

DEPTHS OF PRAYER SERIES

GOD-CONSCIOUSNESS

First of all, let us look at the Almightyness of God. In the book of Genesis 3: 8, “And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.”

One of the first things Adam and Eve could not tolerate or stand was the presence of God after the fall. They would run away from the presence of God. What exactly is the presence of God? There are different degrees of the presence of God. God’s presence was all over the Garden of Eden. Yet there is a greater presence of God that moves like the breeze. From that day onwards man as not been able to handle the presence of God nor have knowledge of the Presence. When we talk of God’s presence we have to look at the internal and the external. Even the ungodly sinners when they go to places of the wonders of nature they feel the awesomeness of the Lord God. This is called the external presence of God and most people fall into this category. For some people the presence of God can only be felt in a Christian meeting (for example in a prayer and worship meeting). Here they feel the presence of God. They can also feel the stronger presence of God when they have fellowship with those who are walking close to God. This is called the external presence of God.

The second category to experience the presence of God is in deep prayer in our private life. This is called the inward consciousness of God. God has always intended man to be aware of His presence. The presence of God in our lives is

stronger sometimes than the other times. As we mature the awareness of His presence becomes a reality for twenty-four hours. This is your target to measure your Christian life. If the consciousness of God only comes to you when you are in church with believers and with nature then your knowledge of God is no better than the unbelievers. An unbeliever comes into the Christian meeting he too feel the measure of God's presence. We need to go beyond this realm. If the presence of God is only felt in the morning as we spend time with God and not throughout the day then our Christian life is very shallow. You could know the Bible yet the true knowledge of God is shallow. A false knowledge of God is that you want to know and know and know but you don't have the true experience. All you have is an empty knowing and you don't have it.

The word *know* in the Hebrew goes further than being intellectual knowing. It goes to the realm of experience. In many Christians' life the consciousness of God disappears in their lightness and joviality and this don't glorify God. A Christian can walk in darkness due to sin and when you walk in the light then you have fellowship with one another. Fellowship is not a formal gathering. Fellowship must not be downgraded. When we gather it is only a meeting of physical beings and minds but this is not a meeting with the spirit and the Holy Spirit. The Bible is very strict in these areas. We walk in God's light or His presence only then we have fellowship. To have fellowship with God is the highest of all fellowship of believers. It refreshes your spirit.

Paul says that the fellowship of believers refreshes him. In the book of Genesis 5: 21-22 *Enoch lived sixty five years, and begot Methuselah. Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.*" Something happened to Enoch before he walked with God. The line of Seth is the chosen line in Genesis 5. When he was 65 years, his first son Methuselah was born. Perhaps it was a time of soul searching. Some go to soul searching from their teens to adulthood. Some as they mature and ask questions of this life. Some in the midst of business, they set time to ask where all their doings are heading to. Enoch decided to walk with God. Perhaps the clue could be the name given to his son Methuselah. Some say Selah means sent. This is a greater possibility to the Hebrew tradition. *Methuselah* means the man that is sent. This implies when Methuselah was born, Enoch sensed the call of God. He sensed a mission coming upon him. Enoch

had a spiritual experience when God's presence became more precious to him. Since then he desired the presence of God so much that he decided to walk with God. He did not see or hold God tangibly but rather he walked by faith with God. This means walking with somebody who is invisible but experiential (Hebrews 11:1).

The world cannot see or know the Holy Spirit but you know Him for He is with you and He will be in you. Jesus did not say that you will see the Holy Spirit but we know the Holy Spirit by faith. Enoch did not have any physical voice or image of God daily but he walked by faith. Faith is invisible but knowable and tangible. How did Enoch walk with God? Enoch trained himself to be sensitive to God's invisible presence. He trained and was conscious of His presence. Enoch may have had a spectacular experience, we don't know. Moses saw God at the Burning Bush and at Mount Sinai and thus had communication with God. Moses asked God to show His glory or presence. Everyday it is in the divine will of God that we have His presence. You may not have a vision. But it is your covenant right to experience His presence and go out.

When Jesus came to earth, the angel said he shall be called Immanuel (God with us). God's presence is here tonight. But maybe you are not aware of it. This saddens the Holy Spirit very much. Though He is called Immanuel, yet many know His presence externally. They do not know Him as Immanuel at home, in their offices and wherever they are. This grieves God and this is no better than Adam and Eve. There are certain places God's presence is felt strongly. Mount Sinai is called the mountain of God even before Moses saw the Lord. Jesus always goes to the mountains and from civilization. The most important thing to develop is His consciousness on the inside of you. Many are conscious of the greed and lust but you must be God-conscious. The supreme goal of God is to put His presence consciously in our experience twenty-four hours. Before you can hear God's voice, you must be conscious of His presence. His presence develops your eyes and therefore you will be able to see and know Him.

In the book of Romans 6: 11 *Likewise reckon you also to be dead indeed to sin, but alive unto God through Christ our Lord.* Ask the average Christian what does Romans 6: 11 mean and they would answer several ways. The answer is only one word: be alive or be God-conscious. This is the positive side of the verse.

1 Corinthians 3: 16 *Don't you know you are the temple of God? The Spirit of God dwells in you. If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him for God's temple you are.* Behind this question, are you not God-conscious in your life? Enoch daily worships God and he will not leave the place until he senses God's presence, then only he goes on his work. When the consciousness disappears, he would leave all things aside and get into the consciousness of God. At the start it was not easy but it will be done unto you as you keep at it. Enoch is of the Old Testament and what a greatness. He did not have Immanuel. He did not have God inside him as we in the New Testament do. Enoch did not have a regenerated spirit. We have more potential than he.

The main reason that we failed in this area is due to distractions. People find it hard to concentrate these days. More distractions have taken our time. You must make a quality decision and say that among all things in life is to guard our time with God and to expand our God-consciousness. Jesus had the same presence of God all the time. He was never distracted by the hustle and bustle of the world. The Father in Jesus does the works, says Jesus. Jesus was God-conscious as recorded in John 14. Therefore in three years He finished all He had to do. The disciples at the start were distracted people but Jesus molded them. In the book of Acts they were always God-conscious. It took only one man like Paul in a short time to turn the world right side up because of God's presence. Jesus said to me, "If My people would treat Me as if I am there by faith always, I will always be there." Men and women lived holy lives with God-consciousness. Joseph said to Potiphar's wife that he would not sin against God though nobody was in the house physically. But he knew God was there. Joseph never lost the consciousness of God. The people of God when facing Goliath were not God-conscious but David was conscious of God. Goliath was a big distracting figure and David said, "I will come against you by the Most High God." One of the first things we lose in a crisis is the consciousness of God and thus we are defeated. If you lose God's presence you lose all things. It will be written on your forehead "Ichabod – the glory has departed."

Nothing will make you fear when you are God-conscious. The devil cannot face you. The strength of the Church lies in the consciousness of God. It took only a

young lad to defeat Goliath. Some people are devil-conscious or spell-conscious and they will lose power with God. You are mighty through being God-conscious and the devil is no match for you. This is the cry of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Even if you don't have money, your God-consciousness will bring you through. Treasure the consciousness more than the Milky Way. All the gifts that Jesus would give you is not worth. Jesus is Worth. It is Jesus we want. You can't see Jesus. You can feel Him. Develop this consciousness. He is here tonight. Train daily and it will be part of you. One day you will be taken up like Enoch. You will have a transfiguration, a transformation and rapture.