

How do we know when God is present?

I. The reality of the Omnipresence of God – “God always being present.”

A. The Omnipresence of God is ASSUMED at the creation.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Gen 1:1

B. The Omnipresence of God is ACKNOWLEDGED as one of the foundational principles in the covenant with Israel.

Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other. Deut 4:39

C. The Omnipresence of God is ADORED in worship.

v7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? v8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. v9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, v10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. v11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," v12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day Psalm 139:7-12

D. The Omnipresence of God is ASSURED by Christ Himself.

v18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. v19 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, v20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matt 28:18-20

II. The recognition that the Omnipresence of God may not be at hand.

A. We may move away from the Presence of God.

Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. Exodus 33:15

B. God may remove His Presence from us.

Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Psalm 51:11

III. Reconciling our understanding of the Omnipresence of God.

There are different expressions of the Omnipresence of God

A. The Universal Presence of Christ.

Covered in Point 1

B. The Gracious Presence of Christ.

1. First experienced by us at our Salvation.

v1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, v2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. v3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. Hebrews 1:1-3

2. Grows as we continue to deepen our relationship with Christ.

v4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. v5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. v6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. John 15:4-6

C. The Glorious Presence of Christ.

Ever since Adam and Eve lost the right to dwell in the Presence of God, people have always desired to be in the Presence of God.

Christ Glorious Presence has descended on many occasions.

Moses - *v18 Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." v19 And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. v20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."* **Exodus 33:18-20**

The Children of Israel - *Exodus 40:34 Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. v35 Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.*

JOB - *Job 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said: v2 "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? v3 Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.*

Isaiah - *Isaiah 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. v2 Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. v3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."*

Pentecost - *Acts 1:1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. v2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. v3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. v4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

THE CHURCH TODAY

v14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, v15 from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. v16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, v17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, v18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, v19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Eph 3:14-19