God Is Always There

God is everywhere!

Psalm 139:7-8 - ⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.

God is everywhere!

- Wherever we are, whatever our situation, **God is there**.
- When we're rejoicing in His presence, **he is there**.
- When we're in the hospital or at home, **he is there**.
- When the sun is shining or when it's raining, **God is there**.
- God never changes. He said, I am God and I change not.
- **He is the same** yesterday, today, and forever.
- He <u>never</u> takes his eyes off us. He <u>never</u> leaves us alone. He <u>never</u> forsakes us. He constantly takes care of us.
- For He said, I will <u>never</u> leave you, <u>nor will I</u> forsake you, **but I'll be with you always** even unto the end of the world.
- God is literally **everywhere**. He **fills** all space and time.
- Even though <u>God is omnipresent</u>, he is <u>everywhere</u>; he has chosen to <u>manifest himself</u> in a personal way to us.

Psalm 113:5 - 5 Who is like the Lord our God, who dwells on high

- Psalm 113:5 says that "God dwells on high."
- **Joel 3:21** says that He "dwelleth in Zion."

But now, with *the outpouring of the Holy Spirit*, He dwells <u>in our hearts</u>, and **not** just in our hearts but <u>in the hearts of every believer everywhere</u>.

Men may try to **place God** in certain <u>limited locations</u>. They may <u>try</u> to restrict His movements.

- But the Lord *God knows no boundaries*. **Nothing** can stop him from moving.
- He is **unlimited** by space and time.

<u>Solomon</u> wisely questioned, 1 Kings 8:27 - ²⁷ "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!

- The question has been asked, "Where does God dwell and where does He meet with His people?"
- Adam and Eve "heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day. (Genesis 3:8)
- The Lord spoke to <u>Abram</u> in his home country. He spoke to <u>Jacob</u> at Bethel. He spoke to <u>Joseph</u> in dreams. He spoke to <u>Moses</u> through a burning bush.
- He spoke to <u>Saul</u> on the road to Damascus, and He spoke to <u>John</u> on the Isle of Patmos.
- The Lord spoke to <u>Elijah</u> in a still small voice, and He spoke to <u>Isaiah</u> in a magnificent vision.

Hebrews 1:1-2 - *God's Supreme Revelation* - God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has *in these last days spoken to us by His Son*, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

- The Bible says in Hebrews 1:2 "God has spoken unto us by his Son."
- <u>The greatest revelation of the presence of God</u> to mankind is yet to come in eternity.

<u>1 Corinthians 13:12</u> says, for now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

"For now, we see through a glass darkly."

Isaiah 66:2 - 2 For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist," Says the Lord. "But on this one will I look: On him who is <u>poor and of a contrite</u> <u>spirit</u>, and who trembles at <u>My word</u>.

We can gain **God's attention** by having <u>a contrite spirit</u>, and by <u>obeying His Word</u>.

We invite the presence of the Lord into our hearts by praising our King.

Psalm 22:3 - But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.

- But the day will come when we shall see our Savior face to face!
- It is so awesome to know that **God came to this world** as a man!
- The Word was made flesh and blood. (John 1:14)
- Jesus Christ was God's temple while He was on this earth.

John 2:19 - Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

The Jews heard Jesus correctly when He said, To destroy the temple, and in three days He would raise it up.

- But they <u>did not understand</u> His message.
- He was not referring to the destruction of Herod's house.
- He was talking about the death and resurrection of his own body; the place where God dwelt in radiant fullness.

Ezekiel 48:35 - The Gates of the City and Its Name - 35 All the way around shall be eighteen thousand cubits; and the name of the city from that day shall be: "THE LORD IS THERE."

It was in this book of **Ezekiel** that **the prophet saw a vision** of **the city of God**.

The prophet wrote in **Ezekiel 48:35** - All the way around shall be eighteen thousand cubits; and the name of the city from that day shall be: "**THE LORD IS THERE."**

What a promise! The Lord is there!

• And That's <u>the promise we have today</u>. That <u>no matter what we go</u> <u>through</u>. No matter what <u>difficult things we experience</u> in our lives.

God is there.

- Nobody can satisfy the longing of our hearts but Jesus.
- Nobody can heal the hurt in our hearts but Jesus.
- Nobody can <u>deliver us</u> but Jesus.
- Nobody can <u>bring us out of whatever is holding us</u> but Jesus.
- You may not be able to help yourself, but God is there.
- **He'll pick you up**. He'll encourage you. He'll bring you out.
- The presence of God is the most valuable commodity that we have today.
- Why? Because in his presence there is fullness of joy.
- God doesn't just want us to experience joy, but He wants us to know joy and to know it in its fullness.

Jesus came to bring us joy in its fullness.

He said in John 15:11 - I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

- Many times, the church is misunderstood.
- The question has been asked,
- "Why do folks get so excited about worshiping God?"
- Why do people **shout and dance in praise** unto God?
- Why is the atmosphere charged with the very presence of the Almighty?
- Because the church is made up of <u>ordinary people</u> who have <u>an unusual</u> <u>appreciation for God</u> and <u>His mercy</u>.
- Ordinary people who have had their <u>fair share of problems and struggles</u>.
- They're <u>not perfect</u>, they <u>make mistakes</u>, but they still <u>lift their hands</u> and <u>raise their voices</u> and <u>rejoice with joy unspeakable</u> and <u>full of glory</u>.

Why? **Because we're thankful** for everything that God has brought us out of and everything that God is doing and everything that God is going to do in our lives.

- That's why we praise Him. That's why we get excited and worship God.
- It's because of where He's brought us from and where He's taking us.

Psalm 16:11 - You make known to me the path of life; **you will fill me with joy in your presence**, with eternal pleasures <u>at your right hand</u>.

- In God's presence there are <u>pleasures for evermore</u>.
- The psalmist realized something about God and that is that the right hand of God was a place of honor and dignity, of power and authority.
- Trials he faced may have weighed heavily upon his life and his spirit, BUT
- The favor of God would be worth every difficulty he would face...

God <u>does not</u> take us around all our afflictions so that we can avoid discomfort, but <u>He did tell us</u> that he would go with us.

Isaiah 43:2 - ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

- If you are passing through the waters, God is with you!
- If you are walking through the fire, God is there!
- No matter where or what you go through <u>God always goes with you</u>.

Deuteronomy 31:6 - Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, *for the Lord your God goes with you*; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

- God gave us a promise, worth more than anything the world has to offer.
- Jesus promised that <u>he will fill us with his spirit</u> and <u>dwell with us</u>.

He said in **Matthew 18:20** - For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

• It doesn't matter how many. He seems <u>not</u> to be <u>influenced by numbers</u>.

Good to know, <u>God moves on the thousands</u>, sweeping over them in waves of blessings...

But it is equally thrilling to know that **He also meets us as individuals**.

God is a personal God!

Whatever you <u>need</u>. Whatever you <u>face</u>. Whatever is <u>on your mind</u>. *God is there!*

- You can't get in a bind that God cannot get you out of.
- You can't get in a mess that God cannot deliver you from.
- Doesn't matter, where you are, what you're going through, hold your head up, AND KNOW GOD IS THERE!!!
- **He's going to** help you, strengthen you, and encourage you.

One common trait of everybody who has ever <u>received anything from God</u> is that <u>they wanted it</u>. They were <u>thirsty for it</u>.

Matthew 5:6 - Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<u>Everybody who wanted the blessing</u>; who hungered for it; who thirsted after it; got it!

They long for <u>God's presence</u>. They yearn for <u>the living waters</u>.

The psalmist David said in Psalm 42:1 - As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.

If you're <u>seeking it</u>; if you're <u>hungry for it</u>; if you're <u>thirsty for it</u>; <u>you're going to</u> <u>get it</u>.

God is going satisfy your hunger. God is going to satisfy your thirst.

Thank God for salvation! - Salvation is **more than** just a formality or a ritual.

• When you receive the Holy Spirit, you are receiving more than a blessing.

Colossians 1:27 - To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

It's more than <u>somebody feeling that their sins are forgiven!!!</u>

We need to base our beliefs on sound biblical truth.

John 7:38-39 – 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

We must believe according to the Scriptures!

- His power is still available to those who will act in faith. God is still pouring out His Spirit.
- The promise that Jesus gave, "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world".
- God wants to fill us with joy.
- The Holy Spirit is joy unspeakable and full of glory.

CLOSE:

The angel at the garden tomb declared of Jesus Christ, "He is not here: for he is risen". (Matthew 28:6)

He is <u>not</u> the God of the dead, <u>but the God of the living</u>. <u>Mark 12:27</u>

The Word says that *God inhabits the praises of his people* (Psalm 22:3).

- It's amazing to think that God, in all his fullness, **inhabits and dwells in our praises of him.**
- Our praise is irresistible to God.
- As soon as he hears us call his name, he is ready to answer us.

That's why we must praise Him, because *He inhabits or dwells in the praises of His people*.

- He lives in the midst of <u>believers</u> whose hearts are <u>vibrant with praise</u> and thanksqiving.
- We will discover that <u>as we seek God with all our hearts</u>, that <u>no matter</u> what we go through, <u>He is there</u>.

He is Jehovah-Shammah, which means "the Lord is there."

God, <u>our</u> heavenly Father, <u>is always present and attentive to our needs</u>.

Consider this

When we receive Jesus as our savior and <u>develop a personal relationship with</u> <u>him</u>, We can experience the constant presence of God.

- When we are hurting, he is there.
- When we are **lonely,** he is there.
- When we are **tempted**, he is there.
- When we are joyful, he is there.
- He is <u>always</u> there for us, offering <u>his comfort</u>, <u>love</u>, <u>guidance</u> and his strength.

He is "Jehova-shammah", the Lord is there.

- And as I close today, if you need Him, He is there.
- If you need forgiveness, God is there.
- If you need deliverance, **God is there**.
- If you need strength, God is there.
- If you need encouragement, God is there.

Whatever you need God is there.