

The Presence of God

Your testimony is important!

The presence of God is revealed in many ways:

“Presence / Face” (Hebrew: *panim*, Greek: *prosopon*) – being *before Him*. It is personal and relational – *Exodus 33:14, Psalm 27:8*

“Glory” (Hebrew: *kabod*) – seeing His *manifest power*. Weight, splendour, radiance. The visible aspect of his presence – *Exodus 40:34*

“Spirit” (Greek: *pneuma*) – *feeling* His life and breath. the active, indwelling presence of God in our life – *John 14:17*

“Draw near” (Hebrew: *qareb*, Greek: *engizo*) – *experiencing* His closeness – *James 4:8*

“Among or in the midst” (*qereb*) – *gathered* presence among His people.

“Immanuel” – *God with us* in human form. The ultimate revelation of God’s presence (Jesus) – *Isaiah 7:14*

God’s presence has changed its expression throughout the bible:

1. *(past)* **Garden of Eden** – Perfect fellowship, direct relationship – *Genesis 3:8*
2. *(past)* **After sin entered the world** – separated from his presence – *Genesis 3:24*
3. *(past)* **Restricted throughout the Old Testament** – appeared to individuals (Abraham, moses), animal sacrifice worship.
4. *(now)* **Jesus brought us back into relationship with him** – the presence of God revealed through Christ – *John 1:14*
5. *(now)* **The Holy Spirit comes down to us as Jesus goes up to be with God the**

Father – Every believer has the Holy Spirit within them guiding them every day – *John 14:16*

6. *(now)* **The church** – Shared access to God's presence – *Matthew 18:20*

7. *(future)* **A New Heaven and a New Earth**
- Jesus has returned, death and evil are defeated, and heaven and earth are united. God's presence is perfect, eternal. No more mourning, no more crying, the old has passed away – *Revelation 21:3 - 4*

Right now, we have direct access to the presence of God through:

Jesus

Our sin no longer separates us from God. We are forgiven, chosen, accepted, without condemnation.

The Church

Where 2 or 3 gathered, here he is with us. There is so much power in meeting together and feeling God's presence together through a time of worship, prayer, fellowship, and the word.

Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is always with us – guiding us, comforting us, correcting us, encouraging us.

God's presence is within us constantly. We just need to stop and listen!

1 Kings 19:11-12 - ... And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

How do you hear a gentle whisper? You stop talking, you wait, you are quiet, and **you eagerly listen.**

Exodus 33:14, James 4:8

God works in miracles, and his glory can be expressed through incredible moments, and we should believe for that! **But God often works in the normal – in the quiet.**

We aren't earthly beings having a spiritual experience, but we are instead **spiritual beings having an earthly experience.**

Allow the spirit to speak to you through an open heart.

We should come close to God and allow him to transform us and heal our heart – clean our hearts.

If we come near to God, if we allow him to wash our hands and purify our hearts, **he will come near to us.**

We should be aiming to feel God's presence everyday through **reading** his word, **speaking** to him, **listening** to him, and having a **genuine desire to** be with him.