

Indwelling

The Ways of our Pursuing God

God Inhabits Us with His Presence

Chapter 5, The Presence-Centered Life

By Bill Elliff

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son." **John 14:12-13**

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you." **John 14:16-17**

*In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
... Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him."* **John 14:20, 23**

"Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me." **Psalms 51:11**

The Spirit

1. Why do you think the disciples were so afraid when Jesus said He was going to die?
2. Jesus told His disciples that they would do "greater works" than He did. What do you think this meant to them?
3. Do you believe that we can now do greater works than Christ? If so, how?
4. We've seen that "God's presence is our greatest need, and our presence is His great desire." How does the Spirit's entrance into our lives affect our ability to experience the presence of God all day long?
5. Read Galatians 5:22-23. This is the fruit that comes out of the life of a believer who is following the Spirit. Which of these are your greatest needs right now?

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

Fully God

6. What has been your understanding about who the Holy Spirit is and what He does?
7. In this present age, where does the Spirit dwell ... and why?
8. Since the Holy Spirit now lives in you if you are a believer, what difference should this make?
9. In what ways is the Spirit working in and through your life presently?
10. What would happen in your family or your church if all the believers were fully controlled by the Holy Spirit who lives within them? Is this even possible?

Coming

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God is Preparing a Place for us in His Uninterrupted Presence

Chapter 6, The Presence-Centered Life

By Bill Elliff

There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads Revelation 22:3-4

"we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us; and that " [God's] perfect love casts out fear." 1 John 4:16, 18

Preparing a Place

1. In times when you may have strayed from God's presence, what has He done to call you back? What circumstances, people, or scriptural truths did He use to get your attention and reassure you of His love?

"In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself that where I am, there you may be also." **John 14:2-3**

Think of these progressive steps the Father has taken to be with us:

- He created us to be with Him and to be able to commune with Him.
 - When we wandered and rebelled, He continually called us back to Himself
 - He sent His Son in human flesh to be with us and die for us.
 - He sent His Spirit to indwell forever all those who would believe.
2. As Jesus was leaving, what did He promise that would become the final proof that He wanted us to be in His presence?
 3. What does John 14:2-3 teach us about what Christ is doing now and what difference it will make for us in the future?

"In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself that where I am, there you may be also." **John 14:2-3**

4. Think about a world in which we are always in the presence of God.
List everything that you can imagine heaven will be like.
5. What should we be doing until He returns? See Matthew 28:18-20.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

The New Garden

6. Why is Christ's coming and taking us to heaven glorious evidence that God wants us to experience His presence?
7. What would be different about a world that has no evil and no influence of Satan and his armies? What all would be gone if Satan were gone?

8. According to your understanding, in what ways will heaven be like the Garden of Eden? In what ways will it be different—or better?
9. How does the preparation of heaven for God's children indicate His love for us? How does it convince us that His great desire is our presence with Him?

What's Next?

10. We have looked at five ways that God has continually showed us He loves us and wants us in His presence.
Which one of these spoke most strongly to you and why?
 - Creating
 - Calling
 - Dwelling
 - Indwelling
 - Coming
11. Can you see the common theme that runs through each of these ways? Why has God done these things in these ways toward us? What is He seeking to accomplish?
12. God wants us to enjoy His presence, but notice, we must cooperate. Learning to consciously live in His presence throughout each day does not just automatically happen.

Over the next six weeks, we are going to look at six biblical, essential ways we must learn to cooperate with Him. If you were to guess (without looking ahead) what do you think some of those ways might be?