

Pursuing the Presence of God

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Prepared from the spoken message and lightly edited for readability. Scripture quotations and spoken phrasing are preserved as delivered.

If you have your Bible, I want to invite you to grab it and turn to Psalm chapter 24. Psalm 24 is where we're going to be.

Next week, we're going to start a brand-new series as we move into the worship center called Holy Fire. That starts next week, and I'm so excited about it. We're going to take the month of November - five weeks - to look at five episodes, if you will, in the Old Testament when the fire of God fell. Oftentimes, His presence was associated with fire.

Holy Fire begins next week. I'm really excited about it. This entire fall, we have really directed our whole hearts toward the presence of God. This is why we did Pray Like Jesus. We're just wanting to go a step deeper in our intimacy with the Lord. It's why we had our Resilience Prayer Conference. It's why we did a Prayer and Praise service last week with Daniel Henderson.

This week, for a standalone message, I wanted to preach a message that I've never preached here at Champion Forest. It's all about the correlation between our holiness and the presence of God. I hope that, as we talk about this today, it'll whet your appetite for next week as we go into this Holy Fire series that's all about the fire falling and the presence of God.

I'm calling the message today "Pursuing the Presence of God."

Who Can Be in the Presence of God?

There is a question found in Psalm 24 that's echoed throughout Scripture and has captured my heart for years. It's a loaded question, if there ever was one. It's found in Psalm 24:3:

*Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
And who shall stand in his holy place?*

— Psalm 24:3

Essentially, this is a question that asks, "Who can be in the presence of God?"

The presence of God was everything to the people of God. Just think about it. Genesis begins with two people walking in a garden with unhindered fellowship with God. They are in His very presence. Revelation ends with the people of God in a heavenly city, and God is dwelling with them in His very presence.

From Genesis to Revelation, we could say the mega-theme of Scripture ties it all together. What some

scholars have suggested is the cohesive center of biblical theology is this idea that God desires a personal, intimate relationship with every single one of us. Ultimately, He enters creation via the person of Jesus Christ to facilitate that relationship and enable us to live in His presence forever.

But before Christ, the presence of God was manifested in different ways. We see in the Old Testament that the presence of God shows up in the form of a cloud. Or, like we're going to look at over the next five weeks, it shows up in the form of fire. In what we're looking at today, it shows up symbolized in the ark of the covenant.

You remember the ark? It was the only piece of furniture allowed to be behind the curtain in the Holy of Holies. Contained in it were the stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments were etched, and on top of it was the mercy seat. I brought a picture to show you what it might have looked like: this wooden box overlaid with gold.

This ark resided where the high priest could enter, and he could only enter once a year to make atonement for the sins of the people. It is from the ark of the covenant where God said He would meet with Moses and speak to him, in Exodus 25:22.

This ark has quite a history. It led the way as Israel made its journey throughout the wilderness. When the people of God crossed into the Promised Land, it was the ark of the covenant, carried by the priests, that led the way. When they went to capture the city of Jericho and marched around the city, they marched behind the ark of the covenant. During the period of the judges, the ark of the covenant was kept at Shiloh under the care of Eli and his family.

Fast-forward to what we're looking at today in Psalm chapter 24. The context is inspired by when David brought the ark to Jerusalem. Here, the ark of the covenant - the symbolized presence of God - is coming into the city of God, and it sparks a great celebration. David rejoices. The Bible says that he danced before the Lord with all of his might. The ark of God, the presence of God, is in the city of God.

Now, it'd be a good time to just pause and say: Do you get that excited about the presence of God? David danced with all of his might. I'm not asking you to dance, okay? But do you get excited about it?

Some people say, "Can Baptists really dance?" Some can. Some can't. All right?

But do you get fired up about the presence of God? Today, coming here, where two or three are gathered in His name, we know His presence manifests itself. Were you excited about the presence of God being here? Did you wake up thinking about it? It ought to fire us up.

We have more than a wooden box overlaid with gold in Christ. Just the idea of being in His presence ought to excite us.

A.W. Tozer said, "The presence of God is the central fact of Christianity. At the heart of the Christian message is God Himself waiting for His redeemed children to push into a conscious awareness of His presence."

When was the last time you thought, "God, I've got to get into Your presence. Lord, I need to be in Your presence. I want to ascend the hill of the Lord. I want to stand in the holy place"?

Holiness and the Presence of God

Let me set up why being in the presence of God is so very important. Scripture says that it is the will of God that every believer be holy - sanctified. That's 1 Thessalonians 4:3. We're commanded in Scripture to be holy because God is holy, in 1 Peter 1:15-16. Hebrews 12:14 says:

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

— Hebrews 12:14

I want you to follow me on this. We talk about this often around here. When we enter into a relationship with Christ, we are positionally set apart and made holy. Ephesians 2:3-5 tells us that it is a miracle. We go from being a child of wrath to being a child of God.

Colossians 1:13 says that instantaneously, at faith in Christ, we go from being part of the kingdom of darkness and are transferred into the kingdom of the beloved Son. There is a positional holiness that occurs at the moment of rebirth.

However, it is at the point of conversion that we are called to a practical holiness. This is part of repentance. This is part of renewing our minds. This is what Scripture means when it says we are raised to walk in newness of life.

Our positional holiness is taken care of at conversion. Our practical holiness takes place over a lifetime as we grow in our relationship with the Lord. The Holy Spirit conforms us to the image of Jesus as we submit to His lordship and yield to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

I love reading Leonard Ravenhill. He was a revivalist and an evangelist. As a matter of fact, last night I pulled a book off my shelf called *Revival Praying* by Leonard Ravenhill. Whenever I want the fires in my heart stoked for getting into the presence of God, for revival or spiritual awakening, one of the first go-tos is Leonard Ravenhill.

He was an evangelist sent to the United States from England. His ministry was really popular in the '50s, '60s, and '70s. Oftentimes, we think about evangelists and missionaries being sent from the West to other places, but Ravenhill was actually sent from England to the United States as a revivalist and an evangelist to share the gospel.

I think I've shown you this picture before. This is a picture of his gravestone. You know, I told you I don't have many hobbies. One of them is going to find where dead preachers are buried, all right? Here's a picture of his tombstone. It's in a small cemetery, Garden Valley Cemetery, near Lindale, Texas. That's where he headquartered his ministry during the last part of his life.

Look at his tombstone: "Are the things you're living for worth Christ dying for?" I love that question.

The reason I like Ravenhill so much is because he and Tozer were friends. If you've been around here, you know my affinity for A.W. Tozer. Ravenhill also disciples David Wilkerson, who heavily influenced Jim Cymbala, and Jim Cymbala's ministry definitely influenced my ministry. This coaching tree kind of goes up to Ravenhill. I

love him.

Listen to what he said about holiness, because we're making the correlation between practical holiness and getting into the presence of God:

"The greatest miracle that God can do today is take an unholy man out of an unholy world, make that man holy, put him back into that unholy world, and keep him holy in it."

Here's my proposition in all of this: As Christians, born-again believers in Jesus Christ, there is a desire in all of us for holiness. There is a desire in all of us to be in the presence of God. If God lives in us, we want to spend time with Him, and we want to be like Him.

We are like Him as we pursue His presence. As we get into His presence, this is where practical holiness occurs. Do you see the correlation between practical holiness and being in the presence of God?

Paul put it this way:

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.

— 2 Corinthians 3:18

In other words, as you seek the presence of God and pursue the presence of God, you will become what you behold.

That's a good word. You will become what you behold.

This is why pursuing the presence of God is so important, because our practical holiness - becoming more like Him - is dependent on it.

Here's the thing, though: Because of our sin and because of what His presence represents - we'll work this out in just a moment - we don't pursue His presence. It's not natural for us to behold His face. In fact, our flesh works against it. It works to avoid it.

Now, some of you are saying, "Jarrett, you just said that if we're born again, we have a desire for His holiness and a desire to be in His presence. Now you're saying that, in our flesh, we avoid His presence. Which is it?"

Both.

This is the age-old tug-of-war of Galatians 5:17. The Spirit desires what is contrary to the flesh. The flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit. They keep you from doing the things you want to do.

Holy and Full of Glory

When we study God's presence, there are two recurring themes that we find over and over again. Look at it in Scripture. Whenever God's presence shows up, we see that God is infinitely holy.

"Holy, holy, holy."

He is completely distinct and different from anything or anyone. His holiness means He is totally separate. The Bible says His eyes are so pure that He can't even look upon sin.

He is totally different. Different from whom? Different from everything, and certainly from us. There's not even a good comparison. There's not even a good illustration.

You know, it's the World Series. Nobody cares who's playing, but think about baseball. We sometimes think that God is in the major leagues as it relates to holiness, and we're in the peewee league. No, no, no, no. God is in a league of His own, and we're in no league at all, okay?

He is perfectly pure, perfectly righteous, and infinitely holy. Whenever His presence shows up, this is what you see: "Holy, holy, holy."

The second characteristic of His presence is that the Bible says He is full of glory. We're going to look at Isaiah 6, this episode when Isaiah is in the throne room of God, in week three or four of our Holy Fire series. But just get the picture.

You remember what's happening? Isaiah sees the throne room of God. In Isaiah 6:3, the seraphim have a song on repeat, okay? It's been going on forever, and it will continue forever. One called to another - repeated action is the tense - and said:

*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!*

— Isaiah 6:3

Thrice holy. Infinitely holy.

Then look at what it says: "The whole earth is full of His glory." That word glory means weight. The Hebrew word is kavod. It describes the totality of God. There is a heaviness that comes with the Lord.

Moses, at one point, asked to see the glory of God. He even said, "Please." You remember what God said?

You cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.

— Exodus 33:20

Go back to that picture we showed you of the ark of the covenant. The seraphim are over the mercy seat. Their heads are bowed down because even the angels do not look at the presence of God.

When you get a glimpse of the holiness of God and the glory of God, it's powerful. It's overwhelming. Truthfully, we can't see it in its fullness or we wouldn't live. We do get a glimpse of it, though.

The whole earth is full of His glory.

*The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*

— Psalm 19:1

There's a phrase that we have for our younger generations - probably for the older generations as well - to stop us from scrolling and get us off our digital devices. We say, "Somebody needs to go touch some grass." You know that phrase? Get outside.

What's the point of touching some grass and getting outside? These are just some pictures of nature, okay? I found these on the internet. Look at this - a glimpse of the glory of God.

You say, "Gee, Pastor, are those digitally enhanced?" I have no idea. They're on the internet. I don't even know if they're real, but they give you an idea, okay?

The glory of God. The sun rising over the ocean. A beautiful mountainscape. We're getting a glimpse of the glory of God. The glory of God shows us exactly who He is: the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

David sees this:

*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein,
for he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.*

— Psalm 24:1-2

It's this thought, this idea, that prompts David to ask the question in verse 3:

*Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
And who shall stand in his holy place?*

— Psalm 24:3

The One who made these things is full of glory and infinitely holy. Who is going to be in His presence? That's crazy.

This is exactly why we work to avoid His presence. His holiness exposes us, doesn't it? Anybody who's trying to grow as a Christian knows this. You get into your time alone with the Lord, and you're spending time in the holiness of God. It's not like you feel better about yourself. You actually feel more unholy, right?

It's like the closer you get to the sun, the hotter you feel. The closer you get to holiness, the more unholy you're going to feel. It puts you in your place. It puts me in my place. In our flesh, we don't like being put in our place.

His holiness exposes us. His glory humbles us. Nobody stands in front of one of those pictures, looks up at that mountain, sees all those stars, and says, "Man, I am something else." No, you look at that, and it puts you in your place.

In our flesh, we don't want to be in God's presence, where His glory is on display and His holiness shines through. But we need His presence because we won't change without it.

How We Avoid God's Presence

David is going to answer this question for us - who can ascend the hill of the Lord? But before he does that, let me tell you what we do concerning the presence of God.

We have this flesh. We already talked about that. We've got three enemies. You know this, right? In life, the Christian has three enemies.

You have the flesh and the sin nature. They're used interchangeably in Scripture. They keep you from doing the things you want to do as a child of God. The flesh wants nothing to do with the presence of God.

You've got a devil - the adversary, Satan, a real being. He's not a figment of your imagination or a cartoon with a pitchfork. This is a real person who's out to steal, kill, and destroy. I take it literally. I take it figuratively. I take it all of the above.

He, for sure, doesn't want you getting into the presence of God, because that's where you're changed from one shade of glory to the next. That's where you become more like Jesus. Satan doesn't want that. He's going to work overtime to distract you from getting alone with the Lord.

Then you have the world system. The world in which we live is under the power of the devil, according to Ephesians 2. It's under the power of the evil prince of the power of the air.

What the world system wants is for us to think about our senses - what we can see, touch, and feel. It wants us to live for the visible and the temporal. "Don't live for the eternal. Don't live for the invisible."

You've got these enemies that are going to work overtime to keep you from pursuing the presence of Christ. There are a couple of ways they make this happen.

Suppressing Our Desire for God's Presence

Instead of pursuing the presence of Christ, they want us to suppress our desire for the presence of God. This happens all the time.

Paul wrote in Romans 1 about the unbelieving world, and what Paul says about the world is true of our fleshly desires. This is like the essence of sin - not wanting to be in the presence of God. We suppress that desire.

Listen to what he said:

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world.

— Romans 1:18-20

Look at His glory on display in nature. You look at that and go, "There's got to be a Creator." You look at the

physical body, and even with all of our mess-ups and mishaps, you go, "Man, that didn't get there accidentally."

God has shown it to us so that we are without excuse.

Again, get alone in a room and just be honest with yourself. We know there's something bigger than us out there. But what the enemy, the flesh, and the world system want us to do is suppress that desire for the presence of God.

You don't want to feel unholy or unworthy. Everybody gets a trophy in this day and age, you know? So you suppress this desire for the presence of God because you don't want to feel bad about yourself.

Exchanging God's Presence for Something Lesser

Another way these enemies work overtime to prevent us from getting into the presence of God is by getting us to exchange our desire for the presence of God for something of lesser value.

Keep reading Romans 1:

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

— Romans 1:21-23

How do you know you're becoming futile in your thinking and your heart is being darkened? Claiming to be wise, they become fools.

How do you know you're being a fool? You exchange the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man, birds, animals, and creeping things.

This happens so subtly. In our flesh, we'll exchange the glory of God and the presence of God for something of lesser value every single day and not even think twice about it.

This is the story of the Israelites in the Old Testament. They carved a golden calf and substituted that for the glory of the one true God.

We do this. We exchange the glory of God. We exchange spending time with Him, our quiet time, for our phone. We start scrolling, and all of a sudden, it's been 20 minutes. What's been scrapped? Seeking the Lord in prayer and reading the Bible. What have we done? We've made a sorry exchange.

Some of us are like Martha. We're doing good things and good activities. She was in the kitchen preparing the way, making sure everything was laid out, and being a good host. But what did Jesus say? "Martha, you're distracted with many things. Mary has chosen what is better. She's sitting at the feet of Jesus, and it will not be taken from her."

Some of us substitute good activity for being with God.

Some of us exchange pushing into His presence for comfort. It's just easier to sit on our couch, binge out, and watch Netflix. We make this sorry exchange.

Listen, it doesn't have to be overtly sinful. I read somewhere that we rarely trade God for something evil. We just trade Him for something easier.

I want to challenge you in this moment, by the power and authority of God: Don't replace the infinite joy that awaits you in the presence of God.

*You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

— Psalm 16:11

Don't replace those things with that which is temporary, destructive, and ultimately leads to spiritual death.

Presuming Upon God's Presence

These enemies will get us to suppress our desire for the presence of God. They will get us to exchange our desire for the presence of God. Sometimes they get us to presume upon the presence of God.

Presumption is a great sin in Scripture.

Remember when I talked about the ark being in Eli's family? Eli was the priest, but he didn't pass his faith on to his boys. Scripture calls Hophni and Phinehas worthless sons.

You remember what they did? Israel lost a battle, and they were godless. They were drinking in the temple, just carousing. Israel loses a battle, so you know what they do? Hophni and Phinehas take the ark of the covenant and march it into battle against the Philistines, thinking that if they just have the furniture, they're going to win the war.

Do you know what happens? They get routed, and Hophni and Phinehas die.

What's the lesson? You don't treat casually that which represented the presence of God in the Old Testament.

The Levitical law had strict regulations for who entered the presence of God and when you entered the presence of God. If you didn't abide by them, I mean, you died. There's example after example of this.

In Leviticus 10, Nadab and Abihu offer unauthorized fire before the Lord. They presume upon the presence of God. Do you know what that fire does? It consumes them.

In Numbers 16, Korah and his followers presume upon God. They said, "We're going to take over and lead Israel. Moses, you can just back down."

Moses said, "All right, let's show up and let God be the one to determine that."

Do you know what happens? Read Numbers 16. The earth opens up and closes over Korah and his followers. They presumed on the presence of God.

The event that inspired Psalm 24 - at a minimum, the psalm was recited to commemorate this event - was the ark coming into Jerusalem. You remember what happened? This is found in 2 Samuel 6:5-7. This is a warning for us this morning about presuming on the presence of God.

And David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the Lord, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled.

And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the ark of God.

— 2 Samuel 6:5-7

What? Why is that? Why so severe? He was just trying to keep the ark from falling.

But study the context. They were carrying that ark like the Philistines carried it rather than having the priests carry it on poles as God commanded. They did it their way, not God's way. They presumed on His presence, and it cost Uzzah his life.

You don't treat the presence of God in a casual way, as if you're doing Him a favor by showing up. You do that, and He will saturate that place with His absence.

How far we have come to treat the presence of God in a casual and flippant way. Moses had to take off his shoes. Isaiah fell on his face. The apostle John fell as though dead.

We can't suppress this desire for the presence of God, exchange it for something of lesser value, or presume upon it. Instead, we pursue His presence.

You want to be holy? You want to be like Christ? I'm not talking about positionally. That was settled at the cross. I'm talking about practical holiness.

It's not going to happen by suppressing, exchanging, or presuming upon the presence of God. It only happens when you pursue the presence of God because, again, we become what we behold.

Clean Hands and a Pure Heart

David is going to answer his question. We're to pursue the presence of God, and he answers his question: Who can ascend the hill of the Lord?

*He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.*

— Psalm 24:4

All right, keep that verse up here. Pop quiz.

I always hated when teachers gave pop quizzes. I wasn't prepared for them, okay? You're getting a pop quiz,

and you weren't prepared for it.

Four questions. You're going to grade your own paper. Don't answer out loud. You can answer yes or no, pass or fail, to each of these.

Do you have clean hands? All the time, do you do the right actions? Yes or no? Pass or fail?

Number two: Do you have a pure heart? Are all the motives of your heart pure? Yes or no? Pass or fail?

Number three: Do you lift up your soul to what is false? Have you ever done that? Yes or no? Pass or fail?

Number four: Have you ever sworn deceitfully? Have you always been honest and above reproach in your dealings?

Those are just four questions on this pop quiz. Pass or fail on all of them. Yes or no on all of them.

How did you do?

You did just like me. Zero for four, all right? We're a bunch of failures.

Inherent in verse 4 is this truth: Those who can get into the presence of God are those who are holy. Psalm 24 is a call to holiness.

The real answer to David's question in verse 3 - "Who can ascend the hill of the Lord? Who can stand in His presence?" - is no one. Left on our own, there is no getting into the presence of God.

Look at what we're missing out on when we're not in the presence of God:

*He will receive blessing from the Lord
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.*

*Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.*

— Psalm 24:5-6

Did you catch that word receive? Righteousness isn't something you bring into God's presence. It's something you receive while there. It comes from the God of salvation.

Who receives it? Verse 6 says those who seek His face.

Here's the problem: This is a circle that I can't break. I know that I need His presence in order to be practically holy, but Psalm 24:4 says I've got to be holy to enter His presence.

If we stopped right here and said, "All right, go home, watch a football game, and enjoy your Sunday," we would leave really depressed. This would be a day of gloom. We want the presence of God and start to pursue the presence of God, only to discover that, because of our sin and failure, we're not even allowed to enter the very presence we seek.

What do we do?

Let me tell you what you don't do. You don't grit your teeth, all you Type A's out there, and say, "I'm going to have clean hands and a pure heart. I'm going to get this done. I'm going to make this happen."

You don't do that. That's Isaiah 64:6. That's a worked-up righteousness, which the Bible says, in the eyes of a pure and holy God, is like filthy rags.

So what do you do?

The King of Glory

*Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.*

— Psalm 24:7

This would probably have been a responsive reading. The ark is being led into Jerusalem - the symbolized presence of God - and there would be a voice that cried out:

Who is this King of glory?

— Psalm 24:8

That's a great question. The people would respond in unison:

*The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle!*

*Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.*

*Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory!*

— Psalm 24:8-10

"King of glory" is mentioned five times in verses 7 through 10.

The early church would read Psalm 24 and see it as much more than David simply penning a psalm about the ark of the covenant coming into Jerusalem. They saw that term "King of glory" listed five times, and they said, "That King of glory going into Jerusalem is none other than Jesus Himself."

Jesus is the King of glory who is mighty in battle. He's the One who fights the evil forces of hell and defeats death, hell, and the grave. Jesus is the King of glory. He's the One who went up to Jerusalem.

Do you see how the circle is broken? Jesus is the only man who ever claimed to have clean hands and a pure heart and it be true. He's the only One who never lifted His soul to what is false and never swore deceitfully.

He's the One who ascended the hill of the Lord into the presence of God. Therefore, because of His death,

burial, and resurrection, He got us access into the presence of God.

He did for us what we could never do for ourselves. His blood gave us clean hands and a pure heart and allows us to enter into the presence of God.

That's what Jesus did. That's the glory of the gospel.

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

— Hebrews 9:24

He died. He was buried. He was raised. He ascended into the presence of God.

The entire point of this message is that if we are to pursue the presence of God, we begin by pursuing Christ. The ark was the presence of God symbolized. Jesus is the presence of God realized.

So we pursue Him. We seek Him.

How do we pursue His presence? I'm not going to give you a long to-do list. I'm giving you one thing: You draw near. You get alone with Him. That's how you pursue His presence. You seek His face.

Clean hands and a pure heart. Listen to Hebrews 10:19-22 as I bring this message to a close:

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

— Hebrews 10:19-22

Do you see that? Hearts sprinkled clean. Bodies washed with pure water. That's Psalm 24.

Now, because of Christ, we have clean hands and a pure heart. The very thing I could never produce, the blood of Christ does for me. He makes me positionally clean.

Every time I enter into His presence, every time I pursue His presence, I come out more and more practically holy - more and more like Him.

We become what we behold.

So draw near and seek the presence of God through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Ravenhill said, "The greatest miracle that God can do today is take an unholy man out of an unholy world, make that man holy, put him back into that unholy world, and keep him holy in it."

This miracle happens in His presence.

So draw near and seek the presence of God.

Amen. Let's pray together.