



TO PROPHECY AND SERVE

The Presence & **ABSENCE OF GOD**

There is a spiritual deepening prepared for you through the awareness of God's presence, transformation by the Holy Spirit, and how to respond to His absence for deeper fulfillment. The impact of God's rest and favor in enhancing your personal spirituality with practical guidance for integrating these aspects into daily life.

Intro

The Presence & Absence of God

God's presence is just as strongly known as God's absence and prophetic people must become better attuned at discerning the presence and absence of the LORD in their daily lives.

God's presence is everywhere but His manifest presence is very locational. The presence of the LORD is absolutely transformational, it is impossible to come into the presence of the LORD and remain unchanged.

It is possible for the LORD to be in a place and yet a person be unaware of it. Because the presence of God is not a feeling as many presume, it is an awareness and a

sensitivity that I become better at discerning with time and relationships.

"Then the LORD said to Moses, "Leave this place, you and the people you brought up out of the land of Egypt, and go to the land that I promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' And I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people; otherwise, I might destroy you on the way."

Exodus 33:1-3 (BSB)

Discerning God's Presence

Understanding God's omnipresence is essential, yet His manifest presence is transformative and locational. Prophetic individuals must hone their sensitivity to discern both the presence and absence of God in their lives, recognizing that such awareness goes beyond mere feelings and is crucial for spiritual growth.

The Holy Spirit's Influence

The presence of the Holy Spirit can erase self-doubt, fear, and lead to a profound sense of God consciousness. This divine presence changes character, instills peace, and releases divine favor, making the individual peculiar in their spiritual walk. In contrast, the absence of the Holy Spirit reveals vulnerabilities and may lead to reliance on human appraisal.

The Importance of Waiting

God's timing plays a critical role in spiritual maturity. Waiting on the Lord, though challenging, cultivates patience, character, and readiness for His promises. This process is as transformative for the individual as it is for the fulfillment of divine promises, emphasizing the significance of developing in God's presence.

01.

Discerning God's Presence and Absence

Prophetic individuals need to develop a keen sense of both God's presence and absence in their lives. While God's omnipresence means He is everywhere, His manifest presence—where His presence is tangibly recognized and felt—varies in location and intensity. The transformative power of encountering God's presence cannot be understated; it changes us fundamentally. Awareness and sensitivity to God's presence grow over time, enhancing our spiritual journey.

- **Deepening Awareness:** Embarking on a spiritual journey unveils the myriad ways God's presence subtly enriches our lives, guiding us through varied scenarios and pivotal life stages. This exploration involves delving deep into our personal experiences and the biblical narratives that highlight how a refined sensitivity to God's whispers can lead to transformative decisions and profound life changes. Such stories not only inspire but also serve as a beacon, illuminating the path for others seeking to deepen their spiritual awareness and understand the significance of recognizing God's guiding presence in every moment of existence..
- **Navigating Absence:** Periods when God's presence feels distant can be profound catalysts for spiritual growth, inviting us into deeper reflection and reliance on faith rather than feelings. These moments challenge us to affirm our

belief in God's omnipresence, recognizing that His guidance and love are constant, even when not immediately felt. Embracing these times as opportunities for increased faith allows us to build a foundation not shaken by the changing tides of emotions but anchored in the unchanging nature of God's promise and presence.

02.

The Presence of the Holy Spirit: Part One

The Holy Spirit's presence brings about significant changes in an individual's character, aligning them more closely with Christ. It erases self-doubt, fear, and leads to total surrender to God. In contrast, the absence of the Holy Spirit can leave one feeling insecure, fearful, and self-centered. Success in ministry or life doesn't necessarily equate to the presence of God. It's possible to achieve worldly success while lacking God's manifest presence.

- **Character Transformation:** The transformative power of the Holy

Spirit reshapes our very essence, steering us towards embodying Christ-like virtues in our attitudes, actions, and thoughts. This sanctification process invites us into practices like deep prayer, meditative reading of scripture, and engaging in community with fellow believers, each acting as a conduit for divine influence. Through such spiritual disciplines, we gradually shed our former selves, embracing a new identity that reflects the love, grace, and holiness of Jesus, marking a profound shift in how we interact with the world around us.

- **Overcoming Absence:** Navigating through spiritual dryness involves proactive engagement with practices that cultivate an environment where the Holy Spirit's presence can be felt anew. Committing to regular prayer, even when it feels fruitless, and immersing oneself in the Scriptures can lay the groundwork for

rekindling spiritual fervor. Additionally, seeking fellowship with other believers provides mutual encouragement and accountability, fostering a collective sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's guidance. These strategies not only combat spiritual stagnation but also pave the way for a renewed and vibrant faith journey.

03.

The Presence of the Holy Spirit: Part Two

The presence of the Lord is characterized by God's way, rest, and favor. These elements are crucial for a prophetic individual's spiritual well-being and effectiveness in ministry. The presence of God, unlike His power, cannot be imparted; it is cultivated through a relationship with Him. Forsaking God's presence for the sake of promises or success can lead to spiritual stagnation. Waiting on God is essential for developing patience, character, and readiness for what He has in store.

- **Embracing God's Way:** Embracing God's way, as unveiled in His presence, invites us into a life of surrender to His will, often leading us down paths unanticipated yet rich with divine purpose and fulfillment. This journey of submission opens us up to experiences and opportunities that, while unexpected, align more closely with our deepest callings and God's grand design for our lives. Through this process, we discover a satisfaction and purpose that far exceeds our original plans, revealing the beauty and wisdom in trusting God's direction and timing.
- **The Gift of Rest and Favor:** Experiencing God's rest and favor profoundly influences not just our spiritual journey but also our relationships, professional life, and ministry engagements. These divine gifts foster a sense of peace and confidence that permeates all aspects of life, enhancing our

interactions and effectiveness in various spheres. Practically, prioritizing time for silence and solitude to listen for God's guidance, actively seeking to recognize instances of His favor in daily occurrences, and maintaining a posture of gratitude can deepen our awareness of God's rest and favor in our lives.

Reflect

Reflection Questions

1. How has your understanding of God's omnipresence versus His manifest presence changed your approach to seeking a deeper relationship with Him?
2. Reflecting on the effects of the Holy Spirit's presence and absence, how can you cultivate a more sensitive and discerning heart towards God's movements in your life?
3. Considering the importance of waiting on God, how might patience transform your spiritual journey and readiness for God's promises?