

The Presence Of God

Prepared by: Pastor Blaine G. Smith

MightyFortressChurch.org

Scripture Study

It is a heart felt desire for every child of God to want to be in their Father's presence. To enjoy His fellowship. Too often some professing Christians view time spent with God as a Sunday and Wednesday obligation. Others come only to receive something, rather than coming to give something to the Lord. Let's look at some guidelines for entering into the presence of God.

Luke 10:38-42

38 Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house.

39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.

40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

41 And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.

42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." (NKJV)

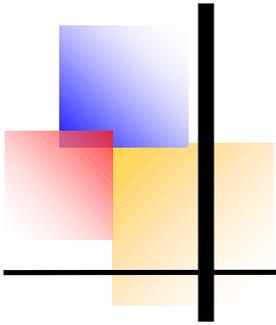
- ✠ One of the greatest hindrances to entering into the presence of God is busyness and distractions. We live in a world that is fast passed and there is always more to do than there is time to do it. Even in full time ministry we can become so encumbered with our service to others and to the Lord we forget to spend quality time sitting at the Lord's feet. I may be most interested in serving the Lord and doing things for Him but the most effective ministry grows out of fellowship. Always remember without Him you can do nothing. Entering the presence of God starts with each individual sitting daily at the feet of Jesus listening to what He is saying.

John 4:23-24

23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (NKJV)

- ✠ Sometimes our corporate worship gatherings are confined to a structured schedule with concern only for the comfort of the people. When this happens we are left with a form of Godliness void of the manifest presence of God. True worship must be based on truth [Word] and done in the Spirit. True worship is a product of daily fellowship, daily prayer and a lifestyle of righteousness and true holiness. Worship is much more than a list of well rehearsed songs. Worship is birthed out of a relationship with God. Worship is an interchange a communion in the Spirit between you and your Father. When this happens you are on your way to true worship. If during our corporate worship times we become more concerned with how loud the music is, or that the temperature is not to our liking, or the song service is too long, you might as well go home. The only thing this kind of attitude leads to is criticism, strife, and offense.



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2 Chronicles 5:12-14

12 and the Levites who were the singers, all those of Asaph and Heman and Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, stood at the east end of the altar, clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments and harps, and with them one hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets —
13 indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, for His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud,
14 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God. (NKJV)

✠ Unity is a must if we are to expect to enter into the presence of the Lord in a corporate setting. On rare occasions I have witnessed the glory of the Lord when the hearts and minds of the people were as one and everyone's attention was directed toward the Lord praising and worshipping Him with total abandon. This is not achieved through a program or a twelve step plan. It will not happen when people are more concerned with themselves than they are with entering in. The early church would stay up all night having services. The Church today has lost the art of waiting on the Lord. The goal for many on Sunday is to get to the restaurant before the other churches let out so they don't have to wait in line. God is not interested in our man made worship services. "The true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him."

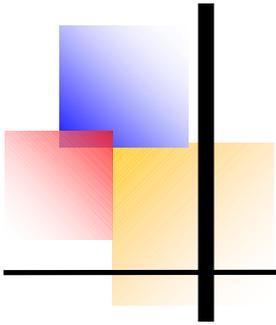
James 4:8

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (NKJV)

✠ God is waiting on us to make the first step to approach Him.

Wait 6960 qavah (kaw-vaw'); a primitive root; to bind together (perhaps by twisting), i.e. collect; (figuratively) to expect: gather (together), look, patiently, tarry, wait (for, on, upon).

✠ To wait is to bind together [to compel, obligate, or unite]. Twist [interlock or interlace, to turn so as to face another direction]. Tarry [to remain or stay temporarily, as in a place; sojourn]. Gather [to draw about or bring (one thing) closer to something else]. Look [to search, to turn one's glance or gaze, to turn one's attention; attend, to turn one's expectations, to face in a specified direction, to turn one's eyes on]. Expect [to look forward to the probable occurrence or appearance of, to consider likely or certain]. Waiting on the Lord is a blending of all these aspects. There are many benefits that come as a result of waiting on the Lord.



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Note: **Blue** marks the Hebrew word **qavah** in the up coming scriptures.

Psalms 37:9

For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that **wait** upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. (KJV)

- ✠ Isaiah 40:31 But they that **wait** upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. (KJV)
- ✠ But those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] shall change and renew their strength and power; they shall lift their wings and mount up [close to God] as eagles [mount up to the sun]; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint or become tired. (AMP)

Job 7:2

As a servant earnestly desireth the shadow, and as an hireling **looketh** for the reward of his work: (KJV)

- ✠ **Qavah** has a quality of expectation like someone that is looking for their wages.

Psalms 25:3

Yea, let none that **wait** on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause. (KJV)

Psalms 25:5

Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; *on thee do I **wait** all the day. (KJV)

- ✠ *for You [You only and altogether] do I wait [expectantly] all the day long. (AMP)

Psalms 27:14

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: ***wait**, I say, on the LORD. (KJV)

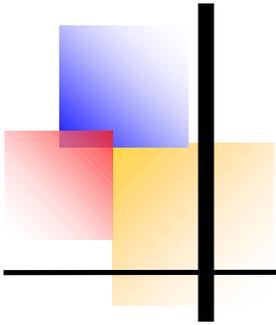
- ✠ *wait for and hope for and expect the Lord. (AMP)

Psalms 37:34

Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it. (KJV)

Psalms 40:1

I **waited** patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. (KJV)



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Psalms 130:5-6

5 I **wait** for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

6 My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning. (KJV)

Proverbs 20:22

Say not thou, I will recompense evil; *but **wait** on the LORD, and he shall save thee. (KJV)

✠ *wait [expectantly] for the Lord, and He will rescue you. (AMP)

Isaiah 8:17

And I will **wait** upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him. (KJV)

Isaiah 49:23

And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: *for they shall not be ashamed that **wait** for me. (KJV)

✠ *for they shall not be put to shame who wait for, look for, hope for, and expect Me. (AMP)

Lamentations 3:25

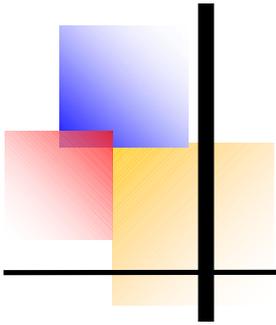
The LORD is good unto them that **wait** for him, to the soul that seeketh him. (KJV)

✠ The Lord is good to those who wait hopefully and expectantly for Him, to those who seek Him [inquire of and for Him and require Him by right of necessity and on the authority of God's word]. (AMP)

Hosea 12:6

Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and **wait** on thy God continually. (KJV)

✠ Therefore return to your God! Hold fast to love and mercy, to righteousness and justice, and wait [expectantly] for your God continually! (AMP)



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Isaiah 64:4

For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that **waiteth** for him. (KJV)

✠ In Isaiah 64:4 there is another Hebrew word translated **waiteth**. 2442 chakah (khaw-kaw'); a primitive root [apparently akin to 2707 through the idea of piercing]; properly, to adhere to; hence, to await: KJV-- long, tarry, wait. God has prepared more than the eye has seen or the ear has heard for those that adhere to Him.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that **diligently seek** him. (KJV)

✠ Faith is the foundation we must stand on when we approach the Lord. It is impossible to accomplish and unacceptable to God to come to Him without faith. Not only are we to believe that He is, but that He is also a rewarder of those that diligently seek [crave, search out, worship] Him.

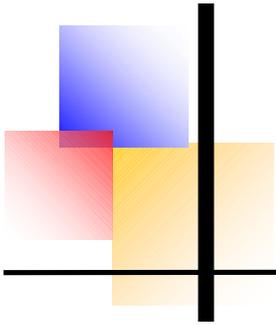
Diligently seek 1567 ekzeteo (ek-zay-teh'-o); from 1537 and 2212; to search out, i.e. (figuratively) investigate, crave, demand, (by Hebraism) worship: KJV-- en- (re-) quire, seek after (carefully, diligently).

Acts 13:2-3

2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. (NIV)

✠ The early church spent time fasting and worshiping the Lord. I wonder what would happen if the body of Christ all over the entire earth fasted and worshiped the Lord all at the same time.



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Hebrews 9:1-22

1 Now in that first covenant between God and Israel, there were regulations for worship and a sacred tent here on earth.

2 There were two rooms in this tent. In the first room were a lampstand, a table, and loaves of holy bread on the table. This was called the Holy Place.

3 Then there was a curtain, and behind the curtain was the second room called the Most Holy Place.

4 In that room were a gold incense altar and a wooden chest called the Ark of the Covenant, which was covered with gold on all sides. Inside the Ark were a gold jar containing some manna, Aaron's staff that sprouted leaves, and the stone tablets of the covenant with the Ten Commandments written on them.

5 The glorious cherubim were above the Ark. Their wings were stretched out over the Ark's cover, the place of atonement. But we cannot explain all of these things now.

6 When these things were all in place, the priests went in and out of the first room regularly as they performed their religious duties.

7 But only the high priest goes into the Most Holy Place, and only once a year, and always with blood, which he offers to God to cover his own sins and the sins the people have committed in ignorance.

8 By these regulations the Holy Spirit revealed that the Most Holy Place was not open to the people as long as the first room and the entire system it represents were still in use.

9 This is an illustration pointing to the present time. For the gifts and sacrifices that the priests offer are not able to cleanse the consciences of the people who bring them.

10 For that old system deals only with food and drink and ritual washing — external regulations that are in effect only until their limitations can be corrected.

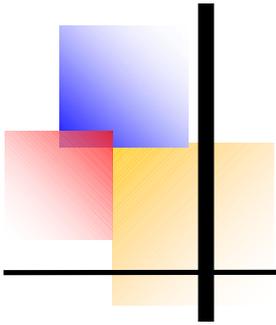
11 So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that great, perfect sanctuary in heaven, not made by human hands and not part of this created world.

12 Once for all time he took blood into that Most Holy Place, but not the blood of goats and calves. He took his own blood, and with it he secured our salvation forever.

13 Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow could cleanse people's bodies from ritual defilement.

14 Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our hearts from deeds that lead to death so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.

15 That is why he is the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, so that all who are invited can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant.



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17 The will goes into effect only after the death of the person who wrote it. While the person is still alive, no one can use the will to get any of the things promised to them.

18 That is why blood was required under the first covenant as a proof of death.

19 For after Moses had given the people all of God's laws, he took the blood of calves and goats, along with water, and sprinkled both the book of God's laws and all the people, using branches of hyssop bushes and scarlet wool.

20 Then he said, "This blood confirms the covenant God has made with you."

21 And in the same way, he sprinkled blood on the sacred tent and on everything used for worship.

22 In fact, we can say that according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified by sprinkling with blood. Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins. (NLT)

Hebrews 9:23-28

23 That is why the earthly tent and everything in it — which were copies of things in heaven — had to be purified by the blood of animals. But the real things in heaven had to be purified with far better sacrifices than the blood of animals.

24 For Christ has entered into heaven itself to appear now before God as our Advocate. He did not go into the earthly place of worship, for that was merely a copy of the real Temple in heaven. 25 Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, like the earthly high priest who enters the Most Holy Place year after year to offer the blood of an animal.

26 If that had been necessary, he would have had to die again and again, ever since the world began. But no! He came once for all time, at the end of the age, to remove the power of sin forever by his sacrificial death for us.

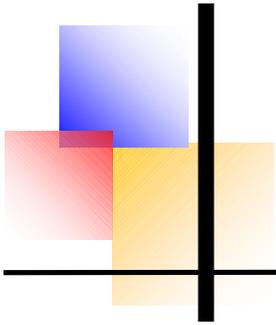
27 And just as it is destined that each person dies only once and after that comes judgment,

28 so also Christ died only once as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again but not to deal with our sins again. This time he will bring salvation to all those who are eagerly waiting for him. (NLT)

Hebrews 10:1-2

1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. (KJV)



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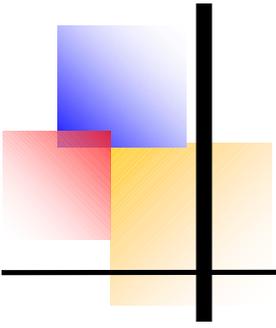
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Study Questions

1. Complete the following verse. "God is a..."
2. Give a brief summary of the Hebrew word gavah.
3. According to the scripture how often should we wait on the Lord.
4. Summarize the Greek word ekzeteo.
5. What was the room behind the second curtain called?
6. T or F. We have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus.
7. Find and list the benefits that come as a result of waiting on the Lord.
8. What did God reveal to you as you studied?

Extra Blessing

(Study To Show Yourself Approved Unto God 2 Timothy 2:15)

Isaiah Chapter 55

Hebrews Chapter 10