

The Presence of God is Our Treasure

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When a group of believers begin to gather together, to start a new church, *Acts 11:19 – 26*, or if an apostle and his team plant a new church, as in Corinth, *1Corinthians 1:13-18, 2:1 – 5, 3:5-11*, in the will of God, by the leading of the Holy Spirit, **all the members of the church are totally dependent upon God for everything.**

There is a lot of prayer, seeking God, close fellowship, and support of one another. *Acts 2:42-47, Isaiah 51:1, Isaiah 65:8, Matthew 18:20.*

The Presence of God is the treasure that is sought for and highly esteemed, because without it, all is lifeless and dead. "In His presence is fullness of joy." *Psalm 16:11.*

This is the treasure of God in a newly established church group, no matter how small. *Matthew 18:20.*

The Presence of Jesus is the treasure. *Exodus 33:15.*

The Presence of the Lord brings blessings and increase. Souls are saved, baptized, disciplined and added to the church.

There is great joy, fellowship and rejoicing. *Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:1-3, Jeremiah 17:7,8, Acts 2:41-47.*

In the prosperity of the Lord, numbers increase, finances accumulate and buildings may be acquired. *Revelation 3:17.*

At this point, if great care is not taken, there can be a shift in priorities. *Deuteronomy 8:7-20.*

The priority can shift from total dependence upon the Lord and His presence, to seeking to increase, numbers, programmes, outreaches, finances and may be buildings.

The work of the Lord may become more of a focus than the Lord Himself. There is a danger here of sliding into idolatry.

The work of the Lord sometimes comes before the Lord Himself. *Revelation 2:4,5.*

If this happens there will be **a notable decrease in the anointing and the Presence of God** among His people. *Revelation 2:4,5.*

The gifts and the manifestations of the Holy Spirit will probably decrease. *1Corinthians 12:7-10, 28-30, Romans 12:6-8.*

To compensate for loss of the anointing and the Presence of God, new programmes and activities may be established throughout the church.

New outreach groups start to evangelise the lost. Alpha programmes, marriage courses, and youth activities, in groups of different ages, provide lots of challenge and fun.

If care is not taken the church starts to run along on a momentum generated by man.

The meetings may be run to split second timing.

The worship leading may be highly professional and polished.

The question needs to be asked, "Is there anything we are doing that only the Holy Spirit can do?" *John 15:5, 2Timothy 1:7.*

And again, "Are we truly dependent on the Holy Spirit for everything?"

If the influence and ability of man replaces the Holy Spirit in the church, the truths of the Word of God can become replaced by the reasoning of man. Only the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. *1John5:6, John 16:13, John 14:17.*

We do not want to be led by the reasoning of man!!! *Romans 8:14.*

The true church of Jesus Christ is found where the leaders and people are pursuing righteousness and seeking the Lord, with all their heart. *Jeremiah 29:13, Isaiah 51:1, Isaiah 55:6,8,9, Deuteronomy 4:29.* In the early New Testament Church, *Acts 2:41-47*, this was the pattern. As we seek the Lord we will hear His voice, *John10:27*, so that we can walk in His ways.

The greatest treasure in the life of a believer or in the life of the Church is the PRESENCE OF GOD.

Moses said to the Lord, (somewhat expressed in my own words), "If Your presence does not go with us, do not take us any further on this journey through this wilderness to the Promised Land". *Exodus 33:15.*

As with Moses, our greatest need is to be aware of, and see the evidences of, the presence of the Lord with us.

This is hearing his voice, *John 10:27,28*, receiving His quickened Word, *Matthew 4:4*, listening to Him speak to us, *John 6:63*, receiving His guidance, *1John 2:27*, being taught by Him, *John 14:26*, hearing the Word of faith, *Romans 10:17*, receiving the anointing of His Spirit, *1John 2:27, Acts 1:8*, hearing His word of knowledge, *1Corinthians 12:8*, being empowered with His boldness, *2Timothy 1:7, Acts 4:29 -31*, and seeing the confirming, accompanying works of His power. *Mark 16:20.*

Only the Lord can provide for our every need.

It comes to us from His riches in glory, through Jesus Christ, as we seek Him. *Philippians4:19.*

God's divine power, which comes to us through His presence with us, has given to us all things for life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who has called us into His glory and virtue or moral excellence. *2Peter 1:3.*