

PRACTICE HIS PRESENCE



by
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PRACTICE HIS PRESENCE

Please open your Bibles to John chapter five and verse thirty-nine. I would like to preach a message entitled "Practice His Presence."

We are going to notice two things: number one, the Bible is a book about Jesus Christ; number two, the Bible teaches you about the presence of Jesus Christ.

Brethren! It is the will of God that you so walk with Jesus Christ every day that your heart will burn within you as He talks with you and while He opens to you the Word of God.

Let me ask you something! What is it that will cause your heart to burn within? It is the Word of God taught by Jesus Christ Himself that will cause your heart to burn within.

Notice number one, the Bible is a book about Jesus Christ. In John 5:39, the Bible says, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

What was Jesus saying? He was simply saying this, "Everything in the Bible is about Me!" Listen folks! The Bible is not a book about history. It is not a book about Israel. It is not a book about Moses. It is not a book about David. It is not a book about Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob. The Bible is a book about Jesus Christ.

In Genesis, He is the Creator and the Seed of the woman. In Exodus, He is the Lamb of God for sinners slain. In Leviticus, He is our Perfect High Priest. In Numbers, He is the Star out of Jacob. In Deuteronomy, He is the Prophet like unto Moses. In Joshua, He is Captain of the Lord's host. In Judges, He is the Messenger of Jehovah. In Ruth, He is the Kinsman Redeemer. In 1st and 2nd Samuel, He is the Despised and Rejected King. In Kings and Chronicles, He is the Lord of Heaven and Earth. In Ezra, He is the Teaching Priest. In Nehemiah, He is the Builder of the work. In Esther, He is our Mordecai. In Job, He is our Risen Returning Redeemer. In Psalms, He is the Great Shepherd. In Proverbs, He is our Wisdom, In Ecclesiastes, He is the Forgotten Wise Man. In Song of Solomon, He is the Rose of Sharon, and the Lily of the Valleys. In Isaiah, He is our Suffering Substitute. In Jeremiah, He is the Lord our Righteousness. In Lamentations, He is the Man of Sorrows. In Ezekiel, He is sitting upon the throne. In Daniel, He is the Smiting Stone. In Hosea, He is David's Great King. In Joel, He is the Lord of Bounty. In Amos, He is the Rescuer of Israel. In Obadiah, He is the Deliverer upon Mt. Zion. In Jonah, He is the Buried and Risen Saviour, In Micah, He is the Everlasting God. In Nahum, He is our Stronghold in the day of wrath. In Habakkuk, He is the Anchor of our faith. In Zephaniah, He is in the midst of judgment and cleansing. In Haggai, He is the Smitten Shepherd. In Zechariah, He is the Branch. In Malachi, He is the Son of Righteousness.

Don't you see folks? The Bible is a book about Jesus Christ. In Matthew, He is the King of the Jews. In Mark, He is the Servant. In Luke, He is the Son of Man. In

John, He is the Son of God. In Acts, He is our Ascended Lord. In Romans, He is the Lord our Righteous. In 1st and 2nd Corinthians, He is our Resurrection. In Galatians, He is the Seed of Abraham. In Ephesians, He is the Head of the Church. In Philippians, He is the Supplier of every need. In Colossians, He is the Fullness of the Godhead. In 1st and 2nd Thessalonians, He is the Returning Lord. In 1st and 2nd Timothy, He is God manifest in the flesh. In Titus, He is Truth. In Philemon, He is Saviour of slaves. In Hebrews, He is our High Priest. In James, He is the Judge that standeth before the door. In 1st and 2nd Peter, He is the Chief Shepherd. In 1st 2nd and 3rd John, He is our Advocate. In Jude, He is our Security. In Revelation, He is the Root and the Offspring of David, and the Bright and Morning Star.

The Bible is a book about Jesus Christ, and your heart ought to burn within you as you walk and talk with Jesus Christ and as God talks back to you through His Word and through the Holy Spirit of God living in you.

Brethren! It is the will of God that you so walk with Jesus Christ every day that your heart will burn within you as He talks with you and while He opens to you the Word of God.

The Bible talks about a fire that burned in Jeremiah's heart. In Jeremiah 20:9, the Bible says, "But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones."

What was Jeremiah saying? He was simply saying this, "When I opened my heart to the Word of God, God's Word got into my heart and it set a fire within my soul and I could not be silent. I could not be quiet. It burned within."

You can count on it. Anytime the Lord Jesus Christ meets with you and opens to you the Word of God, that will cause your heart to burn within.

Let me ask you something else. Can that happen to you today? Yes, it could happen to you today. Have you ever thought about living in the days of Jesus? Just think! You could have heard the sermons that He preached. You could have heard the parables that He spoke. You could have witnessed the feeding of the four thousand, the feeding of the five thousand. You could have heard Him. You could have walked with Him. You could have talked with Him and God could have talked back to you.

Brethren! You are not short-changed by living in the 21st century.

We have noticed, number one: that the Bible is a book about Jesus Christ; but notice, number two: the Bible teaches you about the presence of Jesus Christ.

His personal presence is real. His personal presence is genuine. Jesus said it this way in John 14:18, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." The word comfortless is not the usual word for comfort. It is literally the word "orphan." What was Jesus saying? He was simply saying this, "I will not leave you an orphan." Jesus said, "I will come to you."

Jesus Christ is not in the flesh in this room, that's true. But Jesus Christ is as much in this room as if He were in the flesh. That's right. If you believe the Bible, you realize the fact that fellowship with God is on a spiritual plane anyway.

Did you know that you can have just as real a fellowship with Jesus Christ as did Peter, James, or John?--because His presence is just as real today as it was 2000 years ago. In Matthew 18:20, Jesus said, "for where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." I don't know how He does it, but Jesus Christ is in this very room. Don't you believe that? Don't you believe that you can walk with Jesus Christ today, that you can talk with Him, that you can fellowship with Him? Don't you believe that He actually indwells you? Don't you believe that Jesus Christ Himself in the person of the Holy Spirit of God indwells your very body? I hope you believe that.

In Galatians 2:20, the Apostle Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." What did he mean by that? Was that just religious talk? Or does he mean that Jesus Christ literally indwells you.

If the Son of God indwells you, and He does if you are truly saved, then. my friend, His presence can be real to you. You can practice His presence. You can walk every day with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in your life. You can do that. And Jesus Christ can open to you the Word of God as surely as He did to His disciples some 2000 years ago.

Listen folks! The Holy Spirit of God, who inspired the Word of God, indwells you. And if you are right with God, if you are in fellowship with the Lord, you can read the Word of God and let God Almighty speak to your heart as surely as He spoke to His disciples.

Brethren! You are not short-changed by living in the 21st century. You can walk with God. You can talk with God. You can fellowship with the Lord. And God through His Word and through the Holy Spirit of God living in you can talk back to you.

Only two times in the Word of God is a man called "the friend of God." Abraham is called God's friend. In James 2:23, the Bible says, "And he was called the Friend of God."

Moses is called God's friend. In Exodus 33:11, the Bible says, "And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend."

You can read in the Word of God that God talked to Moses and Moses talked to God. Moses dwelt in His presence. Moses worshiped in His presence. Now, that must have been exciting, don't you think, to walk with God, to talk to God, and to have God talk back to you?

Don't you want that? Don't you want to walk with God? Don't you want to talk to God and have God talk back to you? You can have that.

Did you know that if God were to come into this room and start speaking, He would not say one more word than what is revealed in the Word of God? In other words, you have everything God would say to you if He were speaking by His voice anyhow. You have it right here. You have it right here written down in the Bible. You can look it up and make sure you heard it just right. And the presence of God in your life is as real as the presence of God with Moses.

Do you remember the story about the men on the road to Emmaeus in Luke 24:32, who said, "Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?"

Can that be said of you today? Do you walk with Jesus Christ every day? Do you talk with Him every day? Do you fellowship with Him every day? Do you practice His presence?

Do you realize the fact that you are in the presence of God and God is in your presence? God is with you. God is able to walk with you. God is able to talk with you. God is able to fellowship with you. God can do that.

My dear Christian friends! You can read the Word of God every day. You can ask God to speak to your heart. And if you are right with God, if you are in fellowship with the Lord, and if your heart is open, you will say, "Did not my heart burn within me today as I walked and talked with the Son of God, as He revealed Himself to me?"

This is for every child of God in this room who is willing to live a godly life within His presence. This is for you. You can know the presence of God in your life. You can experience His fellowship. And God can be as real to you as the flesh on your bones.

You can read the Word of God and say, "God is speaking to my heart." Don't you see that? So many Christians, when they talk about meeting the Lord Jesus Christ, have to go back 15-20 years to when they were saved.

Listen folks! I met the Lord Jesus Christ fifteen years ago when I received Him as my own personal Saviour and Friend. But I met Him this morning. I know Him better now than I knew Him fifteen years ago. I understand Him better now. I can read the Word of God and it makes more sense to me now. The Word of God is more open to me now than it has ever been. I want to know God. I want to know God like Abraham did. I want to know God like Moses did. I want to know God like Paul did. I can do that. You can do that. You can know God like Abraham did. You can know God like Moses did. You can know God like Paul did. You can know God. There is no reason why you cannot know God as they did.

My question is this. Do you truly want to know Him? I wish I could get you to hunger to know God. You say, "Preacher! How do you get to know Him?" You have got to spend time with Him in His presence and then listen to Him as He speaks to your heart through His Word.

Do you remember the story about Martha? She was so very busy running around cleaning up the house, washing the dishes, and getting things ready for supper. She looked around and she saw Mary sitting at Jesus' feet listening to His Word; and she said, "Jesus tell her to get busy and help me." In Luke 10:41, Jesus said, "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Perhaps you are like Martha. Do you get so busy today that you have no time for Jesus Christ? That you have no time to talk with the Son of God?

Everybody is busy today. Busy is a way of life. Unsaved folks are busy. God's people are busy. But my dear Christian friends, I don't care how busy you are today. You had better take the time every day to spend time alone with Jesus Christ, God Almighty, and develop in your mind a sense of His presence. And that takes discipline. That's something you do on purpose. You ought to get up in the morning and say something like this, "God is alive. God is real. God lives in my heart. God Almighty indwells me." That's the God of the universe. That's the God who created the sun, the moon, and the stars all with the spoken word. That's the God who split the Red Sea. That's the God who walked upon the Sea of Galilee. That's the God who healed the sick. That's the God who raised the dead. That God lives in you today if you are truly born again.

You can walk with God. You can talk with God. You can fellowship with the Lord every day. You can read the Word of God and let Him speak to your heart through it.

By the way! When you read the Word of God, you ought to say something like this. Oh, God, please speak to my heart. I want to know you. I want to know you better; I want to know how you think. I want to know how you feel. I want to know what you hate. I want to know what you love.

Brethren! If you will take the time, if you will discipline yourself to read the Word of God every day when you feel like it and when you don't feel like it, when you are up and when you are down, when you feel good and when you feel bad, if you will do that day after day after day after day, then after a while you will say, "I know God. I know God better. I know how God thinks. I know how God feels. I know what God hates. I know what God loves. I know something about God."

Think with me! If the Lord Jesus Christ were real to you and you would discipline yourself to read the Word of God every day and allow Him to speak to your heart through His Word, then no one would have to beg and plead with you to tell others about Christ. You would not be so concerned about whether you knew all

the right words to say. Why is that? Jesus Christ would be real to you. You would love Him more. You would love to tell others about Christ.

Jesus is real. Jesus is a real person. I am not talking about some dream. I am not talking about some idea. I am not talking about some feeling. I am talking about a real Person. I am talking about the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

If this congregation would become so close to that Person, no one would have to beg and plead for workers. No one would have to beg and plead with you to keep clean before God.

Brethren! You ought to say something like this, "I am going to live in His presence. And I am going to live for Christ and do what is right because He has done so much for me!"

If you did that, do you know what would happen? You would read the Word of God every day; and after a while, you would look at the clock and say, "Oh, no! I have got to go to work. I have got to go to school." You would close the Word of God and say, "I can hardly wait to sit down and read the Bible some more." And all day long you would be talking to the Lord Jesus Christ. You would be spending time with Him throughout the day. You would be praying to the Lord without working at it so hard. You would be longing to get back into the Bible and spend time with Him and fellowship with Him. You would be conscious of His presence all day long; and you would come to the end of the day and say, "Did not my heart burn within me today as I walked and talked with Jesus Christ and as He talked back to me through His Word and through the Holy Spirit of God living in me?" And you would go to bed at night with your heart burning. You would wake up in the morning with your heart burning, with a smile on your face. You say "Preacher! No one can live like that." But I say to you that you can and you ought to be living that way. Don't live any other way. What other way do you want to live? Do you want to live in the flesh? Do you want to walk around all day long under your flesh? Do you want to walk around all day long with thoughts of anger, envy, jealousy, and lust? Do you want to walk around all day long with a frown on your face? Is that the way you want to live? Unsaved folks live like that. Don't you want to live a different sort of life? Don't you want to live in such a way that the Lord Jesus Christ is real to you? Don't you want to live in such a way that His Word is real to you? Don't you want His Words to burn in your heart because He talks with you, because He opens unto you the Scriptures? I don't know about you, but I don't want to live any other way.

Listen folks! It is the will of God that you so walk with Jesus Christ every day that your heart will burn within you as He talks with you and as He opens to you the Word of God.

How is a Person Saved?

Salvation is all of God. God does the saving. Just take God at His Word and claim His salvation by faith. You will never be able to work your way into heaven. God does not have a scale in heaven whereby He weighs your good and bad works. That is a lie of the Devil – Romans 3:24; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; I Peter 1:18; Romans 5:8.

Salvation is as simple as believing on Christ as the one who bore your sin, who died in your place, who was buried, and whom God resurrected from the dead – John 1:12, 3:16, 6:47; Acts 16:31; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 10:9-10; Romans 10:13.

Simply admit that you are a sinner and believe on Christ as your crucified, buried, and risen Saviour. You will receive forgiveness for all of your sins. You will receive His free gift of eternal life by faith – Romans 3:10, 23; I Corinthians 15:3-4.

Jesus did a wonderful thing for you some 2,000 years ago on Calvary's cross. He died for you. He was buried for you. He rose again the third day for you, and nothing would thrill Him more than to save you today.

Won't you go to Him right now in prayer and tell Him in your own words that you will trust Him as your Saviour? Or pray this simple prayer: Dear Lord, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died for me and that He arose from the grave. Here and now I ask You to forgive me of my sin and save me. In Jesus's name. Amen.

If you prayed that simple prayer, I would like to hear from you. Please contact me by e-mail or phone (813) 760-4028.

Please visit our website for a complete list of sermons that are available.

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