

## God's Presence With Man: 1

### The Preciousness of the Presence of God

#### The Central Theme of Eden

- If you examine life in Eden or Heaven, you will see that there is one central theme that runs through them both - **'fellowship with God'**, the relationship that God has with His people.
- That relationship or fellowship is often referred to as the 'Presence of God' - God present with and among His people.

#### Genesis 3.8

"And they heard the sound 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".

- In Eden we see that God came down and walked and talked with Adam. Adam knew what it was to be in the presence of God.
- When Adam and his wife sinned, and fell, that fellowship was broken. They were driven out of Eden, out from the physical manifestation of the Presence of God. There is no mention of repentance nor that God spoke with him again.
- Cain's sin in chapter 4, where he murders his brother Abel, resulted in his going out from the presence of the Lord (vs13,14, 16) "**my punishment is greater than I can bear... I shall be hidden from Your face... Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord**" - separation from the presence of God.
- Yet David, after his sin with Bathsheba and Uriah, in his prayer of repentance prays: "**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me**" Psalm 51.10-11

#### Genesis 4.25-26

"And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, 'For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed' And as for Seth, to him also a son was born: and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord"

Although driven from the Presence of God and no longer in fellowship with Him, God is merciful to Adam and his wife in giving them another son. God cannot use Adam, Cain, Abel and so needs another man in whom to bring about His plan – Seth. The child has to come through Adam and Eve because the promise of the Seed was to her (Genesis 3.15)

Seth has a son Enosh and things begin to change – men begin to call on the name of the Lord - once again God is present among His people

#### 'The Lord was with' them..

- This theme is not exclusive to Heaven or Eden; it actually runs through the whole Bible - we see it Enoch, in Noah, in Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

## Genesis 39. 1-23

- Verses 1-5 says that ‘the Lord was with Joseph’ and the blessing made him prosper.
- Verse 5 connects God’s presence with the blessing.
- Even when his circumstance changed (through false allegations) Joseph still knew that the presence of God was with him and produced favour and prosperity in his life (vs 19-23)
- After he had been forgotten and left in the prison for two years – still the Lord was with him and the blessing elevated and promoted him (Genesis 40.23; 41.1,14, 37-41, 52)

### Compare

- Genesis 26.24
- Genesis 30.43 – Genesis 31.5
- Judges 1.19,22
- 1 Samuel 3.19
- 1 Samuel 18.12,14
- 2 Kings 18.7

## The Preciousness of the Presence of God

- You cannot have the blessing without God’s presence with you - He is the Blessor.
- A lot of people talk and think about material prosperity, healing, a spiritual gift or some other tangible thing as the blessing.
- We must not confuse blessings with the Blessing.
  - These tangible blessings are only the results and benefits of the Blessing. Most Christians seek the blessings: they seek the healing for their body, they seek the spiritual gifts, they seek the financial miracle to meet a need. They are trying to get the blessings rather than the Blessor.
- But, it is the Blessing that makes us rich - Proverbs 10.22  
“The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it”

Genesis 24. 1, 34-36, 40 The presence of the Lord caused the blessing to come upon Abraham and his family.

## Seek God First

- Jesus is Emmanuel – ‘God with us’. (Matthew 1.23)
- Everything God is and has been, is wrapped up in Jesus. Jesus is the fullness of the Godhead and in Him there is completeness [the Blessing] (Colossians 2.9-10)

### Matthew 6.31-33

“Therefore do not worry, saying ‘what shall we eat?’ or ‘what shall we drink?’ or ‘what shall we wear?’. For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your Heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you”

- Seek first of all the ‘kingdom of God’ - seek God first, His presence first. Get into that place of fellowship with God, out of which will flow the Fullness of the Blessing. You’ll get the blessings, but they come as a result of the Blessing.