

# The Presence of Jesus

Today I want to talk about the Presence of Jesus

- Not the historical Jesus – like we read about in the Bible
- But Jesus “in the room” – like you can feel so strong

Lately, I have been thinking a lot about the presence of Jesus.

- There are times in our lives when we can feel the presence of God so strong
  - o How many of you know what I am talking about?
    - You become aware that God is in the room
    - You feel Him touching you... You hear His words... Suddenly things change...
      - These are the moments when we are transformed – changed!

As I am reading the scripture, I am starting to realize that the Presence of Jesus is what our hearts are longing for...

- God so close and personal
  - o So that we KNOW that he is there
  - o We can hear His thoughts... and we know that our hearts are laid bear in His presence

God has placed a longing within us for this...

In fact, we wake up every morning feeling “there has got to be more than this!”

- Do you know what I mean?
- Personally I constantly experience this “longing for more”
- But you know
  - o I believe that God created us to feel this way
  - o I believe that God made us with a strong sense of dependency... A need for reliance
- We somehow know that God has more for us...

THAT WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF GOD...

- o We are alone
- o We lack purpose
- o We feel powerless
- o We often feel directionless
  - We don’t know where to go
  - We don’t know what to say
- **READ PAGES 49-50 IN PBC BOOK**
  - o Explains our longing for God and how it takes the form of searching in our lives

Imagine this...

- THE DISCIPLES LIVED IN THE PRESENCE OF JESUS
  - o Jesus was a popular “itinerate teacher”- Like a guru with disciples...
    - In those days there were many of these travelling teachers...
      - o They led social, political and religious change...
        - It was an honor to be invited to become a disciple
          - o You would leave your trade and travel with the master
          - o The goal of being a disciple
            - Learning from the master
            - Becoming like the master
            - PERHAPS... helping to lead a grassroots movement

- He invited them saying “follow me and I will make you fishers of men”
  - Instead of gathering fish, I will enable you to gather people
    - They didn’t follow Jesus so that He could give them a comfortable life
    - Jesus calling was to LIVE and LEARN and WORK with Him.
- This life with Jesus was full of incredible power and purpose
  - Jesus speaks with authority and confronts powerful people
  - Jesus is an amazing teacher
  - He does incredible miracles
  - He also leads retreats in restful places -
  - AND HE IS FULLY FUNDED!
    - Joanna – the manager of the governor’s household and others support Jesus
- JESUS TAUGHT THEM COMPLETE DEPENDENCY ON THE PRESENCE OF GOD..
  - Without Jesus present – they could do nothing...
  - JESUS TAUGHT & DEMONSTRATED THAT “GOD LIVES IN ME.. HE IS DOING THE WORK!”
  - AND JESUS PURPOSELY TAUGHT THEM TO LIVE IN DEPENDANCY ON HIS PRESENCE

### THEY FULLY UNDERSTOOD THAT...

- **When Jesus was with them, they had purpose and power**
- THEN - WHEN JESUS SENT THEM OUT... They could do miraculous things!
  - Mat 10:7-10 (NIV) As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' [8] Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give. [9] "Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts— [10] no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep.
  - WHEN THEY RETURN.. They report that THEY HAD POWER WHEN THEY USED HIS NAME..
    - Luk 10:17-20 (NIV) The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." [18] He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. [19] I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you..."
- When they were with Jesus they knew what to say
- THEY WERE SO COMMITTED TO JESUS
  - WHEN JESUS OFFENDED THE CROWD “You must drink my blood, eat my flesh...”
    - THEY TOLD HIM “Where are we gonna go!”
    - Joh 6:67-68 (NKJV) Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" [68] But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
- When Jesus was with them, they knew where to go... (Jesus would lead them)
  - Mar 6:31-32 (NIV) Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." [32] So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.
- When Jesus was with them – Whatever He said was possible!!
  - Mat 14:28 (NKJV) And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."
    - Peter was so confident that whatever Jesus commanded would happen that he told Jesus to “Command me to come on the water!”

### Can you imagine this lifestyle?

- A life of purpose power and adventure
- Waking up everyday knowing that Jesus would lead you, guide you and empower you

- Knowing that Jesus would be...
  - PRESENT – right beside you, knowing that you are not alone
  - GUIDING YOU – Hearing His voice leading you...
    - So that you would know where to go, what to do!
  - TEACHING YOU
    - What to say and How to think
  - EMPOWERING you to live in supernatural ways
    - To see and know what God was doing in the world around them
    - To know WHO you are and WHAT you are here for

#### **THEN ONE DAY JESUS TOLD THEM THAT HE WAS GOING AWAY...**

- Joh 13:33-37 (NIV) "My children, **I will be with you only a little longer.** You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. [34] "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. [35] By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." [36] **Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?"** Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."
  - [37] Peter asked, "**Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.**"
  - [14:5] Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"
    - **THE DISCIPLES ARE SHOCKED!**
      - **THEIR WORLD IS CRUMBLING....**
        - **THEY HAVE NO IDEA HOW THEY ARE GOING TO FUNCTION**
    - **THEY HAVE BEEN MADE TRULY DEPENDANT ON THE PRESENCE OF JESUS**
      - **AND JESUS MADE THEM DEPENDANT ON HIS "PRESENCE"**
    - **JESUS DID NOT TEACH THEM HOW TO BE POWERFUL BY THEMSELVES**
      - **He never said, "Ok now you can have it - do it on your own"**
      - **HE JUST SHOWED THEM WHAT IT IS LIKE TO HAVE GOD INSIDE OF YOU**
        - **DIRECTING YOU**
        - **TEACHING YOU**
        - **EMPOWERING YOU**

#### **BUT THEM JESUS GAVE THEM HOPE....**

- Act 1:8 (NIV) But **you will receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
  - **POWER OF JESUS** – They are not be powerful alone.. but powerful with the SPIRIT upon them...
- Joh 14:18-20 (NIV) **I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.** [19] Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. [20] On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and **you are in me, and I am in you.**
  - **PRESENCE OF JESUS** –Jesus WITH them – Not lonely..
- Joh 14:16-17 (NIV) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— [17] the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. **But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.**
  - **THE FELLOWSHIP OF JESUS** – WITHIN THEM
- Joh 16:13-14 (NIV) But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, **he will guide you into all truth.** He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. [14] He will glorify me because **it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.**
  - **GUIDANCE OF JESUS** - KNOW WHAT TO SAY, WHERE TO GO

## He is basically saying that

- **ALL THAT HE DID AS A PERSON – will now be done by the PRESENCE OF GOD (holy Spirit) IN THEM**

## The first believers were not smart, confident and powerful people...

- In fact, people noticed just the opposite...
- Peter and John were thrown in Jail overnight for preaching – The pharasees questioned them..
  - o Act 4:13 (NIV) When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.
    - The presence of Jesus was all over them
    - They were weak... but HE WAS STRONG – and they could see it and feel it..

## I used to read passages like this and say to myself, “Man, I wish I could experience that!”

- Somehow I imagined that this kind of experience was unattainable for me...
  - o I always thought that people would see Jesus in me if...
    - I knew more about Jesus
    - If I acted right – and didn’t sin very much
    - If I studied the Bible more

## BUT THAT IS NOT HOW THE DISCIPLES HAD THE PRESENCE OF JESUS IN THEM

- **In fact, when Jesus was crucified the disciples were powerless and lost**

## HOW DID THE DISCIPLES HAVE THE PRESENCE OF GOD ON THEM

- Jesus told the disciples to WAIT FOR THE PRESENCE OF GOD
  - o Luk 24:49 (NIV) I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but **WAIT in Jerusalem** until you are clothed with power from on high."
  - o Act 1:4-5 (NIV) On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, **but WAIT for the gift my Father promised,** which you have heard me speak about. [5] For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be saturated with the Holy Spirit."
    - WHEN JESUS LEFT... HE TOLD THEM TO WAIT FOR HIM
      - BASICALLY HE TOLD THEM “MAKE ROOM” AND MY PRESENCE WILL COME UPON YOU!

## AT PENTECOST – after 10 days of gathering and waiting on God

- Act 2:1-4 (NIV) When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. [2] Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. [3] They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. [4] **All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit ...**
  - o UNTIL A FEW YEARS AGO – I THOUGHT THIS WAS A ONE TIME EVENT
    - I didn’t know that the presence of God came upon all believers in the New Testament
      - The same Disciples
        - o Act 4:31 (NIV) After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.
      - ALL OF THE EARLY BELIEVERS EXPERIENCED THE PRESENCE OF GOD COMING UPON THEM

- NINE SEPARATE PASSAGES – Everyone experiences The presence of God coming upon them...
  - You can't find people in the New Testament who didn't have this "coming upon" experience
- THE PRESENCE OF JESUS was not a teaching for these guys
  - It was not a set of morals
  - It was not trying harder
    - THEY ACTUALLY EXPERIENCED THE PRESENCE OF GOD – JESUS WITH THEM!
    - THEY LIVED IN POWER AND PURPOSE JUST LIKE WHEN JESUS WAS WITH THEM

I realized that making room for Jesus was the key..

- I noticed that the disciples were desperate for Jesus
  - They knew what the presence of Jesus could do.. and that they were powerless without him
- I noticed that they were yielded and selfless...
  - They knew that they were powerless
- I noticed that they WAITED on Jesus
  - AN THE PRESENCE OF JESUS WAS ON THEIR LIVES

#### **I AM LEARNING THAT I CAN LIVE THIS WAY...**

- It's not about an experience... I am discovering that it is a lifestyle of waiting and surrender
  - AND IT ALL OVER THE SCRIPTURE
    - GOD COMES IN SURRENDER AND WAITING
      - HIS PRESENCE CHANGES EVERYTHING

Like Jesus when He was baptized...

- The presence of God came upon Him (like a dove) and he was empowered to minister

#### **In fact, Jesus prayed for us like this...**

Joh 17:20-26 (NIV) "My prayer is not for them alone. **I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message**, [21] that all of them may be one. Just as you are in me Father, and I am in you, may they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. [22] I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— [23] I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete oneness. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. [24] "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. [25] "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. [26] I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

- **Jesus prayed that we would be ONE with Him just like He was one with Father God**

#### **Jesus promised to be with us when we gather in His name**

- Mat 18:20 (NIV) For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

I am learning to cultivate a friendship with God -

- The Presence of Jesus comes when **we are YIELDED**
  - Desperation is what He likes
- The Presence of Jesus comes closer when we WAIT on him
  - Not talking to Him but Listening and responding

- THE PRESENCE OF JESUS COMES WHEN WE ARE INTIMATE WITH HIM
  - o Not talking ABOUT HIM.. BUT LISTENING AND TALKING TO HIM

#### THE SPIRIT LIVING IN US

Rom 8:5-11 (NIV) Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in alignment with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. [6] The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. [7] The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. [8] Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. [9] You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And **if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ**. [10] **But if the presence of Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness**. [11] And **if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you**, he who raised Christ from the dead will also **give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you**.

Rom 8:14-17 (NIV) For **those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God**. [15] The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." [16] **The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children**. [17] Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.