

The Gift

Presence

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Believe in the extraordinary presence of God.

Live in the ordinary presence of God.

Luke 2:8-14 (NKJV)

⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

God's royal announcement to the shepherds is a lesson in humility.

James 4:6

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble

Moses knew God's presence was a non-negotiable.

Exodus 33:15-16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. ¹⁶ For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth."

The Lord Jesus is the presence of God in the New Testament.

John 1:14 (MSG)

The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.

The name "Immanuel" means "God with us." John says that Jesus dwelt among us (skeno), which literally means to pitch his tent among us.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD GIVES US FOUR THINGS

1. God's Presence Gives _____

Deuteronomy 20:1 (NLT)

"When you go out to fight your enemies and you face horses and chariots and an army greater than your own, do not be afraid. The LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, is with you!"

Psalms 23:4 (NLT)

Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.

2. God's Presence Gives _____

Isaiah 43:2 (NKJV)

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.

2 Cor. 1:3

He is the father of mercies and the God of all comfort.

3. God's Presence is _____

Hebrews 13:5 (MSG)

Don't be obsessed with getting more material things. Be relaxed with what you have. Since God assured us, "I'll never let you down, never walk off and leave you,"

Matthew 28:20 (NKJV)

...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

4. God's Presence Brings _____

Psalms 16:11 (NKJV)

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Matthew 14:27 (KJV)

But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.