

Part 7. Prayer

Lesson 2: Hosting God's Presence

Lesson Summary

God desires to fill His people with His presence and glory (Eph. 3:19), yet our natural capacity cannot fully contain His divine fullness (Exod. 33:20; 1 Tim. 6:16). God's gracious solution is the indwelling Holy Spirit, given at salvation, making our bodies His temple (John 14:16–17; 1 Cor. 6:19).

The Holy Spirit enables us to understand God's mysteries (1 Cor. 2:10–14), transforming human weakness into Spirit-empowered boldness—seen in Peter's denial of Christ compared with his fearless preaching at Pentecost (Matt. 26:69–75; Acts 2:14–41).

Hosting God's presence requires intentional pursuit and spiritual discipline: worship (Ps. 22:3; John 4:23–24), immersion in the Word (Josh. 1:8), prayer (Phil. 4:6–7), holiness (1 Pet. 1:15–16), creating prayerful spaces (Matt. 6:6), and seeking His glory with hunger and faith (Matt. 5:6; Exod. 33:18).

God reveals His manifest presence to those who draw near in humility, obedience, unity, and bold expectation (Acts 2:1–4; James 4:8). Hosting His presence is not about earning His favor, but about cultivating a surrendered life that welcomes and reflects His glory.

Key Takeaways

- God desires to give us His fullness and glory (Eph. 3:19; Ps. 34:8).
- Human limitation means we cannot contain His presence apart from the Spirit (Exod. 33:20; Isa. 55:9).
- The Holy Spirit indwells believers, making them His temple (John 14:16–17; 1 Cor. 6:19).
- Only the Spirit reveals God's deep truths (1 Cor. 2:10–14).
- Example: Peter failed in the flesh but was transformed by the Spirit (Matt. 26:69–75; Acts 2:14–41).
- Hosting His presence involves:
 - Worship (Ps. 22:3; John 4:23–24)
 - Word (Josh. 1:8; Ps. 119:105)
 - Prayer (Jer. 29:12–13; Phil. 4:6–7)
 - Holiness (Ps. 24:3–4; 1 Pet. 1:15–16)
 - Community (Acts 2:1–4; Heb. 10:24–25)
- God honors hunger and bold prayers for His glory (Matt. 5:6; Exod. 33:18).

Questions & Answers

1. **Q:** Why can't humans naturally host God's full presence?
A: His glory is too great for us in our natural state (Exod. 33:20; Isa. 55:9).

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2. **Q:** What solution did God provide for this limitation?
A: The indwelling Holy Spirit at salvation, making us His temple (John 14:16–17; 1 Cor. 6:19).
3. **Q:** How does the Spirit help us understand God’s truth?
A: He reveals spiritual mysteries that the natural mind cannot grasp (1 Cor. 2:10–14).
4. **Q:** What biblical example shows the Spirit’s transforming power?
A: Peter’s fear and denial contrasted with his Spirit-filled boldness at Pentecost (Matt. 26:69–75; Acts 2:14–41).
5. **Q:** What practices help us host God’s presence?
A: Worship, Scripture meditation, prayer, holiness, unity, and hunger for God (Ps. 22:3; Josh. 1:8; Matt. 5:6).
6. **Q:** What promise is given to those who seek God’s glory?
A: He will draw near and reveal Himself (James 4:8; Exod. 33:18).

“Hosting God’s presence is not about earning His favor but living surrendered, Spirit-filled lives where His glory is welcomed and revealed.”