

CLI Leadership Bible Study: Lesson 4

How to positively influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ

Lesson 4: The Presence of God (Day One) *Trusting God*

One of the best ways to develop the four kinds of fruit (*Character, Deeds, Converts and Praise*) that we discussed in Lesson 3, is to spend time in the presence of God. To be in God's company is to be in contact with love, righteousness, perfection and holiness. As we dwell in Almighty God's presence, He develops and molds us into saints with a heart like His and a passion to see His Kingdom come to fruition (completion, culmination).

Moses was one of the great leaders of the Bible. He was an ordinary man that God used for extraordinary purposes. About 1446 B.C. Moses was called from a burning bush to face Pharaoh, the most powerful man on earth. Not only was Moses to face such a ruler, but he was also to demand the release of over 2 million working slaves. Moses did not have the personal strength or knowledge to back up God's command. If Moses was to face Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of bondage, he had to trust and rely on God.

Great leaders like Moses continually trust and depend on God. Recall that God used ten plagues before Pharaoh allowed the Israelites to leave Egypt. A lesser leader might have become discouraged with the seeming lack of progress after each plague. Think about our society today. We expect fast solutions as well as fast food. We want God to work within our time schedule. If He does not, then we are tempted to try and run things ourselves or just run away from our assignment altogether.

Read Exodus 13:17-18 and answer questions 1-2:

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt."¹⁸ So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt armed for battle. Exodus 13:17-18

1. Was there another and shorter route to the Promised Land (v. 17)? Yes No (Circle One)

****See end of lesson for repeat of questions and blank spaces for you to write your answers.**

When all the questions have been completed, return your answer sheets to CLI. You may keep this lesson for your own study or review. You may pass it on to another or discard.

2. Name one reason God led the people around by the desert and toward the Red Sea (v.17):

Read Exodus 14:1-2 and answer questions 3-4:

Then the LORD said to Moses,² "Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon.
Exodus 14:1-2

3. To whom was God speaking and giving leadership directions?
4. What do these verses indicate about God's presence with Moses?

God was giving Moses directions. The LORD was speaking directly to Moses and making His presence known. Moses acknowledged God's presence by obeying His orders. However, those orders placed Moses and the Israelites between the sea and the approaching Egyptian army. Pharaoh had changed his mind about letting the Israelites go and sent his chariots and horsemen after them. It certainly appeared that they were trapped for slaughter!

Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!" Exodus 14:12

5. Read Exodus 14:12. Describe the Israelites' attitude toward their great leader Moses:
6. Share a time when you thought you were caught between "the devil and the deep blue sea" (faced with two dangerous alternatives)?
7. How was your attitude similar or different from that of the Israelites?
8. Is there anything happening in your life right now that makes you afraid? Please Explain.

The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen." Exodus 14:18

9. Read Exodus 14:18. Name another reason that God had led the people into their current position?

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided,²² and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.
Exodus 14:21

10. Read Exodus 14:21. What miracle had God planned and executed with perfect precision and timing?

The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen-- the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived. Exodus 14:28

11. Read Exodus 14:28. What happened to the Israelites' enemies?

And when the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant. Exodus 14:31

12. Read Exodus 14:31. How did the Israelites' attitude change?

God's plan was to bring the Israelites into relationship with Him. He had chosen them to be His people and to experience His presence. However, a relationship with God begins with trust. God wanted the Israelites to trust Him completely, no matter what their circumstances seemed to be.

God's trustworthiness is not in question. **He is dependable, reliable, faithful and truthful.** He was not only worthy of the Israelites' trust but is worthy of your trust (2 Samuel 7:28, Psalm 19:7, 111:7) and the trust of every human being: past, present and future.

Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal. Isaiah 26:4

13. Read Isaiah 26:4. Why do you think God commands and values your personal trust in Him?

The word trust is both a noun (class, group) and a verb (action). For us as Christians the word trust (noun) is defined as a solid belief in the reliability, truth and strength of God. The word trust (verb) means to have or place our trust in God and to treat Him as reliable. When we do not treat God and His word as truthful and reliable, we are attributing falsehood to God. We are placing God in the same category as the devil, the father of lies (John 8:44) or man, who is prone (likely) to lie (Numbers 23:19). This is a grievous (serious) sin.

But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them." Numbers 20:12

14. Read Numbers 20:12. What was the reason God gave to Moses and Aaron for not allowing them to lead the Israelites into the promised land?

God told Moses and Aaron to speak to the rock and it would pour out water in order for the Israelites' to live (Numbers 20:8) and not die of thirst. Instead, after they had gathered the assembly together, Moses spoke angry, rash (thoughtless) words and struck the rock twice with his staff. According to Scripture, Moses had rebelled against the Spirit of God by these words and actions (Psalm 106:33).

There may be a tendency to think, "poor" Moses! After all, he followed God for forty years in the desert and put up with so much whining and rebellion from those he was leading. Most of us do not think we would have been half as faithful under the same circumstances and therefore his few harsh words and striking the rock does not seem so bad. But yes, it was. It was a serious transgression.

First, remember the miraculous way that Moses' was called into service from a burning bush (Exodus 3:1-10). Second, God sent His Spirit to be at Moses' right hand and thus provide a spectacular departure from Egypt with the parting of the Red Sea (Isaiah 63:11-14). Third, the

Spirit of God was working supernaturally in and through many people and circumstances during Moses' desert trek (Exodus 31:3, Numbers 11:17, Nehemiah 9:20-21).

Moses had an amazing history with God and His presence. Both he and Aaron were held to a higher standard of obedience. In fact, all leaders are held to a higher standard of obedience and righteousness.

Moses' disobedience was a bleak case of rebellion. Trusting and obeying God is not a partial or part-time commitment. It is complete and full-time allegiance. Moses had been following God for forty years and had been used in extraordinary ways. He had no excuse for disobedience. And this side of Jesus Christ, neither do we.

We also need to understand that his past faithfulness did not give him the right to stop obeying and trusting God. Moses never earned the "right" to alter or change the instructions God gave to him. In fact, because of not following God's specific instructions with the rock, God gave him the severe consequence of not being able to complete his mission of leading the people into the Promised Land (Canaan).

God will give you opportunities to mature as you are tested in new circumstances. I pray that you will embrace and trust God in every situation! Watch out for the sin of self-reliance or independence from God. There may be a tendency to depend on yourself when God is working through you. Guard against relying on your own personality, abilities and resources. Acknowledge the Lord each day as the source of all that you have and all that you are, including natural talents and spiritual gifts. Always be thankful and give God all the glory. Amen? Amen!

15a-d. Pray and examine your own motives. See answer sheet for questions and pray the following prayer:

My Lord and my God,

Please give me pure motives and radically holy thoughts. I desire to love, trust, obey and serve You fully in Christ. May I give You all the credit and recognition that You deserve. Amen.

16. Personal Application: Memorize Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;⁶ in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

Lesson 4: The Presence of God (Day Two) The Temple of God, Part A

Leadership is not for the weak-hearted. It was certainly not an easy job moving a stiff-necked (stubborn and arrogant) people across the desert for forty years! They continued to sin. They continued to grumble and complain. They continued to be ungrateful and unappreciative. How did Moses keep his peace during this hard, hot and hectic journey?

Read Exodus 33:13-14 and answer questions 18-20:

*If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."*¹⁴ *The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."* Exodus 33:13-14

Circle "favor" in verse 13. The Hebrew word that the NIV Bible translates favor as *hen* (חן). Another way to translate *hen* (חן) would be approval or affection for someone; it also means grace. Moses knew that God was with him and he did not want to lose His presence through ignorance. He wanted God to continue to accept and approve of him. Moses knew that for God to find satisfaction and even pleasure in his activities that he must understand His ways and follow Him. The human will (choice) is only meaningful as it follows the Lord's will (choice).

Notice also that Moses totally identifies with his people. He asks God for His favor or approval to lead in the difficult task ahead. Look in verse 13 where he reminds God that this nation is Your people. Of course God does not need to be reminded of anything, but He is pleased to relate or communicate with us on our level.

17. What did Moses implore (beg) the Lord to do (v. 13a)?

18. Why did Moses want the LORD to teach him (v. 13b)?

Moses wanted to understand and recognize not only who God was, but how He viewed people and circumstances. Moses desired wisdom to distinguish between the right way and the wrong way, between God's way and man's way. Moses was seeking God for the right purposes. He was not seeking God for arrogant or selfish reasons.

Although Moses had heard God's voice, experienced His miracles and was used to free two million people, he was not satisfied. Moses still wanted more of God! A leader like Moses is constantly and persistently seeking and thus, finding more of God.

Please pray. Holy Spirit, Lead us to pray with a humble, sincere, and pure heart:

Almighty God,

Teach me Your ways so that I may know You and serve You rightly. I pray that I continue to find favor with You. Thank You. Amen.

19. Personal Application: Memorize Exodus 33:13-14

20. Ask God to speak to you through Exodus 33:13-14. What did God say or impress upon you?

If Moses did not know God, he would not have been able to lead the people in the right way for their spiritual good. The Israelites needed a leader who truly heard and obeyed God. They did not need a leader who just pretended to know God.

Moses wanted the satisfaction and peace of knowing that he was in God's will. He desired to follow God's plan and purpose for the people that he was leading. He needed God's direct supervision. God understood what Moses was asking and He said:

My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest. Exodus 33:14

The word in Hebrew that the NIV translates presence is panay (פָּנָי), which literally means face. The same word is used in the Aaronic or priestly benediction¹ of Numbers 6:24-26. When God turns His face toward you and gives you peace, you have been blessed with His acceptance and attention. God is with you.

The English noun "presence" is to be present. It means that someone or something is in the immediate vicinity (area) at the current time. When we speak of God's presence we usually mean that we can feel God is near to us and influencing us in some way. This is one of the ways that God expresses or involves us in relationship.

God's presence was with Moses and to a lesser extent with Aaron, Miriam and other prophets (Numbers 12:2, 6-8, Micah 6:4). However, God wanted all the people to experience His presence and that included the two million plus people under Moses' care. They were God's people and He desired to be near to them.

Read Exodus 25:8 and answer questions 21-22:

Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Exodus 25:8

Definition: A sanctuary is a holy place designated for worship and meeting with God.

21. What did God want the Israelites to make for Him?

22. What was God's promise to them after they built the sanctuary?

God gave Moses specific directions for the Israelites to build a sacred and holy place for the LORD to dwell or live among His people (Exodus 25:10-40, 26-30). God loved His people and He wanted to bless them by His presence. By dwelling among the Israelites, He was calling them into relationship. He was giving them an opportunity to know and obey Him. God was using Moses as His leader to bring all the Israelites into relationship with Him.

God also gave Moses specific directions (the Law) on how the Israelites were to live in order to stay in a right relationship with Him. When they didn't follow the Law, they sinned; they were guilty of wrong actions against God and had to be punished.

Make an atonement cover of pure gold-- two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide.
Exodus 25:17

23. Read Exodus 25:17. What was made of pure gold?

¹ Benediction is a prayer for God's blessing or an affirmation that God's blessing is at hand. Holman's Bible Dictionary, p 164.

The word translated “atonement cover” in the NIV Bible is the Hebrew noun kaporte, (כַּפֹּרֶת), meaning propitiatory and to cover over sin. Propitiation “signifies the removal of wrath by the offering of a gift.”² Atonement in English means reparation, reconciliation or “at-one-ment.” It means the “bringing together into harmony of those who have been separated, enemies.”³

When the Israelites sinned, they were separated from God and His presence. The atonement cover was the place where the blood of approved animals would be offered to God as a gift for sins committed. Without the shedding of blood, there can be no forgiveness (Hebrews 9:22). Here at the mercy seat, the Israelites sins would be forgiven and relationship restored. The NAS and NKJ Bibles translate the word kaporte (כַּפֹּרֶת) mercy seat.

He is to take some of the bull's blood and with his finger sprinkle it on the front of the atonement cover; then he shall sprinkle some of it with his finger seven times before the atonement cover.
Leviticus 16:14

Read Leviticus 16:14 and answer questions 24-25:

24. Where does the priest sprinkle the blood of the sacrificed bull?

25. Why was slaughtering innocent animals and sprinkling their blood on the atonement cover necessary?

God was, is, and always will be holy (pure, sacred, set apart). He does not dwell among sinful people. Instead of abandoning His sanctuary or dwelling place from among the Israelites when they sinned, God designed the sacrificial system. In this way, the sins of the person(s) were passed onto the innocent animal. The animal was killed for the offense. By this system God proclaimed that sin is hideous and rebellion demands death.

Graciously, God took the lives of animals rather than lives of human beings. The life of the creature is in the blood, and it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life (Leviticus 17:11). Thus, animals were offered again and again as people continued to sin. Now, no matter how cute or sweet an animal may be, an animal is never more important than a human. We enjoy and care for animals as the LORD's creation, but only man is made in His sacred image. (If you are interested in learning more about the sanctuary and sacrificial system of the Old Testament, please read the books of Exodus and Leviticus.)

God's presence is both real and holy. He carefully lays out the requirements for His presence for a divine purpose. He wanted a relationship with the Israelites and He wants a relationship with you and the people that you are leading.

² New Bible Dictionary, 104.

³ New International Bible Dictionary, 108.

Lesson 4: The Presence of God (Day Three) The Temple of God, Part B

Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.
Exodus 40:34

26. Read Exodus 40:34. How did the LORD manifest (make known) Himself to the Israelites? All of these words, Tent of Meeting, tabernacle, sanctuary and temple have the same meaning: a holy and sacred dwelling place of God. God is omnipresent (Psalm 139:7) and not limited to a specific place. He has the ability to be everywhere in time and space concurrently (at the same time). But again, God is gracious to make His presence known in a way that men and women can embrace, understand and live through. For no one may see His face and live (Exodus 33:20).

So the cloud of the LORD was over the tabernacle by day and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel during all their travels. Exodus 40:38

27. Read Exodus 40:38. How did the house of Israel see and feel God's presence?

The tabernacle was portable because the Israelites were a nomadic people at this time in history. A nomad is a member of a tribe that roams from place to place seeking pasture for its animals. But even after the people entered into the Promised Land and did not have to roam from place to place, God's sanctuary remained enclosed by a tent. It would be hundreds of years before David was King and wanted to build a royal house for God. One worthy of His glorious appearance.

The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹² When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. 2 Samuel 7:11b-12

28. Read 2 Samuel 7:11b. What was God's response to David when he wanted to build a royal dwelling place for God?

When David said that he wanted to build a house for God, God turned the tables and said that He was going to establish a house for David. We will look more closely at this house, but note also that Yahweh did agree to have a royal house or temple built for His purposes. David would not be the one to build it because he had shed blood (1 Chronicles 28:3). Instead that honor was given to David's son Solomon who did build it in Jerusalem (circa 960 BC). The contents of the first sanctuary were placed into this second sanctuary, the Temple. Then the people traveled to this specific place to worship and be in Yahweh's holy presence.

Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever. 2 Samuel 7:16

Definition: A house in the normal usage of the word is a physical dwelling place where family or related people live together. House in the context of 2 Samuel 7:16 means a royal family line, including ancestors (born before David) and descendants (born after David). God is not talking about a physical building but physical people.

29. Read 2 Samuel 7:16. Although God was speaking to King David, who does God ultimately fulfill this promise through (Psalm 89:3-4, Matthew 1:1-16 & Luke 1:31-33)?

The House of David, also known as the Davidic line, was established and God's promise (covenant) ultimately fulfilled in the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. David's descendants, Mary and Joseph (step father), were the earthly parents of God's Son. God the Father is Jesus' true Father.

God sent His Son to be born of the Virgin Mary through His power and the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:34-35). Jesus is fully God and fully man; He is the King who reigns forever. David's earthly kingdom (house) and God's Kingdom merge (join together) in the person and heart of Jesus Christ.

It is this union of earthly and heavenly kingdoms that we rejoice! Jesus makes it possible for us to be part of this holy heritage (birthright). As believers we are members and sons of this royal house and Kingdom (Galatians 3:29, 4:6-7). Let's take a quick look at our future!

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. Revelation 21:3

30. Read Revelation 21:3. Where will the dwelling of God be?

They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. Revelation 22:4-5

31. Read Revelation 22:4-5. Will you see God's face? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

For Christ's followers the future is bright indeed! We will have the fullness of God's presence. We will see His face and have perfect fellowship with the triune God. There will be no tears or sadness of any kind for *the old order of things has passed away* (Revelation 21:4).

We looked at the past and the future of God's presence, now we are going to take a look at the way things are right now. God's presence is made a reality in a believer's life through Christ. The atonement cover in the Old Testament pointed to Christ, whose blood sacrifice on the cross permanently takes away sin (Hebrews 9:21-28, 10:1-18). We are now free from our transgressions (wrongdoing) and have the ability to be in relationship with our holy God.

Personal Application: Read, meditate upon and ask God to speak to you through Ephesians 2:13-22.

32. What did God impress upon you or tell you?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and answer questions 33-34:

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

- 33. Where is God's holy and sacred dwelling place?
- 34. How does being God's holy temple change your perspective (outlook) on God's presence?

Lesson 4: The Presence of God (Day Four) Fearing God's Presence

Read Psalm 66:17-20 (also Isaiah 1:15-16, Psalm 51:11) and answer questions 35-37:

I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue.¹⁸ If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;¹⁹ but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer.²⁰ Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me! Psalm 66:17-20 (also Isaiah 1:15-16, Psalm 51:11)

- 35. When we have habitual sin in our lives or hearts, what is something God might not do?
- 36. Why would this be a severe handicap to a Christian leader?
- 37. How does a Christian leader get back into a right relationship with God when he or she has sinned in any way (1 John 1:7-10)?

God may withdraw Himself from being in relationship with us because of sin or He may allow us to see or feel His displeasure. The Bible does not give a set formula as to whether God will withdraw or punish. The important thing to remember is that God acts perfectly in every situation.

Therefore, as living sanctuaries or temples of God, we should live our lives in holy fear. It is a holy fear because it is a healthy fear. It enables us to daily turn from sin and choose righteousness and find joy in His presence. Scriptures to consider on fear are Psalm 114:7, Jeremiah 5:22, Ezekiel 38:20, 1 Peter 2:17, 1 John 4:17-18 and Revelation 19:5.

Believers never get to a place where their actions or thoughts do not matter. A Christian leader will always have to be on guard against his or her own sinful nature as well as the devil's schemes (1 Peter 5:8). Recall from Day Two of this Lesson that Moses sinned against God after 39 years of ministry leadership. He was in his last year in the desert with the Israelites when he failed to follow God's instructions. God still held him accountable.

- 38. How do you think God's disciplinary action with Moses would have affected the others in the Israelite camp?
- 39. How should God's disciplinary action with Moses affect you today?

In Christ our sins are forgiven but that does not mean that God will not punish or discipline us while we are here on earth. Leaders are even more open to discipline as they are being trained for Kingdom responsibility. Lives are at stake.

Read and contemplate (think about) Ezekiel 3:16-21, Acts 18:5-6, 20: 25-31, 1 Timothy 4:14-16, and John 10:1-10 and answer the following questions 40-42:

40. What principle do you see working through these verses in the Old and New Testaments?

41. How did both the “occupational” watchman and the “spiritual” watchman feel about the people?

42. As a Christian leader, how do you feel about being a watchman for Christ?

In the Old Testament a watchman’s “duty was to stand in the tower on the walls or at the gates of the city. He also patrolled the streets, and, besides protecting the city and its inhabitants from violence, he was required to call out the hours of the night.”⁴ Israel’s prophets were the *spiritual* watchmen. Their duty was to listen to God and communicate His words of warning and hope.

Among the messages that Ezekiel communicated to Israel was that each man and woman is responsible for his or her own sins. He also told the people that they would be held accountable for not warning or helping the other Israelites stay in the right relationship with God. Paul takes up this truth and is diligent about proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and warning his listeners of life and death without the Savior. Notice that in the whole counsel of God no one is accountable for the *outcome* (result) of the message but only responsible for giving or sharing it. In other words, you cannot make or force a person to change his or her ways. Your charge is only to give the heartfelt message of turning to and staying in Christ.

Both the “occupational” watchmen and the “spiritual” watchmen (prophets) were concerned about the people. They wanted to protect them and keep them safe. Watchmen identify with those in their care and speak warnings out of love and compassion. A Christian leader is a watchman or watchwoman.

The prophets heard from God and they were blessed with His presence. They were also given grave responsibilities and God demanded full obedience (Matthew 23:29-37). *From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked* (Luke 12:48).

The prophets generally had a challenging life and so too Christian leadership can be hard and the work demanding (Matthew 5:12). But as the prophet’s reward from God was great and His presence real, so your reward can also be great and His presence real (Reference: John 14:19-26, 16:7, 1 Corinthians 3:14, Hebrews 11:26, 12:5-8, 12:11, Revelation 3:12,19,21).

Read 1 Samuel 6:19-20, 2 Kings 17:22-23, Ezra 9:13-15, Psalm 90:7-9 and Jeremiah 5:22 and answer question 43:

43. What are some reasons to fear the Lord’s presence?

⁴ Tenney, Merrill, New International Bible Dictionary, Zondervan Publishing: Grand Rapids, MI, 1987, 726.

Personal Application:

44. Review today’s lesson. Do you still want to be a Christian leader? If yes, how will studying and meditating on the fear of the LORD help you lead?

Lesson 4: The Presence of God (Day Five) Rejoice and Seek

However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven. Luke 10:20 (Rejoice: Be glad, celebrate, express joy)

45. According to Luke 10:20, why should you rejoice?

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 1 John 4:18

46. Read 1 John 4:18. Why should you not fear?

Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king. 1 Peter 2:17

Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great! Revelation 19:5

47. How can you fear God according to 1 Peter 2:17 and Revelation 19:5 and yet not fear (1 John 4:18) and rejoice in God at the same time (Luke 10:20)?

Christ followers should be rejoicing each and every day because our names are written in heaven. **We will be in God’s full presence for eternity and see Him face to face!** We do not fear complete separation from God like sinners banished (sent away) to hell. Nor do we fear any other kind of eternal punishment because Christ’s death on the cross paid the full penalty of our transgressions (sin, wrongdoing).

In addition to the fear of separation from God and punishment, we also do not need to be afraid of man or circumstances. God is in complete control. In Christ Jesus and His perfect love on the cross, God is using all situations in our lives to make us more like His Son. There is no reason to fear anything because God will use even the most dreadful events to glorify Himself.

Fear of God is acknowledging His power, majesty and holiness and aligning (bring into correct position) our lives with this reality. Thus, we revere, worship and stand in awe of our Creator. And we do fear disobeying or disappointing Him by our words, attitudes and actions.

Christian joy and fear of God are not mutually exclusive (contradictory, unable to be true at the same time). God’s presence through His Holy Spirit brings the right kind of holy fear and joy. When we have the proper fear of God (Proverbs 1:7), we understand what Christ has done for us. We have been saved from God’s righteous wrath over our disobedience and sin. Our names are

written in heaven; therefore sing and rejoice! The fact that the Supreme Ruler has chosen us for Himself causes us to fear Him, not fear man, and rejoice!

Read Exodus 33:15-17 and answer questions 48-53:

Then Moses said to him, *"If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here."¹⁶ How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"¹⁷ And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name." Exodus 33:15-17*

- 48. What distinguished Moses and God's people from all others (v.16)?
- 49. What should also distinguish Christians from other people (v.16)?
- 50. What was God's reply to Moses (v.17)?
- 51. Ask God's presence to go with you wherever you go. What is God's reply to you?
- 52. Have you ever moved ahead in a plan or project without God? Yes No (Circle One)
- 53. If you answered yes for question 52, explain what happened and what you learned:

Personal Application:

54. Memorize: Exodus 33:15-17

Moses entered God's presence with humility. He did not have a list of demands or gripes nor was he seeking God for his own greatness and fame. Moses was not interested in being a worldly leader. He wanted to know God so he could follow Him appropriately.

Moses desperately wanted to be in relationship with God. He pleaded with God not to send him and the Israelites anywhere unless He was going to be with them. Moses recognized the sovereignty (dominion) of God. He understood that God can control without the benefit or blessing of His presence.

- 55. What does God's presence mean to you?
- 56. How would you rate your desire for God's presence in Your life? High Medium Low

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"-- which means, "God with us." Matthew 1:23

- 57. Read Matthew 1:23. What is another name for Jesus?

58. Meditate upon and read Romans 5:8, 6:23, 8:1-4, Galatians 3:26-4:7, Jude 1:24. How do you know God is pleased with you?

Read Hebrews 10:22 and answer questions 59-61:

let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.
Hebrews 10:22

59. What is keeping you from enjoying the fullness of the Lord's presence?

60. How may we pray for you in regard to the Lord's presence in your life?

61. What is the remedy (cure) for a guilty conscience?

Initially God called Moses from a burning bush. Moses had done nothing to warrant such a call. It was God's sovereign choice and grace. You and I are like Moses in that God has called us for a purpose and we have done nothing to deserve it.

However, God's continuing presence in our lives is our choice. If we desire and seek God with all our hearts, He will meet us in holy fellowship and worship. God is faithful and will answer your prayers and your desire for Him. It is the one prayer that He longs to hear and answer. Let us pray now. Holy Spirit, guide us in praying with humble, sincere and pure hearts:

O God, Create in me a pure heart to seek You and Your Holy presence each and every day. Give me more of You in Christ Jesus. I pray that I never try to exalt myself in any worldly way or even in a spiritual way like competing for holiness, wisdom, intellectual prowess (ability) or humility. I seek Your presence O LORD to love, obey and serve You with an undivided and true heart. You are my Leader O God Almighty; make me a holy leader in Your service. Amen.

Joy of the Lord: How to be Happy

Moses wanted the world to know that the God of the universe was pleased with Him and His people (Exodus 33:16). He wasn't trying to draw people to himself but to the God who created him. It is only God who makes a difference in a life or in a nation. It is only God who can make us distinguishable from the followers of false gods and false religions.

For example, two missionaries from India have written and spoken about God distinguishing Himself in their community. One of the Hindus in the village had accepted Christ and was "kicked out" of his family and his livelihood. He lost all his money and possessions.

Hindus worship many gods and may have many idols set up in their homes. One of the man's Hindu friends said to him, "How can you be happy? You do not have anything." The Hindu friend kept watching this new Christian, and finally one day the Hindu came to church with a big sack. He walked up to the pastor and emptied his idols on the ground and said, "I want to trade in these gods for the Happy God!"

Joy means being glad and happy. God wants us to be happy in Him. We are to be sad and mourn when we sin. In fact anything in your life that sets itself up against God will rob you of your joy. But of course we can repent and then rejoice in the blood of the Lamb!

As a Christian leader, be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, not only for your own sin, but to those you are influencing as well. The goal is not to point fingers or shame anyone but to lead them gently and lovingly back to Christ. For example, if you know of personal conflicts, your job is to help resolve those and pray for fellowship to be restored.

Joy comes from worshipping the one, true God. It does not come from worshipping false gods or having material goods. It may seem like worldly success, money or popularity will make a person happy, for it can bring a spurt of excitement. But it is just a spurt and does not last. Read and meditate on Psalm 89:15-16, 90:14, Isaiah 9:6, Matthew 13:44-45, Luke 2:10-11, 10:21, John 3:29, 15:9-11, 17:6, 13-14, Acts 2:28,46, Revelation 1:14-16 for pure and holy joy.

When we speak of joy, we are referring to a joyful spirit, not joyful circumstances. There are valid reasons such as the death of a child, spouse or parent that may bring a real sense of loss and sadness. But the spirit is still at peace relying on God's presence and healing.

One reason Christians lack joy is because they are not trusting and obeying God. No matter what trial or hardship comes, we trust in God's goodness and plan for us. We continue to actively and passively obey His word.

For those that lack joy, Jude 1:24 is a good verse to memorize. The Greek word for joy in this verse is *agalliasis* (ἀγαλλίασις). It means extremely or exceedingly joyful. *To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy--* Yes, God is able to keep you in His will and fill you with complete joy!

Joy is a precious and needed gift in the life of a Christian. A leader who is joyful, even when facing apparent loss, will have a great influence on others for the Kingdom. Pray for and practice joy in His presence and share with others so they too can be exceedingly glad in the presence of our sovereign God.

Perhaps you will go through times when you are just not happy. Satan may be putting thoughts in your head to torment and hurt you. There are other times when you are ill or facing intense persecution. You may be losing sight of God's presence and focusing on the pain.

Here are some steps to help you regain the joy of the LORD:

1. Examine your conscience. Is your focus on the Lord Jesus or your problems? Are you thinking about your own weakness or loneliness instead of God's sovereignty and vast power? Do you trust God to enable you to do anything He has called you to do? Make sure your heart is turned toward God and not yourself. Check your attitude and make sure you place your hope in the God that can change a person, place or thing at any time He chooses. His timing is perfect.

2. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind any **unconfessed** sin. Have you grieved or quenched (extinguish, suppress) the Spirit in any way? Have you been disobedient? Have you

failed to trust God in your present circumstances? Have you failed to be thankful in all circumstances?

- 3. Repent & reconcile with God and your neighbor (in other words don't engage in this sin any more and do immediately whatever God has asked or will ask of you)
- 4. Meditate on Psalm 16:11, Acts 2:28, Jude 1:24 and other verses that promise joy. Tell God that you believe His promises for joy and humbly ask Him to return joy to your heart and mind.
- 5. As you pray for joy ask God if there is anything that you need to do to have your joy returned. For example, perhaps you are not caring properly for your body and your health is affecting your joy. Be open to what God says according to His Word and not the sinful nature and the devil.
- 6. Remember Romans 8:28-29 and Jeremiah 29:11-13. May God continually and constantly fill you with joy in His presence (Psalm 16:11, Acts 2:25)!

Personal Application: Be happy toward everyone you come into contact today. Practice expressing this joy for the next week until it becomes a "happy habit."

62. Write how your expressing joy affected (moved) you and/or another person:

End Lesson 4

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Lesson 4

CLI Christian Leadership Study: The Presence of God

Name: _____ Number: _____ Date: _____

Name of Institution: _____ Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Lesson 4: The Presence of God (Day One) *Trusting God*

- 1. Was there another and shorter route to the Promised Land (v. 17)? Yes No (Circle One)
- 2. Name one reason God led the people around by the desert and toward the Red Sea (v.17):

- 3. To whom was God speaking and giving leadership directions? _____
- 4. What do these verses indicate about God's presence with Moses? _____

5. Read Exodus 14:12. Describe the Israelites' attitude toward their great leader Moses:

6. Share a time when you thought you were caught between "the devil and the deep blue sea"

(faced with two dangerous alternatives)? _____

7. How was your attitude similar or different from that of the Israelites? _____

8. Is there anything happening in your life right now that makes you afraid? Please Explain and

share how we can pray for you: _____

9. Read Exodus 14:18. Name another reason that God had led the people into their current

position? _____

10. Read Exodus 14:21. What miracle had God planned and executed with perfect precision and

timing? _____

11. Read Exodus 14:28. What happened to the Israelites' enemies? _____

12. Read Exodus 14:31. How did the Israelites' attitude change? _____

13. Read Isaiah 26:4. Why do *you* think God commands and values your personal trust in Him?

14. Read Numbers 20:12. What was the reason God gave to Moses and Aaron for not allowing

them to lead the Israelites into the promised land? _____

15. Pray and examine your own motives. Answer the following questions:

- a. Do I like to be the center of attention? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)
- b. Do I want to command and be served by others? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)
- c. Do I want to take credit for being strong, nice, smart or fun? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)
- d. Am I proud of my self- reliance and independence? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

16. Personal Application: Write Proverbs 3:5-6 from memory:

Lesson 4: The Presence of God (Day Two) The Temple of God, Part A

17. What did Moses implore (beg) the Lord to do (v. 13a)? _____

18. Why did Moses want the LORD to teach him (v. 13b)? _____

19. Personal Application. Write Exodus 33:13-14 from memory:

20. Ask God to speak to you through Exodus 33:13-14. What did God say or impress upon you?

21. What did God want the Israelites to make for Him? _____

22. What was God’s promise to them after they built the sanctuary? _____

23. Read Exodus 25:17. What was made of pure gold? _____

24. Where does the priest sprinkle the blood of the sacrificed bull? _____

25. Why was slaughtering innocent animals and sprinkling their blood on the atonement cover necessary? _____

Lesson 4: The Presence of God (Day Three) The Temple of God, Part B

26. Read Exodus 40:34. How did the LORD manifest (make known) Himself to the Israelites?

27. Read Exodus 40:38. How did the house of Israel see and feel God’s presence?

28. Read 2 Samuel 7:11b. What was God’s response to David when he wanted to build a royal dwelling place for God? _____

29. Read 2 Samuel 7:16. Although God was speaking to King David, who does God ultimately fulfill this promise through (Psalm 89:3-4, Matthew 1:1-16 & Luke 1:31-33)? _____

30. Read Revelation 21:3. Where will the dwelling of God be? _____

31. Read Revelation 22:4-5. Will you see God’s face? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

Personal Application: Read, mediate and ask God to speak to you through Ephesians 2:13-22:

32. What did God impress upon you or tell you? _____

33. Where is God's holy and sacred dwelling place? _____

34. How does being God's holy temple change your perspective (outlook) on God's presence?

Lesson 4: The Presence of God (Day Four) Fearing God's Presence

35. When we have habitual sin in our lives or hearts, what is something God might not do?

36. Why would this be a severe handicap to a Christian leader? _____

37. How does a Christian leader get back into a right relationship with God when he or she has sinned in any way (1 John 1:7-10)? _____

38. How do you think God's disciplinary action with Moses would have affected the others in the Israelite camp? _____

39. How should God's disciplinary action with Moses affect you today? _____

40. What principle do you see working through these verses in the Old and New Testaments?

41. How did both the "occupational" watchman and the "spiritual" watchman feel about the people? _____

42. As a Christian leader, how do you feel about being a watchman for Christ? _____

43. What are some reasons to fear the Lord's presence? _____

Personal Application:

44. Review today's lesson. Do you still want to be a Christian leader? If yes, how will studying and meditating on the fear of the LORD help you lead?

Lesson 4: The Presence of God (Day Five) Rejoice and Seek

45. According to Luke 10:20, why should you rejoice? _____

46. Read 1 John 4:18. Why should you not fear? _____

47. How can you fear God according to 1 Peter 2:17 and Revelation 19:5 and yet not fear (1 John 4:18) and rejoice in God at the same time (Luke 10:20)?

48. What distinguished Moses and God's people from all others (v.16)? _____

49. What should also distinguish Christians from other people (v.16)? _____

50. What was God's reply to Moses (v.17)? _____

51. Ask God's presence to go with you wherever you go. What is God's reply to you?

52. Have you ever moved ahead in a plan or project without God? Yes No (Circle One)

53. If you answered yes for question 52, explain what happened and what you learned:

Personal Application:

54. Write Exodus 33:15-17 from memory without looking at the verses:

55. What does God's presence mean to you? _____

56. How would you rate your desire for God's presence in Your life? High Medium Low (Circle One)

57. Read Matthew 1:23. What is another name for Jesus? _____

58. Meditate upon and read Romans 6:23, 7-8, 5:8, Galatians 3:26-4:7, Jude 1:24. How do you know God is pleased with you? _____

59. What is keeping you from enjoying the fullness of the Lord's presence? _____

60. How may we pray for you in regard to the Lord's presence in your life? _____

61. What is the remedy (cure) for a guilty conscience? _____

Personal Application: Be happy toward everyone you come into contact today. Practice expressing this joy for the next week until it becomes a "happy habit."

62. Write how your expressing joy affected (moved) you and/or another person:

Next: Lesson 5: Leading by Example

Rev 7/3/2015

