

**DEPTHS OF PRAYER SERIES**

**STANDING IN THE PRSENCE OF GOD**

**II Thes. 1:9 *These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.*** When Jesus Christ comes the judgment of this world takes place by the presence of God that moves on this planet. The presence of God is not something we can take lightly. The presence of God is something that we have to take with reverence. It is awesome, sacred, and holy. That presence of God when it comes into contact sin can destroy sin.

**What else can the presence of God do? In Lk. 5:17 *Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was present to heal them.*** See the power of God can destroy and can heal. It is just like the fragrance of Christ, which is either a sweet aroma or a horrible one to the enemies of God, which is the devil. They cannot stand it. The bible talks about the odor of death and the odor of life. To us it is the odor of life but to demons it is destruction.

**The presence of God can come upon us as a tangible presence. Remember we talked about the three areas of the presence of God coming. One is the conviction of sin; one is conviction of righteousness, which means boldness. Now this is the third area of the presence of God coming upon us. The tangible experience is the experience of praise and worship.**

**Jesus quoted Isa. 61:2-3 and said that the Spirit of God is upon Me, to heal, to judge, to set free. And these are some areas when the Spirit of God when He**

comes upon will do. *To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God. We are talking about conviction of judgment on Satan and all his children. To comfort all who mourn. To console those who mourn in Zion. To give them beauty for ashes. The oil of joy for mourning. The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.* The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness is the same spirit we are talking about. The spirit of judgment in verse two to us is the spirit of praise. It is the garment of praise and worship. And that Spirit of God will lift off the heaviness in our heart and lift the yoke in people's life. It is the garment of praise against the garment of heaviness. It is God's power of praise. There is power in praise. There is power in worship. And that presence of God that He brings out sets us free. And you can sense that in your life when the spirit of praise and worship comes upon you, it will lift off the spirit of heaviness, which is from the evil one.

So, we have learned from these points the presence of God how we can get the anointing moving in our lives. Getting the anointing of God moving in our lives applies to all three areas. And its one main key we talk about worship. You can pray in tongues and the presence of God can come but it takes a longer time. You can read God's Word out loud and the presence of God will come but it takes a longer time. Isn't prayer important? It is important. It is one of the pillars in God's kingdom that He is building the church on. Prayers and intercession are vitally important.

But to get the presence of God down upon His people the bible says that God dwells among the praises of His people. As we offer Him praise and worship then the presence of God comes down. Prayers, petition, and intercessions are asking from God and receiving from God. The Word of God, which we read in our daily life, is also receiving from God strength and food. But before God can work in our life, you must give something to Him. We must give onto Him our worship. We must give onto Him our love.

Just close your eyes and pray in tongues very softly. Just stand up for a while relax yourself and lift both your hands up. There are certain spiritual things taking place when you lift up your hand onto God. In the book of Numbers when Joshua was fighting and Moses lifted both his hands to God, Joshua was

winning the battle. When he let down his hands Joshua was running for his life. Every time Moses lifts his hand, Joshua runs after the enemy. Every time he puts his hands down, the enemy runs after Joshua.

How it relates to the victory, we do not know. So, when Moses' hands got tired Aaron stood on one side Hur stood on one side and held Moses' hands up until Joshua completely vanquished the enemy. So there is something to do with the lifting up of hands. In Psalms 141:2 says *The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice*. I Tim. 2 says *that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands*. Heb. 10 tells us lift up your hands. Sometimes you lift up your hands straight you get tired so put on downward a while and lift it up. It does something to the atmosphere in worship. It brings the presence of God faster. Now just relax and worship God in tongue with your hands lifted up. .... Now you notice the presence of God is different. It's different when you worship. Why is that so because God can demonstrate many kinds of presence. We cannot because we can only be present at one place at one time. But God is omnipresence. Every time we want the presence of God to come down on us, the fastest way is not by prayer or the Word but by worship. Worship can bring the presence of God down in one second that you will take one whole day through prayer. We are talking about the tangible presence of God which we can move in. It's important to know the presence of God so that we can move in the anointing of God.

We talked about the Holy Spirit His work in our life. Now I want to talk about the Holy Spirit as a person manifesting in our midst. The Holy Spirit is right here this morning and if we would discern what He is doing, we can flow along with Him. He is not just a presence but He is a person. And the Holy Spirit as a person wants to manifest Himself to us. I Cor. 12 talks about the Spirit of God wanting to manifest to everyone. In other words, He is around but He wants to show that He is around. He wants to tell you that He is around. He is just moving all over this place. We might not know that He is moving. We might not know that He is around. How He manifests is that He comes to you personally. He tells you something. He makes His person known unto you. Unless we get His tangible presence, nothing happens. In other words, in many churches the Holy Spirit comes in but they are so busy with their program. The song leader says now lets turn to hymn No. 72. Time for announcement. The Holy Spirit comes to the church and He wants to do something. The song leader says now let us sing the

offertory hymn. The Holy Spirit says, "I want to heal." Now let's sing the consecration hymn. "I want to touch the people with my love." You see how frustrated the Holy Spirit is trying to work within the framework of a structured program. He does His best but there is very little manifestation of the Spirit. Unless we treat Him as a person and respect Him as a person then we cannot have Him manifesting. What happens is that in many churches, no worship is taking place. You only have singing, singing, it's all that takes place but no worship takes place. Worship comes from your inward being. These are the principles we want to talk about the presence of the Holy Spirit. How to bring Him and what to do when He manifests?

In order to obey Him when He manifests, we must be doing something when He is not manifesting. In other words, the Holy Spirit works in our life two fold. Either He is not manifesting or He is manifesting. Our response to Him is in two areas. When He is manifesting then you have to tune in to what He is doing. When He is doing something, we cannot try to do something of our own. And He can interrupt our program if He likes. Right now, He can interrupt the preaching if He wants. What happens if there is no manifestation? We have to learn to obey when the Spirit tells us to do something. But we also have to obey the Holy Spirit when He tells us not to do anything. And faith is required in both instances. You need faith to be still and not run all over the place do your own thing when the Spirit says just don't do anything. And we need faith to move in the Holy Spirit when He is telling us do this, do that. In order to be skilful in moving when the Holy Spirit manifests we have to be skilful in giving Him worship when He is not manifesting.

See the angels of God when they are coming down on earth to perform a task they are working all the time invisibly. But from time to time, they appear onto people. The angel of God came to Mary in Luke chapter one and said you are the highly favored of God. See he does a task. Usually what the angel does is that he carries the presence of God and the power of God. If an angel of God were to come right now in our midst, each one of you will be receiving the vibration of the presence of God very powerfully. In fact, the angel of God can be so strong carrying the presence of God down from God's throne in heaven that when he talks to you, you may just drop like a dead man. Daniel did, when the angel of God appeared to him when Daniel was fasting and seeking God. The angel of

God came to Daniel - I don't know how he greeted him - and Daniel just fall down dead. And the angel of God had to lift him up since there was no strength in him. So, the angel of God carries the presence of God because they have a task to perform on this earth.

Zacharias was in the inner court and the angel Gabriel came to Zacharias. Zacharias felt the presence of God and the presence of God was strong. But Zacharias answered the angel, "How could it be?" The angel of God said, "Because you didn't believe the power of God will come on you and you will be dumb." The power of God came on him so strong that he cannot talk until the child came forth. Nine months he never said anything. And every time the power of God came with the angel, a miracle took place. I want you to know that the angel of God don't just run all over trying to find something for God to do. They are not all the time coming to pester God. I want you to take note of what the angel said when he appeared. In Lk. 1 when the angel appeared to Zacharias, this is the statement made by the angel. Verse 18 *Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years." And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings.*

Before we can move in the presence of God we must stand in the presence of God. Before we learn to walk in the Spirit we must learn to be filled with the Spirit. Before a child learns to walk and run a child learns to sit and then stand. When you take a baby up from the cot you have to be gentle with the baby. As the baby grows, you feed him milk. Then one day the baby starts to crawl and finally push himself up. So, the little baby had to learn to stand first. What the child is doing is the child is learning to stand and move in the physical world.

There is a world of the spirit. When Adam fell in Gen. 3, he lost the spirit world and he became a natural man. He ran away from the presence of God. When Jesus Christ comes, the bible says His name shall be called Emmanuel God is with us. God's presence should be restored back to His people. You read Ephesians one, two and three at the end of each chapter Paul always talks about the presence of God in His church. And all the time in the Old Testament in the tabernacle of Moses in the temple God has revealed that He loves to dwell in His people.

Today God wants to restore His presence back to us. So the day you are born again you get awakened to the presence of God. The spirit world is new to us and fresh like the morning dew.

Then we learn how to stand in the presence of God. We learn how to keep the presence of God. We learn how to move in the presence of God. So the first stage we need to do is stand in the presence of God. When the angels of God are not doing any special mission or task, you know what they are doing - standing in the presence of God worshiping. Then God said, "Gabriel, go to Zacharias," and he went. When he completed his work with Zacharias you know what he came back to do? He didn't hang around and had a tour of Jerusalem. When he completed his task, guess what? He went all the way back to the throne room and he stood in the presence of God again. That's why he said, "I am Gabriel who stands in the presence of God." He came back and joined with the Seraphim and Cherubim and the four creatures and says "Holy, Holy," Then God looked over at Gabriel and said, "Go to Mary and deliver this miracle to her." And Gabriel goes forth to Mary finished his work came back and starts to stand in the presence of God. Those angels of God had been standing in the presence of God for thousands upon thousands of years. And when you stand in the presence of God didn't the bible said His presence transforms you. He gets absorb into your being. No wonder each time they come out and do a task, it was filled with a kind of anointed atmosphere.

That is possible today. Today we must learn to stand in the presence of God when God is not asking us to do something. Many Christians like God to tell them to do something. Unless you obey God in standing in His presence, He will not tell you to do something.

I want you to go back to time in history when people are not familiar with the presence of God. During the days of rebellion one of the most difficult days in Israel, the kingdom have divided and split into two into Northern Kingdom and Southern Kingdom, Israel and Judah. The kings of Israel were evil kings. What about the kings of Judah? Some of them were good but most of them were evil. But Northern Kingdom's kings were all evil. Then it came to the worst king of the

Israelites king Ahab. He introduced Baal worship to Israel. He brought Israel right down to idolatry. In that period, God raised up a man somebody out of the blue. When all Israel were just turning away from God, worshiping all these idols and pouring all the sacrifices to the idols, out of the blue a man with a mantle and a staff and his coat made of animal skin walked right up to the palace and said, "I want to see king Ahab." "Who are you?" "I am Elijah the Tishbite." And there was such an authoritative tone in his voice. And he walked right up to king Ahab and said, "There shall be no rain for three years except at my word. I am Elijah who stands in the presence of God." He turns around and he walked off. The palace was stunned for a few seconds. King Ahab turned and asked Jezebel, "Who was that?" Jezebel said, "I don't know." And the king sent messengers all over. There was no cloud in the sky. And month after month, it was parched dry. King Ahab sent messengers all over and couldn't find him. He was right there at the brook and the house of one widow. And God took care of him for all those three years. But I want you to know what Elijah said. He said in I Kg. 17:1 *Elijah the Tishbite of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand."* I am Elijah who stands in the presence of God. Now where was the presence of God? He was on this planet earth. You know why? God raised up such a man who got the anointing of God that every time he moves there was such power. Because that man always came from the presence of God. He didn't come from his storehouse or from his work. He came from the presence of God. And every time he makes his appearance, there was power. Every time he makes his appearance, there were such miracles that his life shines brightly in the Old Testament. He says I stand in the presence of God.

Elijah has tapped on the truth of what the angels are doing standing in the presence of God all the time. Every time when God was not sending him anywhere, he is just in the presence of God. Although he was a prophet, he didn't go everywhere and keep prophesying. When God didn't command him, he just stands in the presence of God. After three years he came back and made his appearance in chapter 18. Notice his same statement in verse 15 *Then Elijah said, "As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand."* It was something that was his life. Notice such authority he said earlier in chapter 17 there will be no rain except by my word. He didn't say, "God's word" but he said, "By my word." Where did this man get such authority? Where did this man get such power? Where did this man get the gift of miracle? From spending time in the presence of God. That's the key and he worked mighty works.

Sometimes people try to interrupt his prayer time. In II Kg. 1, he was spending time in God's presence and the king of Israel sent a band of soldiers. Elijah was right up there on the hill. The soldiers came with the captain. They said, "Man of God, come down." They came from the worldly place but Elijah was going to come from the presence of God. So he turned around and looked at them and said in II Kg. 1, "If I am a man of God let fire come down and consume you." Then Elijah turned around and looked the soldiers were a bundle of charcoals. And he just turned around and starts spending time with God.

King Ahab in the meantime was waiting and waiting. Then he sent another band of soldiers. Here they come again. "Come down you man of God." Elijah was probably thinking what was all this disturbances. He is standing in the presence of God. He turned around and said, "If I am a man of God let fire come down from heaven and consume you." He turned back and continued spending time with God. Suddenly he turned around and saw more charcoals.

Meanwhile king Ahab sent another band of soldiers and came before Elijah. The soldiers came and saw the charcoals. Then quietly they knelt down before Elijah and said, "Man of God spare my life." Elijah has been interrupted so many times. God hasn't said anything. He didn't say anything he just went back and just stand in the presence of God. Then the angel of God said, "Go with them." See he was waiting for instructions. He doesn't go because men tell go. He only moves when the Spirit says to move. While he was spending time in the presence of God, God from His throne sent an angel and said, "Go and tell Elijah that he may go." And Elijah went with them. He only goes when the Spirit says go. He only does what the Spirit says. And if the Spirit is not saying anything, he stands in the presence of God.

In his life, you can get a key on how to be translated. He spent so much time standing in the presence of God that God said, "Elijah you are like a heavenly creature already. I am going to send you a heavenly cart called a chariot. And I am going to escort you all the way up here. You will come and be in My presence forever now." He had spent so much time in God's presence that God said,

**"Elijah come," and He sent His best chariot the horses of fire. Meanwhile Elijah knew it. How did he know it? Because he spent time in God's presence. As he was spending time in God's presence, God said, "Get ready Elijah I want you to come home to Me." You don't have to die like an ordinary man. You are not an ordinary man. You are one of My angels." And he prepared himself to go.**

**In II Kg. 2, he told his disciple Elisha. And he also knew Elijah was going to go home. There is not much account about Enoch but I believe Enoch did the same thing. He spent so much time in the presence of God that one day he just went off. The book of Heb. 11 says because he had this testimony that he pleased God.**

**I heard the testimony of a Christian who was brought up to heaven on a study tour. He was made to understand what happened when Enoch came up to heaven. The first thing he asked for in heaven was a wife. He told an angel to find him a wife. The angel just smiled about it but kept quiet. After waiting for so long, he asked the angel again. "I told you to look for a wife for me, but yet so far, you have not done so." The angel didn't know what to do. Enoch was the first human being to enter heaven, and there was none of his kind in heaven yet. Besides, in heaven there is no marriage. Finally, the angel brought the matter to the Holy Spirit and asked Him what to do. The Holy Spirit then visited Enoch and said, "Enoch, there is no marriage in heaven. You can't find a wife here. Do you remember that when you were still on earth, that many people came to you for counseling? What were most of the problems?" Enoch thought for awhile and suddenly realized that most of the problems were related to marriage – husband problem, wife problem, mother-in-law problem, children problem, etc. "For that reason," the Holy Spirit continued, "There is no marriage here in heaven." In another separate incident, Enoch was putting up fences around his house in heaven. The Holy Spirit came around and asked him what he was doing. "Oh, I am preparing for the storms." Apparently, he was so used to having storms in his life on earth that he did the same preparation in heaven. The Holy Spirit told him, "There is no storm in heaven." The angel who was escorting the Christian around said that it took about ten earthly years for Enoch to get used to life in heaven. He further said, "Tell the Christians on earth that they must live according to life in heaven so that when they come up here, they will not have adjustment problems. In heaven, the people begin the day with praise and worship to God. That is how you should begin your day on earth, with praise and**

worship to God.”

Enoch and Elijah were not translated because God chose them as special people. They made themselves special to God. There were thousands of people at that time but these are the people who knew God. If God were to look down on this planet right now, He will know those who are closest to Him. Will you be among those people closest to God? Who spent time in the presence of God like the angels? You know why in the New Testament there is not so much translation today. In the old covenant, they had two, Enoch and Elijah. People have not learned to spend time in the presence of God. As the coming of Jesus draws near the Spirit of God is going to put hunger in the people of God. There is going to be hunger in the people of God. And people will be drawn into the presence of God more and more. Suddenly the worldly people looked at Christians and said, “What has happened to the Christians? Every time they got a free moment, they just go and pray. And they are praying everywhere. They are praying in the offices, they are praying in the churches. They are praying in their homes. What is happening to these Christians?” And the people of God are going to enter into the presence. Some times, you don’t see the Christians for days. You ask, ‘Where did you go?’ “I was in the presence of God.” Some times people look around and say, ‘What happened to this person? He never comes to office where has he been?’ “O, he has taken one-month leave to spend time with God.” And after one month, he comes back to his office with his face shining. And in the last days, there are many Christians entering their closet standing in the presence of God.

And when the trumpet sounds all these people will rise up and be translated in the twinkling of an eye. God is dealing with our lives and teaching us His presence. How do we stand in His presence? You see light produce light. You produce after your kind. You know why Elisha had such miracles? He talked the same language like Elijah. In II Kg. 3 when Jehoshaphat asked for a prophet, Elisha turned to the three kings and said to them in II Kg. 3:14, *And Elisha said, “As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand.”* He learned from Elijah how to stand in the presence of God. That is why every time he comes out from the presence there was power. The presence of God is here in this place. When you stand in the presence of God and just worship Him, you are doing what the Bible says that Jesus said in Jn. 16 the Spirit has come to convict of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. Of sin because they do not believe on Me. Of righteousness

because I go to My Father. And of judgment because the prince of this world is judged. The two verses say that He has come to glorify Me. What's the purpose of God doing miracles? That we may draw close to Him. What's the purpose of salvation? That we may be with Him forever. What is the will of God? This is the will of God I Thes. 5 in everything give Him thanks and worship. Some Christians are struggling with God's will in their lives. Do this part of God's will first. Worship Him that's His will. Then all the other parts of God's will come to your life.