos" (the written word) and through the "rhema"(the spoken word) through the Holy Spirit.

God's presence is often manifested during a time of heightened worship. Other times His presence comes while we wait in quiet moments. Still other times require a sincere and devoted searching through fasting and prayer.

I'm currently doing a wonderful study on fasting in my personal devotions.

What do you do when you don't sense God's presence in our life?

You have to keep seeking His face.

**Jeremiah 33:3 (ESV)**

**Psalms 9:9-10 (ESV)**

Part of the promise that God has for you is that His presence is here. However, you are responsible for seeking the manifestation of it in your heart.

**Psalms 63:1-8 (ESV)**

How far are you willing to go to get into His presence?

What are you expecting to happen when you get there?

1. Safety
2. Good - Blessings
3. Joy in Fellowship
4. Consequences away from it
5. Security and Destiny
6. Boundaries
7. Counsel (Holy Spirit)
8. Strength and Assurance
9. Gladness of Heart
10. Eternal Life
11. The Word comes alive