## THE PRACTICE OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD SERIES

#### THE DAILY PRESENCE

Let's turn to Matt. 6. We want to pull out something that Jesus spoke about in the Sermon on the Mount.

Matt. 6:22-34 The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness. No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, or about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to the span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O men of little faith. Therefore do not be anxious saying, What shall we eat? Or What shall we wear? For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well. Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day.

Now we have always memorized verse 33. It says, *Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well*. But there is another verse that is next to it that we sometimes overlook and do not see the connection. In fact verse 34 plays a role for verse 33 to be activated. Verse 34 says *Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day*.

You will notice that Jesus talked about worry many times. Starting from verse 25 you find it mentioned several times. It is first found in verse 25 it says *do not worry*.

Then verse 27 which of you by worrying - this is the second time. Verse 28 the third time - why do you worry? Then the fourth time in verse 31 therefore do not worry. And then He adds the fifth time as if we forgot what He says. He says in verse 34 do not worry. Five times He mentioned worry, "Do not worry," "Which of you by worrying?" "Why do you worry?" "Why do you worry?" "Therefore do not worry." "Do not worry."

And as I was meditating on these passages, I realize that when Jesus tells us not to do something, He always gives us a solution as to how handle it and what to do. Some people try all kinds of ways to stop themselves from worrying, like smoking, taking anti-depressant pills, drinking and the like. Worrying seems to be second nature to human beings. But the Christian way is to practice Philippians 4: 6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Then I realized that there is something that Jesus said in verse 34 that is not very well understood. See we understand the first part that tells us not to worry about tomorrow. What about the second part that says for tomorrow will be anxious for itself? Or as the NKJV says for tomorrow will worry about its own things? What does He mean by for tomorrow will worry about its own things? I thought human beings do the worrying; the day doesn't do its worrying. But Jesus says, "Let tomorrow worry about itself."

We are going on a new series and we are teaching on the practicing on the presence of God. We have talked about the three levels of God's presence in general and the degrees of God's presence. I believe practicing the presence of God has a totally different set of rules that we need to adhere to. It is talking about having God's presence while you are driving a car; when you are cooking your food; when you are busy about the things of this life; when you walk down the supermarket; while you are doing your office work; having God's presence in everything that we do. So far, many of us have seen God's presence to be progressive and a reward that we receive at the end of a certain accomplishment. We know we can seek His presence in a prayer meeting. We know that God manifest Himself into our life. We know that God reveals Himself in His glorious presence from time to time. Yet there is an area where we learn to practice the presence of God. Imagine what it is like if 24 hours we sense and we know God's presence. Yet that is something that God desires us to have.

### Daily Walk

So let me give a few pointers here as we do a series on practicing the presence of God. Under No. 1 it is a daily walk. Yesterday you may have God's glorious presence. In fact, sometimes you may have a strong manifestation of God and after sometime you forgot about it. It may have touched your life and changed you to a certain extend and then afterwards you forgot about that. You lose your temper, you lose your cool, you get irritated and God's presence seems to leave. Sometimes some people who have experienced God's glorious presence don't seem to be able to keep it. That will be a great concern. I mean if you experienced God's presence and you cannot keep it, something could be wrong. We could be leaking vessels. We are not vessels that could contain and hold on to His presence. God wants us to learn how to practice His presence, to know and acknowledge His presence.

One of the first keys that I found in the practice of God's presence is to take it one day at a time. When you develop that further we may need to take it one moment at a time. It doesn't mean that we do not plan our lives in a responsible way. We can do with the help of the Spirit of God. But as we grow out of our childhood, we live more by the month and the year than by the day. We lose the sense of enjoying God's presence everyday. For example, a student studying on a three year course may be so engrossed in trying to finish that three year course that he forgets the moments and the days that passed by and that he does not seem to be enjoying God's presence everyday.

And one of the keys is do not worry; Jesus tells us five times not to worry; He tells us to live one day at a time. Your bills may be due on the 7<sup>th</sup> of the next month. But the 7<sup>th</sup> is still some time away. Isn't it amazing that on the 30<sup>th</sup> of the previous month you are worrying when the 7<sup>th</sup> hasn't come yet? It's still a long way. I am not talking about evading your responsibility. But I am talking about an aspect of God's promise that says here about seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you. That's an aspect about learning how to walk with God day by day and you take it one day at a time. One day at a time, you approach the situation.

Recently as God spoke to me about buying a building to set up a new office, there

were several things that I began to learn in the process. I felt what it was like when for example a payment of two hundred thousands dollars is due in just 3 days' time and there aren't any resources. You know what the feeling is like when you have really exhausted all your resources. I mean you have to trust God with all your might and there is nobody else to turn to. We have walked through that step by step all through the way. See you walk by faith and not by sight. When the Lord began to speak to us about buying up a building, all we had was enough funds for the down payment and there were several other things to pay for. We began to take them step by step. And I said, "Lord this is really stretching our faith." Then I heard the voice of the Holy Spirit whispering in my heart and said, "Son, there is one key that I will show you."

I am speaking to some of you who may be having debts for million of dollars. Or you may be having financial debts for hundred of thousands of dollars. Or for some of you may be having a problem of settling a payment of a few hundred dollars. The main key is to take it one step at a time. The Lord said, "Son I want you to take it one day at a time." He didn't even want me to think about those things. He said, "Wait till it comes and you'll see." And I almost live in a sense from week to week. We negotiated with several banks for loans. Then we received negative answers from some banks. What are you going to do when you have paid your deposit and it seems that there is no way you are going to get your loan? Think about the feeling. You would lose the down payment of several thousands of dollars for nothing. What I normally do is I go for a very long walk. I said, "Let me forget about it and let me enjoy a good walk and talk with God and enjoy God's presence." I need to get into that position. I call it a position of God's presence. Then I started talking to God practicing Philippians 4. God said, "Don't worry wait and you will see what happens." Miraculously things started to turn. I could see week by week the situation changing. Suddenly one banker started calling up followed by another saying that our loan application was approved and suddenly I began to see some positive developments. I told my wife, "There are times when I carried the burdens and nobody knew."

I heard about another brother who was down and discouraged because he didn't clinch a particular deal. I said he doesn't know what I went through. I told my wife just exactly one week ago I have negative answers for every loan application and I never told a soul; I never got discouraged. What I learn is to practice God's presence. Learn to walk day by day with Him. God said, "Just enjoy My presence today. Tomorrow is tomorrow." Let's think about it: if tomorrow you were to die, what's the best thing for you to do? Enjoy today. I am not talking about eat, drink and be merry. I am talking about fast and pray and praise. Right now, I may as well

enjoy God's presence. I began to see it in a different way. I said, "Well, if you are going to lose your money, wait till the day come and lose your money. But until you lose your money now rejoice in God." You might as well worship God, enjoy His presence. If that's going to happen well let it happen. As for you and the house of the Lord, you are going to worship God. And I made a determination in my heart that I will spend my time with God and I will continue praising God and continue worshiping God.

You deal with all your feelings. What are some of the feelings that you would have when you are in that situation? No. 1 you feel like everyone has deserted you. No. 2 you get upset and angry and disappointed because people whom you think should help you did not help you. No. 3 you began to get upset at God why He doesn't come through. All those things are emotional stirrings that need to be calmed. The Lord showed me how to walk one step at a time. I said to God, "For let me pray and worship You and take it one step." And then the very next week good news came when it was bad news before. Suddenly all the bankers said, "Okay." And I sat there and said, "Imagine if I was not a believer how I could have reacted." You could be so discouraged so down then you give up pursuing. The very next week everything went through. Then another next week another situation comes. And you learn to walk one step at a time. We are at a stage where we have walked through all those things step by step, one step at a time. And almost everything is falling together. You don't know the amount of tension involved that is there you could easily fall into. That's when I learnt how to walk and exercise God's presence. Over the past 4 months, I have been working 7 days a week non-stop. I have to preach on Sundays. I had to travel here and there to minister the same way. At the same time in the new office, I was helping the renovation and cleaning the place everyday. Only yesterday, I stayed right through and Saturday right up to 6 in the evening and went for the choir presentation without letting down on whatever I am doing.

God taught me something during these 4 months the daily presence of God. How His presence is as strong wherever and whatever you do. And there are key principles that God began to show me about taking it moment by moment.

Let me give you scriptures to show you that the secret of the Christian life in drawing strength and getting Matt. 6:33 to work for you have to do with a daily thing and not weekly thing or yearly things.

Look at the book of Psalms 1:2 *But his delight is in the law of the Lord. And on his law he meditates day and night.* Many Christians have forgotten the principle of walking daily with God.

In Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success.

Daily process it's the secret of learning of how to take one day at a time. Remember tomorrow is still tomorrow. How you treat today and how you walk today is the key to tomorrow's success. Some of you your bills are coming up lets next week. But the next week is still 7 days away. You take it one day at a time. For now while you are in church, enjoy God's presence. You may have burdens in your heart; you may have family problems, business problems. But those are outside. You are in church now. When you worship God, you worship with all your heart. You enjoy this moment with God.

I began to observe and look into the scriptures to see how this daily presence works in our life. We will cover more and more points as it comes. And the main point we are covering now is how we need to acknowledge the presence of God daily. And as you learn to acknowledge it daily, you learn to acknowledge it moment by moment in whatever situation you are in. I began to remind myself that the presence of God is my main pursuit in my life. What do I do and what happen to get the daily presence of God. So, we are still at point one. We have only covered one today but under two little sub-points:-

# a) A desire and a hunger for God's presence.

I am used to spend a lot of time with God and the strength of God's presence. I love to just be alone with God. I love to see that whatever little task we need to do, the desire for God is always there and it burns in my heart. God wants us to desire Him. There must come a hunger for His presence and His longing. You enjoy it coming over your spirit. You enjoy it coming over your soul. This presence of God and you could sense everyday. It's awesome; there is a hunger that we need. Some people don't desire that presence but once you have contacted God's presence, you

want it again and again. This is why it is important to come to a prayer or a revival meeting or any meeting that has a presence of God. Because once you tasted the presence of God then you know what you missed. If you don't taste the presence of God in a meeting like this, we don't even know what we missed. We don't know what we could have had. Once you have the presence of God and you missed it its different you feel different. It's like you are missing something like your clothes are missing. Like a part of you is missing. The hunger must be there. There is the intimate missing of God.

Jesus walked so close in God's presence that I believe all the time He was conscious of God's presence. There was only one moment in His life when He could not feel that presence. In the book of Matt. 27:46 when Jesus was hanging on the cross because He became sin for us. As He hung on the cross, for a moment of time God has to turn His face away from Jesus because He became sin for us and God cannot take sin. When at 12 noon the sixth hour, it was supposed to be bright but it was dark. Even the heavens were dark when God turned His face away. Storm cloud seems to be gathering at 12 noon. It was pitch darkness. At that very moment Jesus felt that presence left Him. And He cried and cried that is the secret cry of every sinner when He lost God "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" My God, my God why hast thou forsaken Me. O He missed that presence. For that several hours when He was on the cross He missed God's presence. Man was born in sin and didn't even know the presence that he lost. But Jesus knew what He lost the presence of God. And it's that presence that He wants more than anything else. The presence of God is more valuable than silver and gold. The presence of God is more valuable than rubies and diamonds.

Before the nation of Israel fell and was conquered, the presence of God left them. As long as the presence of God was still there they were preserved. King David when he fell into sin. He didn't cry that he lost his kingdom. He didn't cry that he will lose his prestige and his fame and his silver and his gold. But that cry came in the book of Psalms 53 that says, "Take not Thy Spirit from me." It is because if he didn't have His Spirit, nothing else counts. That hunger for God's presence must be in our lives until it means more to have God's presence in our lives than to have success. Although the presence will bring you success, in our hearts we need to hunger for His presence. We need to long for His presence. And you won't know what you missed until you taste a glimpse of His glory. In corporate meetings where you are touched by the presence of God, you would know what you could have had. And you began to hunger for more.

Without that hunger it is not possible to practice the presence of God daily. I remember that I worked 7 days a week non-stop meanwhile keeping the same responsibilities. I remember there are times when I said God I love to be with you and I love that presence. And I cried and said God I really missed you. Then God began to speak to me teach me about His daily presence.

Let me give some more scriptures in the book of Exodus 33:17-18 And the Lord said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "I pray thee show me Thy glory." Look at how hungry Moses was for God. And God has answered his prayer it was not enough he wants God's presence. Then in verse 12 Moses said to the Lord, "See, thou sayest to me, "Bring up this people; but thou has not let me know whom thou will send with me. Yet thou hast said "I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight." Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found favor in they sight, shown me now thy ways, that I may know thee and find favor in thy sight. Consider too that this nation is thy people." And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If thy presence will not go with me, do not carry us up from here."

Some of us may not know what is transpiring here. After the children of Israel had sinned against God and failed God, God said in chapter 32:34 But now go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you; behold, my angel shall go before you. God Himself implies that He doesn't want to be with His people. He just sends His angel with His people. Moses was not satisfied with just the angel's presence. Moses wanted God Himself to be present. He didn't get stuck in just the manifestation. He wanted God's presence. And when he hungered after God and said, "God if your presence doesn't go with us we don't want to go Lord." We want your presence. We need your presence. And God said, "Alright My presence will go with you." Then only was Moses satisfied. Then he asked something for himself. He wanted personally to have more of the presence of God. We need to develop a great hunger for His presence. When the hunger is there then only can we practice the presence of God. There is a little book called "The Practice of God's Presence" by Bro. Lawrence. He learned to practice God's presence and I have benefited through these 4 months because I had the opportunity to practice the presence of God. I had the opportunity to develop the daily presence of God. I take it positively. I take every challenge that comes. I remember I was working very hard and still meditating on the presence of God. My physical body was tired out but the presence is there. The hunger for the presence is part of the key to draw on His presence.

In the gospel of Luke 24 the reason why we need to hunger for God's presence is that God wants to be invited into our daily life. It's up to us whether we invite God into our daily life or not. You could be so busy doing it without God. Did you invite God into your office work? Did you invite God into everything that you do? Invite God into your daily life. In Luke 24 they didn't it was Jesus but Jesus was walking with them and it says here in verse 28 So they drew near the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, but they constrained Him, saying, and "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." He indicated that he would have gone further. Jesus wanted to go further and didn't want to stay. He would have gone further and disappeared out of their lives and they wouldn't know who was this man that talked to them that caused their hearts to burn like fire when He spoke the words of God. They didn't know it was Jesus. Then they in verse 29 they said, "Stay with as the day is far spent" not knowing that they were inviting the Lord. Then the Lord stayed.

But it's something that is interesting there. God does not interfere in our daily affairs until we invite Him. Some of you probably lost your keys or lost something you misplaced in the house somewhere. And you could never find it. But have you notice all you have to do is ask God where it is. The moment you ask Him and say Lord can you help me to find it? It just pops up. Either it comes to your mind you remember where it was or you just find it in the very place almost by accident. The question is why for 3 day and 3 nights you have been looking high and low and you never really put it as part of your praise. I mean to say you may be thinking that God is too big for me to look for my house keys. God is big enough for big problems and God is available for the smallest problems. I have found that we need to ask Him and we need to hunger for Him in our daily lives. We need to desire for His presence to be there. We need to desire His daily presence. Some of you ladies are so involved in your kitchen planning a menu for your whole family and you never asked God for help. Even though you could be an expert cook at least you could be polite to say God welcome into my cooking, welcome into my daily life, welcome to my kitchen. Help me in all these daily things. I have found that in all the small little things we need to actually invite Him. I remember when we planning the renovation I asked God, "What shall we do about this and what about that? O God we are stuck here, help me in this little thing." Then His presence and ideas come. That's if He is invited. He will not help you to look for your lost keys until you ask Him. Why, He wants to be wanted and to be desired. He doesn't want to intrude into our daily life. Although He is the Lord He is the gentle Lord. Although He is the Lord and the owner of our lives yet He wants a day-to-day welcome in our life. Some of you may be in different profession. You could be an accountant, lawyer or whatever every file you take you say, "God help me to do this. Lord I need your presence as I do this." As you acknowledge it something will

come out of your life. The practice of God's presence will increase in your life and you learn to walk daily with God.

# b) Tuning your frame of mind to the presence of God

Lets turn to II Cor. 3:14 onwards But their minds were hardened; for to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ it is taken away. Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their minds; but when a man turns to the Lord the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

The second condition in the practice of God's presence is that it is actually just a frame of mind. The first is hunger for God. Secondly it's a frame of mind. Let me give a little example that could identify with your life. Let's say that you get up in the morning and you didn't do your devotion well. And by the day you didn't really feel God's presence. But somewhere along the line in the day maybe in the afternoon you picked up an inspirational Christian book. And as you read that Christian book which takes you lets say about one to two hours. And you complete the reading of it because it is very interesting. From the time you started reading you didn't feel God's presence. When you completed reading you were touched by the book and you sensed God's presence. What has taken place? Geographically everything is the same. Physically everything is still the same. What happened is the words that were coming from the book have affected your mind. Begin to turn your mind into a certain frame of reference that access God's presence. And in that different frame of mind that was turned about by the thoughts that came through the book you sensed God's presence. So it's the frame of mind.

The bible says that the veil between the presence of God, the glory of God and our life is in the mind. So reverse it and you get the answer. Every time you cannot sense God's presence means that you are in the wrong frame of mind. Every time you cannot sense God's presence it is because somewhere along the day your frame of mind has changed to a certain set where you cannot sense His presence. And all you need to do is to turn back that frame of mind back into the position where you can sense God's presence. We have been doing that through hearing tapes, reading books, singing songs, reading inspirational books or through fellowship with

Christian people who love God and love the presence of God or through testimonies. All these things come to your perception through words and through thoughts that affect you and turn your mind here for God is present everywhere. When you don't feel His presence, it is because your frame of mind has been turned in such a way that you can't detect His presence. Your radio transmitter is set in a wrong place. The radio waves are there but you can't pick it up because it's not set correctly into the presence of God.

The presence of God is always there. It is Paul who quoted these words in the book of Acts in Him we live and move and have our being. Paul is one of those who practiced the presence of God. Some of us may think that is a small little truth. It's a powerful truth that will cause you to be immune to many of the things Christians go through. Acts 17:28 For in him we live and move and have our being. So Paul is talking about the presence of God everywhere. Do you know where Paul was? Paul was in the Greek temple. And he was not affected by any demon powers that were there. When you learn to practice God's presence demons are afraid of you not you of demons. Idols if there demons involved are afraid of you not you of them. But so many Christians are afraid of idols and temples and all these things. And when the restaurant has a little altar there they feel so uncomfortable sitting there eating their meals. What kind of testimony do we have? You mean our God is only in the church, in a prayer meeting, in a revival meeting but not with us when we are alone? When we practice the presence of God you carry God's presence wherever you are. And Paul was in the temple and he was not affected. I know Christians get affected when they are near those things. Why should it be? I mean you could be passing an idol worshipping procession if you are practicing the presence of God it wouldn't affect you. Some Christians who see a voodoo on the floor or something like that they wouldn't even dare to go and step on it. They say don't step on it, who knows your leg may get injured afterwards. Your leg becomes cursed.

The presence of God is a mind frame. If you get locked into a right mind frame the presence of God is always there. Like God says, "My presence will give you rest," He told Moses. And when you are at rest you do not worry. When you don't worry you seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things are added to you. You take it one day at a time. You just enjoy His presence day by day. Tomorrow is tomorrow; today let me enjoy God's presence. The problems are your problems. Just take it one at a time just enjoy God's presence. Some of you may have tremendous burdens in your heart. Don't put them all together at one time. Just enjoy God's presence and tomorrow some of you are going back to work. As you go back to work, just enjoy God's presence and ask God what is the first thing for me to do. Maybe it may take 10 steps to solve your problem. And you

cannot see the solution because the solution is in 10 steps.

But as you practice God's presence, some of the most complicated situations you got into will unwind by themselves by God's grace. I asked God what to do and God took me one step at a time. For me sometimes it takes 16 steps to solve one problem. Then God showed me just one little step. God said the first thing I want you to do is just fill this form and put this thing through. So I just signed the form, gave it in, and say God now I just enjoy your presence. Then, "Lord, what is step two?" My problem was still not solved since this is just one sixteenth of it. Then the Lord said, "Now I want you to call them and propose this." So I just called them and made my proposal to them. Sometimes it takes 16 steps to solve one problem. But if I had allowed myself to worry about that it will never be solved. Now not every idea that you have comes from God. But it's important that you learn to discern in the Spirit and begin to move one step at a time. Then by the end of the time you finished everything and I looked back and said how the whole thing took place. You couldn't believe that all those things were done because it was done through the grace of God.

As we take step by step the Lord began to show a way. It doesn't happen in one big step. Many of us are not seeing the solution because you think the solution one step. It may be many tiny little steps. And some of the steps are so small that it looks like you are not moving. I want to encourage some of you that I know what shoes you are in. Some of you big business men you shared with me your problems. I know what its like. But it's the same principle that we all got to tap on, the presence of God. And if my mind was not in the frame of reference I don't think the small little step could even come. I will not be receiving that because I have turned the wrong way. It's important to keep your mind in the right frame of reference whatever problem you are in. Because it is through your mind that God will give you the Spirit of wisdom, the ideas to bring solutions to your problems. Now just sitting down and asking God to go and do the work will not solve the problem. I had to do my part. God prospers the works of your hands. God prospers whatever little step you take. They were not be solved by just sitting down and doing nothing. Praying to God, keeping His presence and taking one little step that He shows at a time, solved the problem.

For example, we had mortgaged a house for a certain amount. It was a hundred and thirty thousand in order to have a cash flow. One of the ideas God gave was your house is now more valuable. Go and revalue it and increase the over draft. We did

that and it was increased to one hundred and ninety two. See small little step that you do. And when we were doing it we wouldn't realize how important it was to have the capacity. I believe that if I had not taken that first step up till today nothing would have happened. The first tiny little step was to take all we have and commit ourselves to that road and say it time to buy our building instead of renting. That one step leads to many other little steps to take. The frame of reference is important. I want to encourage some of you who are starting your own business. God's presence is always there. In Him we live and move and have our being. Whenever you cannot feel God's presence, your mind frame has been off set. I have found out it doesn't take much to turn off it. Sometimes just negligence to hold fast your thoughts it is turned off. Sometimes its just you spent too long on the papers and you need to get your mind back. Sometimes you spent too long on analyzing a problem intellectually and you get your mind off set. Every time you cannot feel God's presence is not because God is not there. It is because your mind frame is not tuned correctly. For some of us it may take a whole book to inspire you. But if you learn the secret of how to turn back your mind frame you could have God's presence every second. All you have to do is suddenly catch yourself and say, "I don't sense God's presence anymore." That's all it takes. You learn to switch your mind frame to God's presence. For some of us as we start it maybe difficult. You may need to sing some song or read the bible or whatever. But as you began to learn, what the mind frame is like it becomes easier to switch to it. For me all I have to do is to meditate on His presence and my mind is set in that mind frame. We learn that its all one thought away. The presence of God is only one thought away. Just like your life and death is only one breath away. The spirit world and consciousness of God's presence is only one thought away.