

“The Presence of God”
Part Two: The New Testament

1-04-15

A foundation truth of life: We were all created for God.

- ❖ We were created for His joy, delight and fulfillment of knowing and experiencing God our Creator.
- ❖ We were created to know God, bring Him glory, and enjoy Him FOREVER.

Therefore, when we experience the spiritual reality of the Presence of God in any context, something very special happens.

We experience that for which we are made.

He is Who we are made for and What we were made for.

Our lives grow empty and become incomplete when we are not experiencing the very Presence of the Living God.

However, every time we do experience the very Presence of God there is an intangible spiritual therapy that takes place in our lives.

The Presence of God

- rejuvenates our soul,
- refreshes our spirit,
- recharges our mind,
- restores our heart,
- reenergizes our body.

In His Presence, we also experience: peace, joy, safety, security, and a profound sense of well-being.

Every person in the Biblical accounts, who experienced the Person and Presence of God, experienced all of these things in their lives.

Some attempted to describe what they experienced: most notably in the Psalms. (examples: **Psalm 16, 84**) [Also 27, 23, 19 and 30-34]

In the New Testament the eternal God became present among men when HE became a man.

He became present among us when HE became one of us.

The **first book of the New Testament** is the Gospel of Matthew.

A new dimension between God and man begins with the account in **Matthew 1:18-23** ¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

The beginning of the fourth gospel account affirms what was written by Matthew – **John 1:1-5, 14**. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. . . . ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Who and What was experienced throughout the New Testament when people came into the presence of God on earth?

- 1. When He was born (Luke 2:1-20): The birth was the beginning of a new dimension of interaction between God and man.**
- 2. When He was baptized (Matthew 3:13-17): This was the beginning of a new day regarding God’s eternal purpose for all men.**

3. **When He chose some disciples (Matthew 4:18-22): This was the beginning of a new life for these simple fisherman and anyone else who would answer His call to follow Him.**
4. **When He performed His first miracle (John 2:1-11): This was the beginning of a new realization of the KINGDOM OF Heaven.**
5. **When He healed people's lives (Luke 5,7,8,9): This was the beginning of a new reality for the physical and spiritual condition of men and women.**
6. **When he ate with sinners and forgave them of their sin (Matthew 9:9-13; Luke 19:1-10; John 8:2-11): This was the beginning of a new way to see humanity and a new way for men and women to see themselves as God see them.**
7. **When He was crucified (John 18-19): This was the beginning of a new revelation regarding God's eternal plan for man's salvation.**
8. **When He rose from the dead (John 2-21): This was the beginning of a new understanding of eternity and everlasting life.**

What every individual experiences in His Presence:

1. Something and Someone different.
2. An overwhelming sense of the Holy.....
3. An overwhelming sense of being unworthy.....
4. The incredible experience of being called personally and forgiven, healed and loved unconditionally.
5. The realization that they were on earth for a purpose – a mission given by God.

The results of those who experience His presence in the New Testament were the same as those in the Old.

1. Their lives were changed and never the same.
2. They knew the value of His grace and the forgiveness of their sin.
3. They now saw their lives as God has seen them from the beginning.
4. They now knew for Whom and for What they were created.
5. They now longed to be in His presence 24/7.