

Name: _____

Date: _____

Bringing Christ to the Imprisoned

Christian Leadership

How to influence the ideas, opinions and actions of others for Jesus Christ.

Lesson 4: The Presence of God (Day One) Trusting God

Moses was one of the great leaders of the Bible. He was an ordinary man that God used for extraordinary purposes. About 1446 B.C, Moses was called from a burning bush to face Pharaoh, the most powerful man on earth. Not only was Moses to face such a ruler, but he was also to demand the release of over 2 million working slaves. Moses didn't have the personal strength or knowledge to back up God's command. If Moses was to face Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of bondage, he had to trust and rely on God.

Great leaders like Moses continually trust and depend on God. Recall that God used ten plagues before Pharaoh allowed the Israelites to leave Egypt. A lesser leader might have become discouraged with the seemingly lack of progress after each plague. Think about our society today. We expect fast solutions as well as fast food. We want God to work within our time schedule. If He doesn't, then we are tempted to try and run things ourselves or just run away from our assignment altogether.

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt."¹⁸ So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt armed for battle.^{NIV} Exodus 13:17-18

1. Read Exodus 13:17-18. Was there another route to the Promised Land? Yes No (Circle One)

2. What was one reason God led the people around by the desert and toward the Red Sea?

Then the LORD said to Moses,² "Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon." ^{NIV} Exodus 14:1-2

3. Read Exodus 14:1-2. Who was God giving leadership directions to? _____

4. What do these verses indicate about God's presence with Moses?

God was giving Moses directions. The LORD was speaking directly to Moses and making His presence known. Moses acknowledged God's presence by obeying His orders. However those orders placed Moses and the Israelites between the sea and the approaching Egyptian army. Pharaoh had changed his mind about letting the Israelites go and sent his chariots and horsemen after them. It certainly appeared that they were trapped for slaughter!

Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!" ^{NIV} Exodus 14:12

5. Read Exodus 14:12. What were the Israelites' attitude toward their great leader Moses?

6. Share a time when you thought you were caught between "the devil and the deep blue sea"? How was your attitude similar or different from that of the Israelites?

7. Is there anything happening in your life right now that makes you afraid? Please Explain.

The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen." ^{NIV} Exodus 14:18

8. Read Exodus 14:18. What was another reason that God had led the people to their current position?

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided,²² and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

^{NIV} Exodus 14:21

8. Read Exodus 14:21. What miracle had God planned and executed with perfect precision and timing?

The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen-- the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived. ^{NIV} Exodus 14:28

9. Read Exodus 14:28. What happened to the Israelites' enemies?

And when the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant. ^{NIV} Exodus 14:31

10. Read Exodus 14:31. How did the Israelites attitude change?

God's plan was to bring the Israelites into relationship with Him. He had chosen them to be His people and to experience His presence. However, a relationship with God begins with trust. God wanted the Israelites to trust Him completely, no matter what their circumstances seemed to be.

God's trustworthiness is not in question. **He is dependable, reliable, faithful and truthful.** He was not only worthy of the Israelites' trust but is worthy of your trust

(2 Samuel 7:28, Psalm 19:7, 111:7) and the trust of every living creature: past, present and future.

11. Why do you think God commands and values your personal trust in Him (Isaiah 26:4)?

According to the Oxford American Dictionary, the noun trust means a firm belief in the reliability or truth or strength of a person or thing. The verb trust means to have or place trust in and to treat as reliable. When we don't treat God and His word as truthful and reliable, we are attributing falsehood to God. We are placing God in the same category as the devil, the father of lies (John 8:44) or man, who is prone (likely) to lie (Numbers 23:19). This is a grievous sin.

But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."

^{NIV} Numbers 20:12

12. Read Numbers 20:12. What was the reason God gave to Moses and Aaron for not allowing them to lead the Israelites into the promised land?

In Numbers 20:8, God told Moses and Aaron to speak to the rock and it would pour out water. Instead Moses struck it twice with his staff. Nevertheless, in God's goodness, He did bring forth water from the rock for the Israelites. There may have been other factors involved in this particular situation, however the main point is that God expected Moses' and Aaron's trust and He did not receive it.

Trusting and obeying God is not a partial or part time commitment. It is complete and full time allegiance. Moses had been following God for forty years and had been used in extraordinary ways. Nevertheless, his past faithfulness did not give him the right to stop obeying and trusting God completely. Moses never earned the "right" to alter or change the instructions God gave to him. In fact, because of not following God's specific instructions with the rock, God gave him a severe consequence of not being able to complete his mission of leading the people into the Promised Land (Canaan).

God will give you opportunities to mature as you are tested in new circumstances. I pray that you will embrace and trust God in every situation! Watch out for the sin of self reliance or independence from God. There may be a tendency to depend on yourself when God is working through you. Guard against relying on your own personality, abilities and resources. Acknowledge the Lord each day as the source of all that you have and all that you are, including natural talents and spiritual gifts. Always be thankful and give God all the glory. Amen.

Personal Application: Memorize Proverbs 3:5-6

Pray and examine your own motives. Answer the following questions:

Do I like to be the center of attention? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

Do I want to command and be served by others ? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

Do I want to take credit for being strong, nice, smart or fun? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

Am I proud of my self- reliance and independence? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

My Lord and my God,

Please give me pure motives and radically holy thoughts. I desire to love, trust, obey and serve You fully in Christ.. May I give You all the credit and recognition that You deserve. Amen.

Lesson 4: The Presence of God (Day Two) The Temple of God, Part A

Leadership is not for the weak hearted. It was certainly not an easy job moving a stiff-necked (stubborn and arrogant) people across the desert for forty years! They continued to sin. They continued to grumble and complain. They continued to be ungrateful and unappreciative. How did Moses keep his peace during this hard, hot and hectic journey? Read Exodus 33:13-15:

If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."¹⁴ The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Exodus 33:13-14

1. Read Exodus 33:13-14. Circle favor in verse 13.

The Hebrew word that the English Bible translates favor is *chen* (חֵן). Another way to translate it would be approval or affection for someone. Moses was not asking God *to do* him a favor in the sense that we might think of this word. He wants God to accept and approve of him. He wants God to find satisfaction and even pleasure in his activities. Moses is asking for grace.

As a good leader, Moses totally identifies with his people. He is asking for God's favor or approval to lead in this difficult task. Look in verse 13 where he reminds God that this nation is Your people. Of course God doesn't need to be reminded of anything, but God is gracious and in order for us to be in relationship with God, He relates to us on our level.

2. What did Moses implore (beg) the Lord to do?

3. Why did Moses want the LORD to teach him?

Moses wanted to understand and recognize not only who God was, but how He viewed people and circumstances. Moses desired wisdom to distinguish between the right way and the wrong way, between God's way and man's way. Moses was seeking God for the right purposes. He was not seeking God for arrogant or selfish reasons.

Although Moses had heard God's voice, experienced His miracles and was used to free two million people, he was not satisfied. Moses still wanted more of God! A leader like Moses is continually seeking and finding more of God.

Personal Application: Memorize Exodus 33:13-14

Holy Spirit, Lead us to pray with a humble, sincere and pure heart:

Almighty God,

Teach me Your ways so that I may know You and serve you rightly. I pray that I continue to find favor with You. Thank You. Amen.

Ask God to speak to you through Exodus 33:13-14. What did God reveal to you?

If Moses didn't know God, he would not have been able to lead the people in the right way, i.e. for their spiritual good. The Israelites needed a leader who truly heard and obeyed God. They did not need a leader who just pretended to know God.

Now Moses needed the satisfaction and peace of knowing that he was in God's will. He wanted to follow God's plan and purposes for the people that he was leading. He needed God's direct supervision. God understood what Moses was asking and said:

"My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

The word in Hebrew that the NIV translates presence is panay (פָּנָי), which literally means face. The same word is used in the Aaronic or priestly benediction¹ of Numbers 6:24-26. When God turns His face toward you and gives you peace, you have been blessed with His acceptance and attention. God is with you.

The English noun presence means to be present. It means that someone or something is close at hand at the current time. When we speak of God's Presence we usually mean that we can feel God is near to us and influencing us in some way. This is the relational way that God is with us.

God presence was with Moses and to a lesser extent with Aaron, Miriam and other prophets (Numbers 12:2, 6-8 Micah 6:4). However, we know that Moses was leading over two million people. They were God's people and He also wanted them to know of His holy Presence.

"Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them."^{NIV}
Exodus 25:8

¹ Benediction is a prayer for God's blessing or an affirmation that God's blessing is at hand. Holman's Bible Dictionary, 1991, p 164.

4. Read Exodus 25:8. What did God want the Israelites to make for Him?

5. What was God's promise to them after they built the sanctuary?

God gave Moses specific directions for the Israelites to build a sacred and holy place for the LORD to dwell or live among His people (Exodus 25:10-40, 26-30). God loved His people and He wanted to bless them by His Presence. By dwelling among the Israelites He was calling them into relationship. He was giving them an opportunity to know and obey Him. God was using Moses as His leader to bring all the Israelites into relationship with Him.

God also gave Moses specific directions (the Law) on how the Israelites were to live in order to stay in a right relationship with Him. When they didn't follow the Law, they sinned. They were guilty of wrong actions against God. Their rebellion required God to act to punish their sins.

God's design of the sanctuary and its furnishings took into account sin and punishment for the Israelites. Not did God's plan have real and practical measures for the Israelites, it also foretold of the future Messiah. Let's look at one part of the holy place of God.

"Make an atonement cover of pure gold-- two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide."^{NIV} Exodus 25:17

6. Read Exodus 25:17. What was made of pure gold?_____

The word translated "atonement cover" in English is the Hebrew noun *kaport* (כַּפֹּרֶת), meaning to cover over sin.² Atonement in English means reparation, reconciliation or "at-one-ment." It means the "bringing together into harmony of those who have been separated, enemies."³

He is to take some of the bull's blood and with his finger sprinkle it on the front of the atonement cover; then he shall sprinkle some of it with his finger seven times before the atonement cover.¹⁵ "He shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people and take its blood behind the curtain and do with it as he did with the bull's blood: He shall sprinkle it on the atonement cover and in front of it.¹⁶ In this way he will make atonement for the Most Holy Place because of the

² BibleWorks 6

³ Douglas, J.D., Tenney, Merrill C., New International Bible Dictionary, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1987,108.

uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever their sins have been. He is to do the same for the Tent of Meeting, which is among them in the midst of their uncleanness.

^{NIV} Leviticus 16:14-16

7. Read Leviticus 16:14-16. In verse 14 and 15, where does the priest sprinkle the blood of the sacrificed bull and goat? _____

8. Why was slaughtering innocent animals and sprinkling their blood on the atonement cover necessary?

God was, is, and will always be holy. He does not dwell among sinful people. Instead of abandoning His sanctuary from among the Israelites when they sinned, God designed the sacrificial system. In this way, the sins of the person(s) were passed onto the innocent animal. The animal was killed for the offense. By this system God proclaimed that sin is hideous and rebellion demands death.

God graciously took the lives of animals rather than lives of human beings. Thus, animals were offered again and again as people continued to sin. Now, no matter how cute or sweet an animal may be, an animal is never more important than a human. We enjoy and care for animals as God's creation, but only man is made in the sacred image of God. (If you are interested in learning more about the sanctuary and sacrificial system of the Old Testament, please read the book of Exodus and Leviticus.)

God's Presence is both real and holy. God is not playing hide and seek. He carefully lays out the requirements for His Presence. He wanted a relationship with the Israelites and He wants a relationship with the people that you are leading.

Lesson 4: The Presence of God (Day Three) The Temple of God, Part B

Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ^{NIV} Exodus 40:34

1. Read Exodus 40:34. How did the LORD manifest (make known) Himself to the Israelites?

All of these words, Tent of Meeting, tabernacle, sanctuary and temple have the same meaning: a holy and sacred dwelling place of God. God is omnipresent (Psalm 139:7) and not limited to a specific place. He has the ability to be everywhere in time and space concurrently (at the same time). But again, God is gracious to make His Presence known in a way that men and women are able to relate to His glorious appearance (Exodus 33:20).

So the cloud of the LORD was over the tabernacle by day and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel during all their travels.^{NIV} Exodus 40:38

2. Read Exodus 40:38. How did the house of Israel see and feel God's Presence?

The Tent of Meeting was portable because the Israelites were a nomadic⁴ people at the time.⁵

But even after the people entered into the Promised Land, God's sanctuary remained enclosed by a tent. It would be hundreds of years before David was King and wanted to build a royal house for God.

"The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you:¹² When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom.

^{NIV} 2 Samuel 7:11b-12

3. Read 2 Samuel 7:11b. What was God's response to David when he wanted to build a royal dwelling place for God? _____

God also told David that he would not be the one to build His royal house or temple because he had shed blood (1 Chronicles 28:3). Instead that honor was given to David's son Solomon who built the Temple in Jerusalem (circa 960 BC). The contents of the first sanctuary were placed into this second sanctuary, the Temple. Then the people traveled to this specific place to worship and be in Yahweh's holy Presence.

⁴ A nomad is a member of a tribe that roams from place to place seeking pasture for its animals; a wanderer. Oxford Dictionary/

⁵ Ibid, p 1316.

Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."^{NIV} 2 Samuel 7:16

4. Read 2 Samuel 7:16. Although God was speaking to King David, who does God ultimately fulfill this promise through? _____

The Davidic covenant (promise) was ultimately fulfilled in the Messiah, our Lord Jesus (Psalm 89:3-4, Matthew 1:1-16). In essence, David's earthly kingdom and God's Kingdom merge. Jesus, the Son of God and the Son of man is the King who reigns forever. As believers we are members and sons of this royal house and Kingdom (Galatians 3:29, 4:6-7). Let's take a quick look at our future!

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."^{NIV} Revelation 21:3

5. Read Revelation 21:3. Where will the dwelling of God be? _____

*They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.*⁵ *There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.*^{NIV} Revelation 22:4-5

5. Read Revelation 22:4-5. Will you see God's face? Yes No Maybe
(Circle One)

For Christ's followers the future is bright indeed! We will have the fullness of God's Presence. We will see His face and have perfect fellowship with the Triune God. There will be no tears or sadness of any kind for *the old order of things has passed away* (Revelation 21:4).

We looked at the past and the future, let's take a look at the ways things are right now. God's Presence is made a reality in a believer's life through Christ. The atonement cover in the Old Testament points to Christ whose blood sacrifice on the cross permanently takes away sin (Hebrews 9:21-28, 10:1-18).

Personal Application: Read and mediate on Ephesians 2:13-22.

What is God saying to you through this Scripture? _____

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. ^{NIV} 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

7. According to 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, where is God's holy and sacred dwelling place?

8. How does being God's holy temple change your perspective (outlook) on God's Presence?

Lesson 4: The Presence of God (Day Four) Fearing God's Presence

I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue.¹⁸ If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;¹⁹ but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer.²⁰ Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!

Psalm 66:17-20 (also Isaiah 1:15-16, Psalm 51:11)

1. When we have habitual sin in our lives or hearts, what is something God might not do?

2. Why would this be a severe handicap to a Christian leader?

3. How does a Christian leader get back into a right relationship with God when he or she has sinned in any way? (1 John 1:7-10)_____

God may withdraw Himself from being in relationship with us because of sin or He may allow us to see or feel His displeasure. The Bible does not give a set formula as to whether God will withdraw or punish. The important thing to remember is that God retains the right to act perfectly in every situation. But remember that in every situation God demands reverential fear.

Therefore, as a living sanctuary or temple of God, we should live our lives in holy fear. It is a holy fear because it is a healthy fear. It enables us to daily turn from sin and choose righteousness and find joy in His Presence. Scriptures to consider on fear are Psalm 114:7, Jeremiah 5:22, Ezekiel 38:20, 1 Peter 2:17, 1 John 4:17-18 and Revelation 19:5.

Believers never get to a place where their actions or thoughts do not matter any more. A Christian leader will always have to be on guard against his or her own sinful nature as well as the devil's schemes (1 Peter 5:8). Recall from Day Two of this Lesson that Moses sinned against God after 39 years of ministry leadership. He was in his last year in the desert with the Israelites when he failed to follow God's instructions. God held him accountable.

4. How do you think God's disciplinary action would have affected the others in the Israelite camp? _____

5. How does God's disciplinary action with Moses affect you today?

In Christ our sins are forgiven but that does not mean that God will not punish or discipline us while we are here on earth. Leaders are even more open to discipline as they are being trained for Kingdom responsibility. Lives are at stake.

Read and answer the following questions: Ezekiel 3:16-21, Acts 18:5-6, 20: 25-31, 1 Timothy 4:14-16, and John 10:1-10.

6. What principle do you see working through these verses in the Old and New Testaments?

In the Old Testament a watchman's "duty was to stand in the tower on the walls or at the gates of the city. He also patrolled the streets, and, besides protecting the city and its inhabitants from violence, he was required to call out the hours of the night."⁶ Israel's prophets were the spiritual watchman. Their duty was to listen to God and communicate His words of warning and hope.

Among the messages that Ezekiel communicated to Israel was that each man and woman is responsible for his or her own sins. He also told the people that they would be held accountable for warning or helping the other Israelites stay in the right relationship with God. Paul takes up this truth and is diligent about proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. Notice, that in the whole counsel of God no one is accountable for the outcome of the message but only in giving it. In other words, you cannot make or force a person to change his or her ways. Your charge is only to give the heartfelt message of turning to and staying in Christ.

7. How did both the "occupational" watchman and the "spiritual" watchman feel about the people? _____

8. As a Christian leader, how do you feel about being watchman for Christ?

Both the "occupational" watchmen and the prophets were concerned about the people. They wanted to protect them and keep them safe. Watchmen identify with those in their care and speak warnings out of love and compassion. A Christian leader is a watchman.

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked (Luke 12:48). The prophets heard from God and they were blessed with His Presence. They were also given grave responsibilities and God demanded full obedience (Matthew 23:29-37). In the same way leadership can be hard and the work demanding (Matthew 5:12). But as the prophet's reward from God was great, so your reward can be great too. (Reference: 1 Corinthians 3:14, Hebrews 11:26, 12:5-8, 12:11, Revelation 3:12, 19, 21)

⁶ Tenney, Merrill, New International Bible Dictionary, Zondervan Publishing: Grand Rapids, MI, 1987, p726.

Read and answer the following question: 1 Samuel 6:19-20, 2 Kings 17:22-23, Ezra 9:13-15, Psalm 90:7-9 and Jeremiah 5:22 and answer the following question.

8. What are some reasons to fear the Lord’s Presence?

Personal Application:

Review today’s lesson. Do you still want to be a Christian leader? If yes, how will studying and meditating on the fear of the LORD help you lead?

Lesson 4: The Presence of God (Day Five) Rejoice and Seek

However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”²¹ At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.”^{NIV} Luke 10:20-21

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.^{NIV} 1 John 4:18

1. According to Luke 10:20 why should you rejoice?

2. Read 1 John 4:18 & Luke 10:20-21. How can you fear and rejoice in God at the same time?

Christ followers should be rejoicing each and every day because our names are written in heaven. **We will be in God’s full Presence for eternity!!** We do not fear complete separation from God which will happen to those people banished to

hell. Nor do we fear any other kind of eternal punishment because Christ's death on the cross paid the full penalty of our miserable transgressions. Jesus Christ, the Perfect One drives out the wrong kind of fear and He brings the right kind of joy!

Christian joy and fear are not mutually exclusive. God's Presence through His Holy Spirit brings the right kind of holy fear and joy. God always was, is and will be the sovereign, magnificent and powerful One of the universe. The fact that He has chosen you for Himself is both reason to fear and rejoice!⁷

Then Moses said to him, *"If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here."*¹⁶ *How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"*¹⁷ *And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."*¹⁸ Exodus 33:15-17

3. Read Exodus 33:15-17. What distinguished Moses and God's people from all others? _____ What should also distinguish Christians?

4. What was God's reply to Moses?

5. What is God's reply to you?

6. Have you ever moved ahead in a plan or project without God? Explain. Learn anything?

Personal Application:

Memorize: Exodus 33:15-17

⁷ Romans 11:19-24, Psalm 65:8

Moses entered God's Presence with humility. He didn't have a list of demands or gripes nor was he seeking God for his own greatness and fame. Moses was not interested in being a worldly leader. He wanted to know God so he could follow Him appropriately.

Moses desperately wanted to be in relationship with God. Moses pleaded with God not to send them anywhere unless He was going to be with them. Notice that Moses recognized the sovereignty of God. He says **do not send** us unless You are coming with us. Moses knew that God, who is in control of everything and everyone, could move them from where they were without His personal guidance and leadership.

7. What does God's Presence mean to you? _____

8. How would you rate your desire for God's Presence in Your life? High Medium Low (Circle)

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us." Matthew 1:23

9. What is another name for Jesus? _____

10. Mediate and read Romans 6:23, 7-8, 5:8, Galatians 3:26-4:7, Jude 1:24. How do you know God is pleased with you?

let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ^{NIV} Hebrews 10:22

11. Read Hebrews 10:22. What is keeping you from enjoying the Lord's Presence?

Initially God called Moses from a burning bush. Moses had done nothing to warrant such a call. It was God's sovereign choice and grace. You and I are like Moses in that God has called us for a purpose and we simply do not merit it either.

Lesson 4 LP

However, God's continuing Presence in our lives is our choice. If we desire and seek God with all our hearts, He will meet us in holy fellowship and worship. God is faithful and will answer your prayers and yearnings for Him. It is the one prayer that He longs to hear and answer. Let us pray. *Divine Holy Spirit move us to pray with a humble, sincere and pure heart:*

O God, Create in me a pure heart to seek You and Your Holy Presence each and every day. Give me more of You in Christ Jesus. I pray that I never try to exalt myself in any worldly way or even in a spiritual way like competing for holiness, wisdom, intellectual prowess (ability) or humility. I seek Your Presence O LORD to love, obey and serve You with an undivided and true heart. You are my Leader O God Almighty; make me a holy leader in Your service. Amen.

Next: Lesson 5: Leading by Example

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