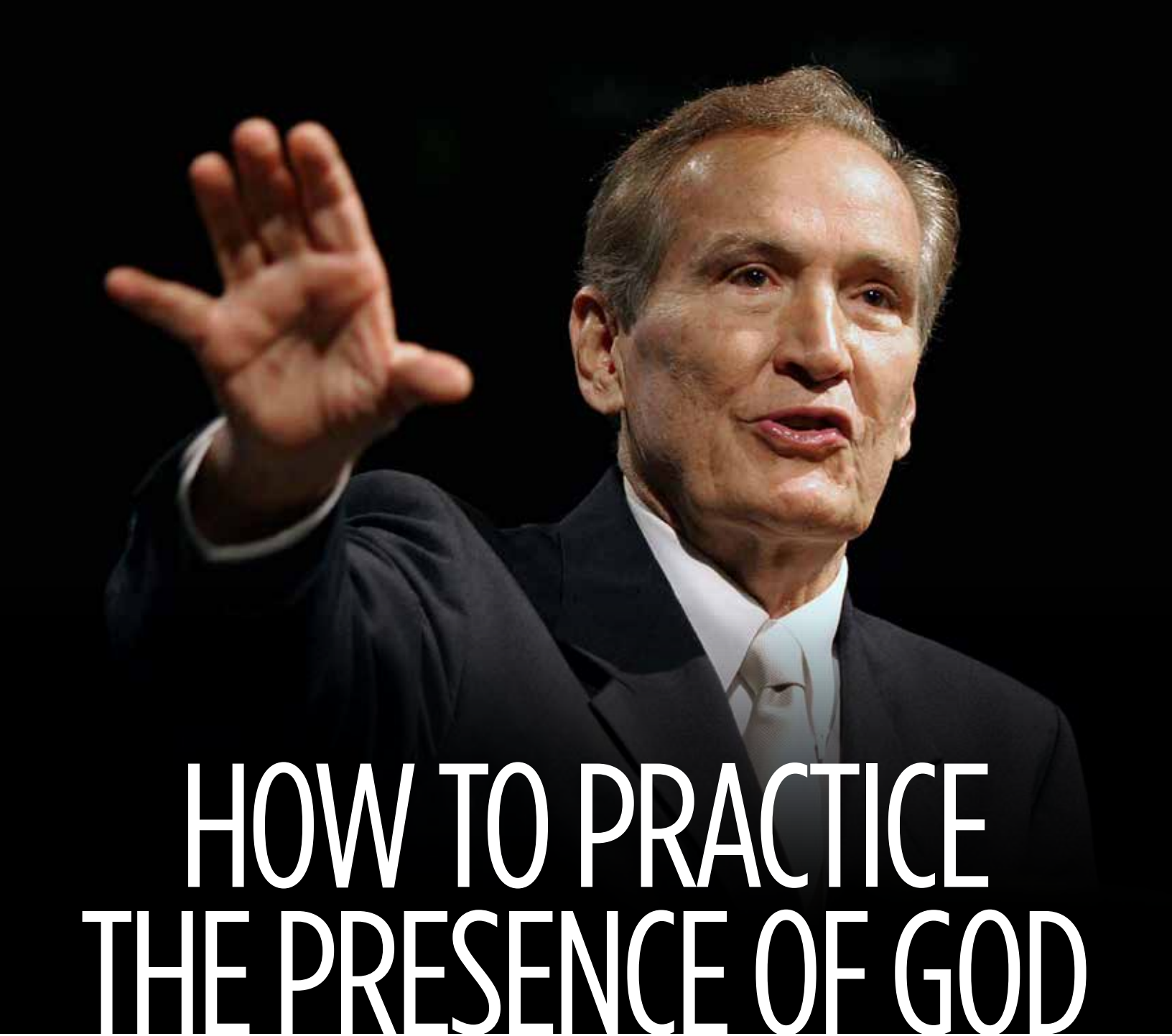




HOW TO PRACTICE THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS





How to Practice the Presence of God

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How to Practice the Presence of God

SERMON REFERENCE: Acts 7:47-49

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1740

Where does God live? As we study the Bible, God doesn't seem to stay put—until recently. It's important to understand where God resides now, so we can be there, and practice His presence.

Acts 7:47-49 says, “But Solomon built Him a house. However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says: ‘Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the Lord, Or what is the place of My rest?’”

God's first house was Adam.

Adam was designed with three rooms: a body, a soul, and a spirit. When Adam sinned against God, he desecrated his spirit; therefore, our very Holy God was forced to move out.

God's second house was the temple.

God built a temple for His people in the Old Testament, to teach colossal lessons of holiness, sacrifice, and fellowship. The temple had three rooms: the outer place, the inner room, and the innermost room—where God resided.

Jesus showed us that this house was desecrated: “And He said unto them, it is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer, but you've made it a den of thieves” (Matthew 12:13).

God will not live in a dirty house; Matthew 23:38, says, “Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.” And in Matthew 24, Jesus correctly prophesies the destruction of the temple.

God's third house was Jesus Christ, Himself.

Jesus was a house designed—the second Adam: body, soul, and spirit, yet totally perfect.

He became a house desecrated when He willingly took all the sins of this world upon Himself.

Matthew 27:46 says, “About the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying... My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me?” He was a house, desolated. As a result, Jesus became a house destroyed.

But because of His great love, our hearts have become God's home.

This lesson of salvation and security assures us that God lives in us, and God is never moving out.

Life Application

We are temples of God. Every day is a holy day. Every place is a sacred place. Considering your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost of God, how are you living differently? Are there sins you need to repent of?



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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Do you find it difficult to conceive of God as being with you?
- b) Do you think of God as in Heaven, peering through the clouds and moving things around on Earth like someone moves checkers on a checkerboard?
 - i) Many people conceive of God this way.
- c) Where does God live? Where is the house of God?
- d) Acts 7:47-49
- e) God has lived in a series of houses.
 - i) God creates a house.
 - ii) God designs a house.
 - iii) God lives in it for a while.
 - iv) If the house gets dirty, then God moves out.
 - (1) God will not live in a dirty house.
- f) The message today will look at a series of houses that God has lived in and moved out of, as well as a permanent house that God will never leave.

2) GOD'S PRIMARY HOUSE WAS ADAM (GENESIS 2:7)

- a) God's first house was a man, and his name was Adam.
 - i) Genesis 2:7
 - (1) Here we see the first house.
 - (2) God designed that first house.
- b) A house designed.
 - i) Adam was a house designed.
 - (1) God designed Adam.
 - ii) Adam was a house of three rooms:
 - (1) The outer room was his body.
 - (2) The inner room was his soul.
 - (3) The innermost room was his spirit.
 - iii) God formed Adam's body from the dust of the ground.
 - (1) God gave him physical life.
 - iv) God breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life.
 - (1) This was his spirit.
 - (2) The word "breath" and the word "spirit" are the same word.
 - (3) Adam became a spiritual creature.
 - v) Adam was a living soul.
 - (1) Genesis 2:7
 - vi) Just like there were three parts to Adam's nature, there are also three parts to our nature.
 - (1) All human beings are body, soul, and spirit.
 - (2) 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
 - vii) Adam was a house for God to live in.
 - (1) Adam's body was the outer man.



- (a) The Bible calls our bodies a house.
 - (b) With his outer man (his body), Adam knew the physical world and had physical life.
 - (i) With your body, you know the world beneath you.
- (2) Adam also had an inner man; the inner man was his soul.
 - (a) The Greek word for soul is “psyche.”
 - (i) It is the word that we get the words “psychiatry”, “psychology”, and “psychic” from.
 - (b) The soul is your mind, your emotion, and your will.
 - (i) It is what makes you the unique individual that you are.
 - (ii) It is your personality, your sense of humor, your likes, your dislikes, etc.
 - (c) Your soul is on the inside.
 - (i) You can see my body, but you cannot see my soul.
 - (ii) You can feel my soul as I talk because you can hear my mind, my emotion, and my will.
 - (d) With your soul, you have psychological life.
 - (i) You know the world around you and the world within you.
- (3) The soul and the spirit are not the same.
 - (a) Hebrews 4:12
 - (b) 1 Thessalonians 5:23
 - (c) Both are invisible, both are inseparable, but they are not identical.
 - (d) With your spirit, you have spiritual life and you know the world above you.
- viii) You are created to relate to three worlds:
 - (1) The physical world
 - (2) The social world
 - (3) The spiritual world
 - (a) John 4:24
 - (b) Romans 8:16
- ix) What makes you more than a clever animal and what makes you absolutely unique is that you have a spirit.
 - (1) Animals have a body and a soul, but animals don't have a spirit.
 - (a) When the book of Genesis speaks of the living creatures, it uses the word “living souls.”
 - (b) A dog has a mind, emotions, and a will, but he doesn't have a spirit.
 - (i) No dog can pray.
 - (ii) No dog can know God.
 - (iii) No dog can worship.
 - (2) Plants have a body but no soul.
 - (3) Only man, made in the image of God, has a spirit.
- x) Adam was a house of three rooms:
 - (1) The outer room was his body.
 - (2) The inner room was his soul.
 - (3) The innermost room was where God dwelt.
 - (a) Isaiah 57:15
 - (b) Adam's innermost being (the human spirit) was the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.
 - (c) The Bible says that God walked with Adam in the Garden of Eden.
 - (i) How did God walk with Adam?
 - 1. God doesn't have a physical body.
 - 2. God walked in Adam and with Adam.
 - 3. Adam was a house of God, and God lived in Adam.



- xi) God does things by threes.
 - (1) God is a triune God.
 - (a) He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 - (2) Everything that God has made reflects His triunity.
 - (a) Space is height, width, and depth.
 - (i) Height is not width, width is not depth, and depth is not height.
 - 1. They are all different, yet they are all the same.
 - 2. Like the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, they are distinguishable but inseparable.
 - a. The Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Spirit, and the Spirit is not the Father; and yet, all are one.
 - i. They are not identical, but they are inseparable.
 - ii. All are God.
 - (b) Time is past, present, and future.
 - (i) The past is not the present.
 - (ii) The present is not the future.
 - (iii) The future is not the past.
 - (iv) All are one, yet all are identifiable.
- xii) You were made to be a house for God to live in.
- c) A house desecrated.
 - i) God gave Adam a warning.
 - (1) This was not a threat, but a warning.
 - (2) Genesis 2:17
 - ii) Adam disobeyed, and he ate of the fruit of that tree.
 - (1) Genesis 3:6
 - (2) Sin came into that house.
 - iii) Sin sullied and dirtied the house that God was living in.
- d) A house desolated.
 - i) When Adam sinned, God moved out.
 - (1) God will not live in a dirty house.
 - ii) Genesis 2:17
 - (1) What is death?
 - (a) Death is not the separation of the soul from the body.
 - (i) John 11:26
 - (ii) 2 Corinthians 5:8
 - (b) Death is separation of the spirit from God.
 - (2) How did Adam die?
 - (a) Adam didn't die physically; he died spiritually.
 - (b) Adam died immediately in his spirit, progressively in his soul, and ultimately in his body.
 - (i) God literally said to Adam, "Dying, thou shalt die."
 - (ii) It was a process very much like cut flowers.
 - 1. We say that they are live flowers, but they are dead flowers.
 - a. They have been cut off from the source of life.
 - (c) Death is when God moves out.
 - iii) What does it mean to be lost?
 - (1) One doesn't have to be a bank robber, a murderer, or a blasphemer to be lost.
 - (2) All you have to do is to be minus God.



- iv) John 1:4
 - (1) When the Lord went out, the life went out.
 - (2) When the life went out, the light went out.
- v) God had been dwelling in Adam's spirit; and when God moved out, the soul took over.
 - (1) The soul is the mind, the emotion, and the will.
 - (2) No longer was Adam a spiritual man; he was a soulish man.
 - (a) Adam was no longer motivated and led by the Spirit of God.
 - (b) Adam was led by his mind, his emotion, and his will.
- vi) Most people operate by mind, emotion, and will.
 - (1) Their mind says, "I think I should do this."
 - (2) Their emotion says, "I feel like doing it."
 - (3) Their will says, "I will do it."
 - (4) They are not led by the Spirit of God.
- vii) Romans 8:14
- e) A house destroyed.
 - i) Adam ultimately died, and his body went to the grave.

3) GOD'S PATTERN HOUSE WAS THE TEMPLE (ACTS 7:47)

- a) The temple and the tabernacle were different forms of the same kind of structure.
- b) Acts 7:47
 - i) Solomon built a wonderful temple, and it was also a house of three rooms.
 - ii) The temple and the tabernacle were basically three rooms:
 - (1) The outer court
 - (2) The inner court
 - (3) The innermost court
- c) God gave the temple to be a wonderful illustration.
 - i) The outer room (the place of sacrifice) was where the brazen altar was located.
 - (1) This room represents our bodies (the outer man) because we present our bodies as a living sacrifice.
 - (a) Romans 12:1
 - ii) The inner room was where the people met, fellowshiped, and worshipped together, just as we do today.
 - (1) This room represents the soul.
 - iii) The innermost room (the Holy of Holies) was where the Shekinah glory of God dwelt.
 - (1) God moved into that room.
- d) A house designed.
 - i) God gave Moses a pattern for the tabernacle, and God gave Solomon a pattern for the temple.
 - (1) God was the architect.
 - ii) The temple was designed of three rooms.
 - (1) All that God is and does reflects His triunity.
- e) A house desecrated.
 - i) Matthew 21:13
- f) A house desolated.
 - i) God will not live in a dirty house.
 - ii) Matthew 23:38
 - (1) In this passage, the Lord Jesus doesn't call it "My Father's house", but "your house".
 - (a) It was God's house, but God moved out.



- iii) They continued to worship in the temple, offer their sacrifices, and offer their prayers; but God was not there.
 - (1) They were still being religious in the temple.
 - (a) It will be a great day when people stop enduring religion and start enjoying salvation.
 - (2) A person can be religious, but that doesn't mean that God has anything to do with it.
 - g) A house destroyed.
 - i) Matthew 24:2
 - ii) That magnificent temple is gone.

4) GOD'S PERFECT HOUSE IS JESUS (JOHN 2:19-21)

- a) Jesus, the last Adam, came to restore what the first Adam lost and what the temple was here to teach us about.
- b) Jesus was a house of God.
 - i) John 2:19-21
 - (1) They didn't understand that Jesus was talking about another temple.
 - (2) Jesus Himself was a temple.
- c) A house designed.
 - i) Jesus' body was the handiwork of Almighty God.
 - (1) Hebrews 10:5
 - ii) His body was the perfect design of Almighty God.
 - (1) That is the why of the virgin birth.
 - (a) He came as He did (virgin born) to be what He was (sinless).
 - (b) He was what He was (sinless) to do what He did (die for our sins).
 - (c) He did what He did (die for our sins) that we might be what He is (a son of God).
 - (i) He became a Son of Man that we might become sons of God.
 - (ii) He was born of a virgin that we might be born again.
 - (iii) He came to Earth that we might go to Heaven.
- d) A house desecrated.
 - i) Isaiah 53:6
 - ii) Our sins were placed upon the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (1) Our sins sullied and dirtied that house.
 - (2) 1 Peter 2:24
 - (3) The vileness of our sins was placed upon the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (a) We should love Him for what He did for us.
 - iii) Matthew 26:39
 - (1) What was in that cup?
 - (a) All of the sins of all mankind were in that cup.
 - (b) And the Son of God drank it, and He became sin.
 - iv) When He became sin, God the Father had to treat Him just like He would treat any sinner.
 - (1) God spared not His own Son.
 - (a) Romans 8:32
 - v) Not only did Jesus bear our sins, but He also became the object of the Father's loathing.
- e) A house desolated.
 - i) Matthew 27:46
 - (1) God can't live in a dirty house.
 - ii) Jesus died alone.



- (1) He didn't have the Father's comfort.
- (2) Psalm 23:4
 - (a) The Lord Jesus walked that dark valley by Himself.
- (3) He was forsaken of God and man.
- f) A house destroyed.
 - i) John 2:19
 - (1) Jesus knew that He would be destroyed.

5) GOD'S PERMANENT HOUSE IS THE BELIEVER (1 CORINTHIANS 3:16)

- a) God has moved in and has stopped moving.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 3:16
 - ii) 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- b) As believers in Christ, God has moved into us, and God is not moving out.
 - i) John 14:16
 - (1) How long will He abide with us?
 - (a) Forever
- c) When Jesus died for us, He paid for our sins (past, present, and future).
 - i) Romans 4:8
 - ii) God will clean house, but He won't move out.
 - iii) The sin that Jesus died for will never be put on your account if you have received Christ as your personal Savior and Lord.
 - (1) Hebrews 12:23
- d) There are several lessons that we can learn:
 - i) The lesson concerning salvation
 - (1) Salvation is not getting man out of the Earth and into Heaven, but is getting God out of Heaven and into man.
 - (a) Many people think of salvation as getting our sins forgiven so that we can go to Heaven.
 - (i) Getting our sins forgiven is preparation for salvation.
 - (ii) Going to Heaven is the by-product of salvation.
 - (2) Salvation is getting God back into our hearts.
 - (a) How did Adam die?
 - (i) When the Lord went out, the life went out.
 - (ii) When the life went out, the light went out.
 - (b) When the Lord comes back in, the life comes back in.
 - (c) When the life comes back in, the light comes back in.
 - ii) The lesson concerning spirituality
 - (1) A spiritual person practices the presence of God.
 - (2) It is not that we go to church to be spiritual or that we go to church to worship.
 - (a) We are to take our worship to church.
 - (b) When we are saved, every day is a holy day and every place is a sacred place.
 - (3) 1 Corinthians 6:19
 - (a) We are to live a supernatural life because God lives in us.
 - (i) A Christian who is saved is naturally supernatural, and he is supernaturally natural.
 - 1. We should be the same wherever we go.
 - 2. We should not just go to church and act religious.
 - a. Jesus called actors hypocrites.



- (4) 1 Corinthians 10:31
- iii) The lesson concerning security
 - (1) John 14:16
 - (2) God moved out of Adam, but He is not going to move out of us.
 - (3) We have something Adam didn't have, unless Adam was saved.
 - (a) In the Garden of Eden, Adam was innocent; but we are righteous.
 - (i) It is not our own righteousness, but it is imputed righteousness.
 - (b) What is the difference between being innocent and being righteous?
 - (i) Innocence implies that he has never yet sinned.
 - (ii) Righteousness is the gift of God.
 - 1. It is the impartation of the holy nature of God.
 - (c) We have something better than Adam had.
 - (4) We have security in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (a) God has stopped moving.
 - (b) He lives in us.
- iv) The lesson concerning service
 - (1) Service to God is not doing something for God.
 - (a) It is letting God do something through us.
 - (2) When we are saved, God lives in us, and He is adequate for every demand that will be placed upon us today and for the rest of our lives.
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 1:30
 - (i) All that we need is in the Lord Jesus, and the Lord Jesus is in us.
 - (b) Colossians 2:10
 - (c) Every demand of God upon our lives is a demand upon the Christ who lives in us.
 - (d) There is only one person who has ever lived the Christian life, and His name is Jesus.
 - (i) If the Christian life is lived in your neighborhood or in your home, then Jesus will be living it; but He will be living it in you.
 - 1. The life that you live will be Christ in you living that life.

6) CONCLUSION

- a) When you are saved, God lives in you.
 - i) He is not peering through the clouds.
 - ii) He doesn't dwell in houses made with hands.
 - iii) He lives in you.
- b) When God lives in you, every day is a holy day and every place is a sacred place.
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16



How to Practice the Presence of God

SERMON REFERENCE: Acts 7:47-49

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1740

Take God's Word and find Acts chapter 7, and in a moment I'm going to begin reading in verse 48 and read a few verses. But let me ask you this question as you're finding that: do you find it difficult sometimes to conceive of God as being "with you"? Do you think of God, maybe, as in Heaven; maybe peering through the clouds, moving things around on Earth, like a man moves checkers when he plays checkers? So many people conceive of God that way, and you can tell it. For example, they say, "When I prayed, my prayer didn't get above the light bulbs." Well, maybe they have failed to understand that God also lives beneath the light bulbs.

I want to talk to you about, "How to Practice the Presence of God". And the subject today is a subject that I don't know of anything else I'd rather talk about, or anything that is more meaningful to me personally, or that I believe could be more helpful to you as a Christian than to wrap your heart and mind around this basic, biblical truth in the Christian life that, very frankly, I did not know for a long time as a Christian; "How to Practice the Presence of God".

Where does God live? I mean, if you wanted to write Him a letter, do you know the address? Do you have the zip code? Does God live in a building like this? We call this the house of God. Is this the house of God? Look, if you will, in Acts 7 verses 47 through 49, "But Solomon built him an house. Nevertheless, the Most High," that's another word for Jehovah God, "the Most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands, as saith the prophet. 'Heaven is My throne, and Earth is My footstool: what house will ye build Me,' saith the Lord, 'or what is the place of My rest?'" Where on Earth does God live? It may surprise you to know, as we take this book, the Bible, and study it, we're going to find out that God has lived in a series of houses. God creates a house, designs a house, lives in it for a while, and then if the house gets dirty, God moves out. You say, "Pastor, I don't understand what you're talking about." Well, you're going to learn a principle throughout all of this message, and it is this: that God will not live in a dirty house. Now, others will.

I heard of some college boys, and the college team had a mascot that was a goat. They had no place to keep the goat, and some of the boys volunteered to keep it in the dormitory in their room. They said, "You can't do that." They said, "Why not?" They said, "Because of the smell." "Oh," they said, "the goat can get used to that!" Now college boys may live in a dirty house, but God will not.

God has lived in a series of houses. Let me tell you what God's first house was. **God's first house was a man, and his name was Adam**, and Adam was a house, and God lived in Adam. In Genesis chapter 2 and verse 7, the Bible says, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life: and man became a living soul." That's Genesis 2 and verse 7. And there you see the first house and God designed that first house.

Now, all through this message you're going find four words that begin with the letter D, so I want to put them in your mind right now. The first is the word design; the second is the word desecration; the third is the word desolation; and the fourth is the word destruction. Design, desecration, desolation,



destruction. Now keep that in mind, and we're going to see a theme that goes all the way through this Bible study. And, again, I want to say, if you get a lock on what I'm about to say, not because I say it, but because of the truth of it, you're going to be incredibly blessed and exceedingly helped.

Now, **Adam was a house designed**; God designed Adam. And Adam was a house of three rooms. The outer room was called his body; the inner room, his soul; the innermost room, his spirit. Now God formed Adam of the dust of the ground and that is his body, and God gave him physical life. God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and that is his spirit. The word breath and the word spirit are the same word, the spirit of life, Adam became a spiritual creature. And then the Bible says about Adam in Genesis 2 verse 7, "And he was a living soul." Now there you have the three parts to Adam's nature and the three parts to your nature. All human beings are body, soul, and spirit. Sitting in your seat is a body, soul, and spirit. That's the reason the Apostle Paul said in First Thessalonians chapter 5 and verses 23 and 24, "And I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; faithful is He who calleth you, who also will do it." "And I pray God your whole spirit, and soul, and body be preserved blameless." In that seat is body, soul, and spirit. Speaking to you is body, soul, and spirit. Now God made Adam a house, not a house for Adam; Adam was a house, and that house was a house for God to live in.

Let me explain it. Adam's body was what we would call the outer man. The Bible calls our bodies a house. It was a house. And with his outer man, with his body, he knew the physical world and had physical life. Roughly speaking, the world beneath him. But Adam also had an inner man. That inner man is his soul. The Greek word for soul is psyche. It's the word we get psychiatry from. It's the word we get psychology from. It's the word we get psychic from. The soul is the mind, the emotion, the will. It's what makes you you. It's your personality. It's your sense of humor. It's your taste, your likes, your dislikes, all the little idiosyncrasies and proclivities that make you the wonderfully unique individual that you are, that's your soul. Now your soul is on the inside. You can see my body; you can't see my soul, but you can feel my soul as I talk because you can hear my mind, my emotion, and my will. And that's an expression that my body is making of the real me that's on the inside. And so, with your body you have physical life and you know the world beneath you. With your soul you have psychological life. You know the world around you and the world within you. Got it? Got it!

Now what about your spirit? I used to think that soul and spirit were basically the same thing; six of one, half a dozen of another. But I did not read the Bible very carefully, because Hebrews chapter 4 verse 12 says, "The Word of God is quick and powerful; sharper than a two-edged sword, that divides between, dividing asunder between soul and spirit." And remember our verse, First Thessalonians 5:23, "And I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless." So your spirit is different from your soul. Both are invisible; both are inseparable but they are not identical. With my body I have physical life and know the physical world, the world beneath me. With my soul I have psychological life and I know the social world and the world around me and within me. But with my spirit I have spiritual life and I know the world above me. You see, you're created to relate to three worlds: the physical world, the social world, and the spiritual world.

I know the world beneath me, the world around me, and with my spirit I know the world above me, for the Bible says this in John 4:24, that, "God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him worship Him," how? "in spirit and in truth." Or, again, the Bible says in Romans 8:16, "God's Spirit bears witness with our spirit



that we're children of God." Now what makes you more than a clever animal with a thumb juxtaposed to your fingers and something that can walk aright, what makes you absolutely unique and distinct is that you have a spirit.

Animals don't have a spirit. Animals have a body. Animals have a soul. But animals don't have a spirit. Now in the book of Genesis where it speaks of the living creatures, the word is literally "living souls." They have a soul. Your dog has a mind, an emotion, and a will, but he doesn't have a spirit. No dog can pray. No dog can know God. No dog can worship. He can wag his tail. He can have a big time, but he can't know God. You see, plants, they have a body, but they don't have a soul. Animals have a body and a soul, but they don't have a spirit. Only man, made in the image of God, has a spirit.

Now Adam was a house of three rooms, and God likes a three-roomed house. The outer room was his body, the inner was his soul, but the innermost room was where God dwelt. God says in Isaiah 57 and verse 15, "I will dwell with him that is of an humble and contrite spirit." Adam's innermost being, the human spirit, was the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. When the Bible says that God walked with Adam in the Garden of Eden, how did He walk with Adam? Did He walk along beside him? Well, God doesn't have a body, a physical body. He walked in him and with him. Adam was a house of God, and God lived in Adam and He walked and talked in Adam.

You see, God does things by threes. I mean, God is a triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, isn't He? Everything that God has made represents the triunity of God. For example, space. Space is what? Height, width, and depth. Now height is not width, and width is not depth, and depth is not height, but all are part of the same. You can identify all of them, but you cannot separate them. You see, that's the way God is. God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Now, the Father is not the Son, and the Son is not the Spirit, and the Spirit is not the Father, yet all are one. They are not identical, but they are inseparable. All are God. And take time, for example. Time is past, present, and future. Now the past is not the present, the present is not the future, and the future is not the past. All are one, and yet all are easily identified. Everything that God has made reflects the triunity of God: space and time and man. You were made to be a house for God to live in. Adam was God's first house. Adam was God's primary house. And so, the first D is a house designed. Do you got it?

Now the second D is a house **desecrated**. God said to Adam in Genesis 2 verse 16 and 17, God gave Adam a warning, not a threat, but God gave Adam a warning. God said, "Now, Adam, there's going to be a tree in the Garden of Eden, don't eat of it. If you do eat of it, the day that you eat thereof, you will surely die." Well, Adam disobeyed. Adam did eat of the fruit of that tree. And the Bible tells us in Genesis chapter 3 verse 6 that Eve took the fruit, she ate, she gave it to her husband and he ate, and therefore, sin came into that house. Sin sullied and dirtied the house. And so, here's a house designed, a house of three rooms, and then here's a house desecrated. God said, "Don't do it," but she did it. God said, "Don't do it," but he did it. And so, sin came in and dirtied the house that God was living in.

Now here's a third thing that happened. A house designed, a house desecrated, a house **desolated**. What happened with Adam sinned? I'll tell you what happened when Adam sinned. God just simply moved out! God won't live in a dirty house. And so, God had said to Adam, "Adam, in the day that you eat, you will surely die." Now what is death? What is death? Death is not the separation of the soul from the body. If I were to give a gasp, have a massive coronary right now, God forbid, but fall down right now dead, maybe one of you medical doctors would come up here and look for the vital signs, and you'd say, "Well,



he's dead!" but you'd be telling a lie. I couldn't be dead, because Jesus said in John 11 verse 25, "He that lives and believes in Me shall never die." I live, I believe in Him, I can't die. You're looking at a man that is impossible for me to die. All I would do is just simply move out of this house, you see. I would move out. The real me would go to Heaven. "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." Second Corinthians 5:8. Death is not the separation of the soul from the body; death is the separation of the spirit from God. Have you got it? That's what death is. God said to Adam, "Adam, in the day that you eat, you will surely die." Well, if you read your Bible, Adam lived for more than 900 years, and yet God said, "You're going to die that very day." How did he die? He didn't die physically; he died spiritually. And when he died spiritually, 900 years later, his spiritual death caught up with him and he died physically.

Let me tell you how Adam died, and it's very important that you remember this, very important. But you'll forget it, but I'll remind you later. All right. Adam died immediately in his spirit, progressively in his soul, ultimately in his body. Have you got it? He died immediately in his spirit, progressively in his soul, ultimately in his body. What God literally said to Adam was, "Dying, thou shalt die. Dying, thou shalt die." That is, it was a process. He died immediately in his spirit, progressively in his soul, and ultimately in his body.

Now, very much like flowers, cut flowers. We take cut flowers and we say, "Aren't they beautiful? Oh, you have live flowers." No, they're not live flowers; they're dead flowers. You go out. You say you're going to have a live tree this year for Christmas. You go out and cut a tree down. Beg to pardon, it's not a live tree. It may look live, but it died. And when did it die? It died the moment you cut it off from its source of life from the roots, didn't it? Now, around New Years what happened will show up. You may take that tree out of the woods and decorate it and bring it into your house and it'll look mighty good, just like some dead folks decorate themselves and come to church on Sunday morning. They look real good, but they're dead. And I'll tell you why they're dead. Because they're cut off from the source of life and they are dead. They're decorated, but they are dead, and they died the moment they're cut off from the source of life, and then later on what happened shows up when those needles begin to fall. A house designed, a house desecrated, a house desolated. Do you know what death is? God just simply moves out.

What does it mean to be lost? You don't have to be a bank robber to be lost. You don't have to be a murderer to be lost. You don't have to be a blasphemer. All you have to do is just be minus God, just minus God. God moved out. And the Bible says concerning God in John chapter 1 verse 4, "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." So when the Lord went out, the life went out. And when the life went out, the light went out. Got it? When the Lord went out, the life went out. And when the life went out, the light went out.

Now, where had God been dwelling in Adam? God had been dwelling in Adam's spirit. Now, when God moved out of Adam's spirit, what took over? Who was next in the chain of command? The soul. What is the soul? The mind, the emotion, and the will. Now, no longer is Adam a spiritual man; he's a soulish man. Now what motivates him is not the Spirit of God. He's not lead by the Spirit of God. He is led by his mind, his emotion, and his will. And let me tell you how most of the people in this city and in your city and every city operate: by mind, emotion, and will. Their mind says, "I think I ought to do this." Their emotion says, "I feel like doing it." Their will says, "I'll do it." That's the way they operate. They are not led of the Spirit of God. The Bible says in Romans 8:14, "As many as are lead of the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." But now here's a house designed, a house desecrated, a house desolated, and then a house **destroyed**.



Adam ultimately died and his body went to the grave. Now, that's the primary house that God built. God had moved out.

Then God built another house. The next house that God built was **the temple** or the tabernacle. These were different forms of the same kind of structure. And Adam and the Scripture that I read to you there from Acts 7, Solomon said, "Look, I made You a house to dwell in, God." And Solomon built a wonderful temple and it was also a house of three rooms. If you take away all of the extra accoutrements, the temple and the tabernacle are basically three rooms. There was the outer court, the inner court, and the innermost court.

Now, all this was a colossal illustration just to help us to understand God is not interested in piles of stones. He uses them, but listen, He owns the universe. But He gave a temple to be a wonderful illustration. That outer place, which was the place of sacrifice where the brazen altar was, that represents your body, the outer man, because we present our bodies a living sacrifice. The next room, the inner room, that represents your soul because that's where the people met and had fellowship and knew one another as they worshipped, just like we're doing here today. But then there was a third room in that temple, and what was that called? Who knows? It was the Holy of Holies. It was the innermost room. And what dwelt in the Holy of Holies? The Shekinah glory of God. God there dwelt between the cherubim there on that mercy seat there in that ark, and the glory of God was in that room. God moved into that room, the Holy of Holies. We call it the inner sanctum: the outer court, the inner court, and the innermost court.

Now this was a house **designed** of God. God told Moses when he built the tabernacle, and God told Solomon when he built the temple, "You make it according to the pattern that I gave you." Now they didn't just think it up; God was the architect of that building. God designed that building, because it was a house designed, a house of three rooms, because all that God is and does is, reflects His triunity. The outer room, the inner room, and the innermost room. A house designed.

But now, wait a minute. Not only a house designed, but a house **desecrated**. Remember what Jesus said when He walked into that temple and saw the money changers in there? Remember how He was moved with anger? Remember what Jesus said? Jesus said in Matthew 21:13, "It is written that, 'My Father's house shall be a house of prayer for all peoples; but you've made it a den of thieves, a den of thieves.'"

A house designed, a house desecrated, and then a house **desolated** because God won't live in a dirty house. So what did God do? God just simply moved out. And in Matthew chapter 23 verse 38, Jesus said, "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." Now notice in Matthew 21 He called it, "My Father's house". But in Matthew 23 He says, "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." You see, it was God's house, but God moved out, and God said, "You can have it. It's your house." Now they went on and continued to worship in it. They went on and offered their sacrifices. They went on and burned their incense. They went on and sang their songs and offered their prayers, but God was a billion light years away spiritually. He said, "It's your house." Now they were still being religious in it. And it'll be a great day in America when people stop enduring religion and start enjoying salvation. You can be religious, but that doesn't mean that God has anything to do with it. God said, "That's all yours. That's not mine. Is My Father's house is a house of prayer, but it, your house is left unto you desolate." A house designed, a house desecrated, a house desolated. It's left desolate.

And then, a house **destroyed**. In Matthew 24 the disciples brought Him out there and they were going to show Him the temple like He'd never seen it. And they said, "Lord, look at this temple. Isn't



this wonderful?" And in Matthew chapter 24 and verse 2, Jesus said, "There'll not one stone be left upon another." Remember that? Not one stone left, and that's true. I've been there. I've seen "not one stone left upon another". That magnificent temple, that house that Herod built, it's gone! Why? A house designed, a house desecrated, a house desolated, a house destroyed.

All right. There was God's primary house. That was Adam. There was God's pattern house. That was the temple. It was a pattern. It was a lesson. Then the next house was **God's perfect house**. And you know what house that was? A man, again, and His name is **Jesus**, the last Adam, who came to restore what the first Adam lost and what the temple was here to teach us about. Now, was Jesus a house of God? Indeed, He was. In John chapter 2 and verse 19 through 21, "Jesus answered and said unto them, 'Destroy this temple, destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' Then said the Jews, 'Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt Thou raise it in three days?'" But then John said, "But He spake of the temple of His body." Now Jesus said, "Destroy this temple." He's talking about Himself. "Three days, I'll raise it up." They said, "Are You crazy? It took almost fifty years to build this thing." They did not understand that Jesus was talking about another temple, that Jesus Himself was a temple.

And I want you to go back to the D's with me. First of all, a house **designed**. Jesus' body was the handiwork of the Almighty God. The prophets said in Hebrews 10:5, "A body Thou hast given me; a body Thou hast prepared me." His body was the perfect design of Almighty God. That's the why of the virgin birth. He was born, conceived in the womb of Mary. He came as He did, virgin born, to be what He was, sinless. He was what He was, sinless, to do what He did, die for our sins. He did what He did, die for our sins, that we might be what He is, a Son of God. He became a Son of Man that we might become sons of God. He was born of a virgin that we might be born again. He came to Earth that we might go to Heaven. He, Jesus, had a house designed.

But not only a house designed, listen, a house **desecrated**. "Oh, no," you say, "not that house." Yes, that house, that house. Isaiah tells us in Isaiah 53 verse 6, "All we, like sheep, have gone astray. We have turned every one to his own way, and the Lord has laid on," who? "Him," what? "the iniquity of us all." My sin, your sin, our sin was placed upon the Lord Jesus Christ. Our sins sullied and dirtied that house. Peter says in First Peter 2:24, "He bear our sins in His own body." Our sins, the vileness of our sins was placed upon the Lord Jesus Christ. And that's the reason you ought to love the Lord Jesus.

There's hardly anything that moves me more than Gethsemane. And when I think of Gethsemane, even now the tears come to my eyes as I think of Gethsemane, as Jesus prayed in Matthew chapter 26 and verse 39, "Oh, Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me." What was in that cup? All of the sins of all mankind. You think not of all the sins of nations in the world, think of America. Think not of all of the cities in America, just think of Memphis. Think not of all of the sins in Memphis, but think of the sin of lying. Think not of all of the days in Memphis, but just one day. Just think of the lies that will be told in Memphis today. Think of the blasphemy that'll happen in this city today. Think of the sexual perversion that'll happen in this city today. And then compound that by all of the sins and all of the cities, all of the ages, all of the filth, all of the blasphemy that was all distilled in a cup, and the Son of God drank it and He became sin. And when He became sin, God the Father had to treat Him just like He would treat any sinner. The Bible says in Romans 8:32, "God spared not His own Son." And not only did Jesus bear our sins, but Jesus, the Son of God, became the object of the Father's loathing.

A house designed. A house desecrated. Now watch this: a house **desolated**. When Jesus hung on that cross, and when flaming fingers of fire spread across the darkness, when the Earth rocked and reeled, when Jesus was taking the brunt of my sin, He cried out, in Matthew 27 verse 46, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" I'll tell you why. God can't live in a dirty house, and God moved out! A house desolate. Jesus died alone. Do you understand that? He didn't have the Father's comfort. He died alone! When David walked through the valley of the shadow of death, he could say in Psalm 23 verse 4, 'Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I'll fear no evil, for Thou art with me.' Jesus couldn't say that. He was forsaken of God and man, suspended between Heaven and Earth. A house designed. A house desecrated. A house desolated.

And a house **destroyed**. He knew it would happen. And that's the reason He said in John chapter 2 verse 19, "Destroy this house, three days I'll raise it up." He knew it would be destroyed. He knew that. He knew how God works.

Now, God's primary house was Adam. God's pattern house was the temple. God's perfect house, the Lord Jesus Christ. But did you know God has one more house? Did you know that God has stopped moving? Did you know that God has moved in and He's not moving out anymore? Let me tell you what **God's permanent house** is. You want to see it? Just take a look right here. And there, and there, and there, and there, and there, and there, and there, and there, and there, and there. You know what the Bible says in First Corinthians 3 verse 16? "You are the temple of God." First Corinthians chapter 6 verse 19 and 20, "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which you have of God, and you're not your own; for you are bought with a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." **God has moved into us** and God is not moving out anymore. God doesn't move anymore. Jesus said in John 14:16, concerning this body, this temple, "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you." How long? "Forever." "That He may abide with you forever." God has stopped moving.

You say, “Well, I don’t understand that.” You say, “God won’t live in a dirty house, and yet I know that I’m not sinless. I know that I have failed. I know I have done wrong. Why won’t God move out?” It’s a very interesting and a very wonderful question. I’ll tell you why God won’t move out. Because when Jesus died for you, Jesus paid for your sins, past, present, and future. And the Bible says in Romans chapter 4 verse 8, “Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.” Isn’t that wonderful? God will clean house, but He won’t move out. Now listen, “Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.” The sin that Jesus died for will never be put on your account if you’ve received Christ as your personal Savior and Lord. He just can’t do it. He will not do it. He will not put that sin on your account. In Hebrews 12:23, the Bible speaks of, “the spirits of men made perfect”.

And so, let me just talk to you about that. Very quickly, let me just give you some lessons, and I want you to get these lessons down deep, deep in your heart. First of all, there's **a lesson concerning salvation**. Now listen carefully. What is salvation? Salvation is not getting man out of the Earth into Heaven; it is getting God out of Heaven into man. Now that's the difference. So many people think of salvation as getting your sins forgiven so you can go to Heaven. Getting your sins forgiven is preparation for salvation; going to Heaven is the by-product of salvation. But salvation is getting God back in here. Remember when Adam died? Remember how he died? When the Lord went out, the life went out. And when the life went out, the light went out. When the Lord comes back in, the life comes back in. And when the life



comes back in, the light comes back in, see. That's what salvation is, it's just getting God in here, getting God in here. There's a lesson concerning salvation.

There is the **lesson concerning spirituality**. What is a spiritual person? A spiritual person is a person who practices the presence of God. Don't get the idea that we come to church to be spiritual. We don't come to church to worship; we bring our worship to church. We bring our worship to church. When you get saved, every day is a holy day and every place is a sacred place. And God doesn't dwell in houses like this, He dwells in this house. There're some people who wouldn't think of smoking a cigarette in church, who would go outside and light up. It'd be better to blow smoke in this thing than this thing. Now, friend, you are the house of God, you're the temple of God. Listen, if you're going to have anything that's holy, "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which you have of God." And so, you're to live a supernatural life because God lives in you. And a Christian who is saved is naturally supernatural and he's supernaturally natural. I like people who are supernaturally natural. I like people who are the same in a motel room as they are in the worship service. You don't just come to church and act religious. You know what Jesus called actors? Hypocrites.

Sometimes I'll be getting ready to preach. I'll be in a service, and I'll be sitting there, like I am next to Bob, and maybe it'll be the host pastor in a church. I'll be in a revival crusade. He'll be talking to me like a regular guy. And then he stands up to make an announcement and it sounds like he's got a steeple stuck in his throat. I say, you know, what's happened to that guy from there to there? What, I mean, why did he change so? Listen, folks, God lives in you! And every day is a holy day. Every place is a sacred place. And every deed, Colossians 3:17, "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all to the glory of God." whether you eat, or whether you drink, or whatsoever you do. Practice the presence of God.

Not only is there the lesson concerning salvation and the lesson concerning spirituality, but, O blessed friend, there's **a lesson concerning security**. Thank God, God stopped moving. In John 14 verse 16, "He," the Holy Spirit, "will abide with you forever." Now God moved out of Adam. He's not going to move out of me. What's the difference? I have something Adam did not have unless Adam got saved, and I really believed he did, but I'm talking about before his salvation. You see, Adam, in the Garden of Eden, was innocent, but I am righteous. Not my own righteousness; imputed righteousness, imparted righteousness. What's the difference between being innocent and being righteous? Well, innocence is just what the word implies; he's never yet sinned. But righteousness is the gift of God, it is the impartation of the holy nature of God. I have something better than Adam had. I had rather be a saved sinner than an innocent angel. O friend, we have security in the Lord Jesus Christ. God has stopped moving. He lives in us.

And, therefore, what is service, **the lesson concerning service**? What is service to God? Well, service to God is not doing something for God; it is letting God do something through you. You say, "Well, you're just playing with words." No, I'm not. No, I'm not. Listen, listen to this preacher today. God lives in you. And the God in you is adequate for every demand that will be placed upon your life today and for the rest of your life. And the next time you need love, don't say, "Lord, give me love." Say, "Thy love, Lord." The next time you need patience, don't say, "Give me patience." Say, "Thy patience, Lord." The next time you need wisdom, say, "Thy wisdom, Lord." Christ is made unto us wisdom, redemption, sanctification. All that you need is in the Lord Jesus. And the Lord Jesus is in you. And the Bible says in Him we're complete. And every demand of God upon your life is a demand upon the Christ who lives in you. There's only one person who's ever lived the Christian life. Do you want me to tell you what His name is? It's Jesus. And if the Christian life is



lived in your neighborhood, in your home, He'll still be doing it, but He'll be doing it in you. And the life that you live, it'll be Christ in you living that life.

Hey, isn't that a wonderful lesson? Isn't that great? Oh, you see, God lives in us. He's not up there peering through the clouds. He doesn't dwell in houses made with hands. He lives in you. And every day, every day is a holy day, and every place a sacred place.

Would you bow your heads in prayer? Heads are bowed and eyes are closed. If you're not certain that you're saved, would you like to be saved, would you? Would you like to know that you really do have life? Jesus said, "I've come that you might have life." Could I lead you in a prayer? We'll call this prayer the sinner's prayer. And you can pray and accept Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. You can do it right now. Would you pray this prayer? "Dear God, I know that You love me. Thank You for loving me. And I know that You want to save me. Jesus, You died to save me and You promised to save me if I would trust You. Jesus, I do trust You. I believe You're the Son of God. I believe you paid for my sin with Your blood on the cross. I believe that God raised You from the dead. And now I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Forgive my sin. Cleanse me. Come into my life. Take control of my life and begin today to make me the person You want me to be. And Jesus, give me the courage to make it public. Help me never to be ashamed of You. In Your name I pray, Amen."



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