

How Big Is Your God Part 7

Steve Berger October 30, 2016

Review

- Last week was Pastor Dave Buehring's message on the **Manifest Presence of God**. He presented ten different situations where Jesus manifested God's Presence and power in touching people.
- **Today** — Waking up the **Manifest Presence of God** — so far we have defined it, God's Personal, Revealed Presence within His Omni-Presence. Last week we described it; this week now it's time to learn to experience it ourselves.

Waking up to the Manifest Presence of God

• Genesis 28:10-19 — Jacob's awakening

Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!" Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously.

• verse 13

I am the LORD God — intentional name use, the LORD wants Jacob to know...

- Self-Existent, Self-Sufficient, Eternal, Transcendent, Sovereign, Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent

• verse 15

"Behold, I am with you" — Ruler of the Universe

- **behold** — word used 593 times, we need to do more "be-holding", embracing, grasping etc.
- **I am with you**- God promising His Personal Manifest Presence, WOW!
- **Exodus 33:13-17**
Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation *is* Your people." And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. 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." So the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name."

- God's Presence in His people, key distinguishing trait

Depth and clarity of "with you"

- **John 17:20-23**

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."

Application — Father is in Jesus, Jesus is in Father, Jesus is in us, we're one in them!

- **John 14:6-17**

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."

Application — Spirit dwells "with" and will be "in..."

- **Acts 1:8**

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;"

**The LORD, Father, Son and Spirit couldn't make His "with-ness" any deeper or clearer! The LORD is with us;
His manifest Presence is available to us!**

That Presence...

- **2 Timothy 1:12 — Keeps you — preserves**

I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

- **John 16:13 — Guides you**

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;"

- **Philippians 1:6 — Faithfully fulfills His work**

Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

- **verse 16**

"**Jacob woke up**" to the reality of the **Manifest Presence of God** in His life.
So must we...

- “The LORD is in this place” — wake yourself up, tap yourself on the chest three times and say, “The LORD is in this place!”

We must realize and then Practice His Presence.

Brother Lawrence, a French monk who lived in the 1600’s wrote the Christian Classic, “The Practice of the Presence of God.”¹

- **Purity of Life** — similarity in morals and mission. Align your desires with His
- **Denying Worldly Things** — “no soul who delights in worldly things can find full joy in the Presence of God.” Love of *worldliness* isn’t of the Father, lust of flesh, eyes, pride of life; allure to have the kingdom of God to look like the world
- **Faithfulness of Practice** — keeping your soul fixed on God, not distractions
- **Including God in Activity** — a continual inviting, involving, including in activities
- **Offering Simple Prayers Continually** — “I love You, thank You, want You”

Truth — It is difficult at first, don’t get discouraged, or beat yourself up — confess and keep going.

**Start doing this — and you will
start experiencing God’s Presence as never before!**

Back to Jacob — God promises His Manifest Presence

- **Genesis 28:16**
“the LORD is in this place, and **I didn’t know it.**”
 - Maybe you too???
- apparently Corinthians didn’t know God was in them either... to a church steeped in cultural sin, affluent distraction, and dissimilarity to God...
- **1 Corinthians 3:16**
Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
- **1 Corinthians 6:19**
Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?
- **2 Corinthians 6:16-18**
...For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “**I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM. I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.**” Therefore “**COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE SEPARATE, SAYS THE LORD. DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN, AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU.**” “**I WILL BE A FATHER TO YOU, AND YOU SHALL BE MY SONS AND DAUGHTERS, SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY.**”

Application — God promises His Manifest Presence — we must separate ourselves to Him and from the world.

¹ Brother Lawrence, *The Practice of the Presence of God*, (Whitaker House, 1982)

Closing thoughts

Jacob **changed name of place** from Luz to Bethel — House of God — wake up — change your name to House of God.

**God's manifest presence is available to every Believer,
wake up to that, live in similarity to God's morals and mission
and watch His Presence manifest in your life.**

Discussion Questions

1. How can you, personally, intentionally “behold” the LORD more often.
2. Read Philippians 1:6. Discuss the fact that He said He “will complete all of the destiny that He has planned for you.”
3. Discuss Brother Lawrence’s statement that “no soul who delights in worldly things can find full joy in the Presence of God.”
4. What do we need to do to experience the Manifest Presence of God?
5. What do YOU need to do to separate yourself *to* Him and *from* the world?

CONCERT OF PRAYER FOR OUR NATION A CITY-WIDE GATHERING OF WORSHIP & INTERCESSION

Tuesday, November 1, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Grace Chapel Sanctuary