

CONNECT Group Study Guide: The Presence of God.

“Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it. ” And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!”

(Genesis 28:16-17NKJV).

Jacob spoke these words after he had a vision of Heaven and heard God's promises over his life. The sobering truth about this realisation is that it is easy to miss or even ignore God's presence.

Years ago I attended a healing conference with a few friends and I was overwhelmed by God's presence and the work He did in my own life at this conference. On the way back, I said to one of the people I attended the conference with, "There was a tangible presence of God at that conference!" I was almost bowled over by his response, "I didn't enjoy it all, it was a bit boring", he said and I thought, *how could anyone miss that!?*

I realised then that though God's presence is always with us, there are certain types of His manifest presence that may require our heart's desire and maybe our attention and focus on Him. In Jeremiah 29 God promises us that; "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart". (Jeremiah 29:13 NKJV)

As we go through this week, I encourage you to not just be aware of God's abiding presence but also to seek His manifest (temporal yet powerful) presence.

God bless you, Pastor Aaron

1. John 3:1-6, John 14:15-18, Ephesians 1:13-14, Hebrews 11:6

How do we know that as Christians we have with us God's constant presence?

2. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Romans 12:1-2, 1 Peter 2:9, Titus 2:11-14

What does it mean to live a holy life and how does this impact on our experience of God's presence?

3. Exodus 33:13-18, Jeremiah 29:11-13, Revelation 1:9-18

How can we experience God's tangible presence in our lives?