

# Entering into His Presence

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*What men had attempted to achieve through all the ages, God handed to us on a silver platter.  
And all He wants us to do is worship Him in return for His love.*

Worship has really gotten hold of my spirit and a bond is being formed between my born-again spirit and the relationship with God, my FATHER.

A scripture has been sticking with me that I have not been able to get out of my thoughts. Luke 10:20 says; "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."

When Jesus said to rejoice, not because devils were subject to us in Jesus Name but rather because our names are written in Heaven, the more I prayed the more I realized what a miserable condition we were in to receive anything from God.

What men had attempted to achieve through all the ages, God handed to us on a silver platter. And all He wants us to do is worship Him in return for His love. Above the fact that devils are subject to us; above the fact that disease is subject to us; above the fact that poverty is subject to us, HE WANTS US TO WORSHIP HIM!

Many people walk around in a state of self-condemnation and cannot receive from God because they never feel good enough or worthy. The hardest thing about grace is to believe how incredibly free it is.

But please, let's not wait until we walk into Heaven for the full realization to hit us. If we want to free our soul from condemnation, we must do what Jesus said and give God the only thing He really wants from us which is our relationship, worship, and praise.

Of course, God wants our faithfulness. He wants us to labor for Him. He wants us to go to church and to give and to subject our whole life to Him. But the problem is that so many of us attempt to build a relationship with God through all these different kinds of functions instead of building a relationship with Him by coming into His presence and worshiping Him first and foremost because we are saved - BECAUSE OUR NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN HEAVEN.

What we could get no other way, God has given to us freely. He has saved us. So, all of our works, all that we do for God, must be born out of a relationship from realizing, first of all, that God has done the impossible, He has saved us. And now we are going to get to know Him by fellowshiping with Him through worship. Eventually your soul will begin to look to God for GRACE as a basis for everything you do and for everything you receive.

Many people end up frustrated by trying to build a relationship based on all these other things. Frustrated because they could not free their soul from condemnation by feverishly working for God

instead of just totally surrendering, lifting their hands, and saying, "Jesus, Your blood did what the blood of a hundred thousand sacrifices could not and I am going to worship You and praise You because my name is written in Heaven."

People will attempt to purge themselves from condemnation by producing more works and less relationship. So they have a battle raging in their soul. One part is reaching out to God while another part is receiving condemnation as to how unworthy they feel.

Their new nature is wanting to reach out and love God while, at the same time, the devil attempts to convince them that the reason their heart is reaching out is because they are not good enough.

After all, if they were really good enough, where is the condemnation coming from? You must remember, any condemnation working on your emotions to say you are not saved does not come from the new nature that has been put on the inside of your spirit.

People, who do not understand the operation of spirit, soul, and body, may feel the new nature manifesting itself in love yet at the same time feel something warring against their emotions telling them how no good, low down, and unworthy they are.

So people, who fall into this trap, attempt to free themselves from never feeling good enough by adding more and more to the list of requirements for being saved. This is where penance comes from. This is where ASCETICISM comes from.

Asceticism is the extreme use of discipline, especially in the areas of self-denial, and believers all through the ages have fallen into the trap of works versus grace by attempting to rid themselves of any condemnation by not only denying the flesh but punishing it (penance). In this spirit of asceticism, people believe the more extreme the sacrifice, the more pleasing to God their life has become.

I am not talking about people who give their whole life as a living sacrifice on the mission field or in service to others. I am talking about Christians who, through extreme discipline, deny them selves natural appetites of the flesh, trying to assure themselves a safe passage to Heaven.

To have a family, home, and children is normal. To take vows of celibacy or vows of silence and be locked away in a monastery does not make one more holy. To want to interact with people is normal. God created us for fellowship. These different forms of self-denial and suffering will never take the place of Jesus' sufferings.

This is what God is trying to get over to us. Once the list of works begins, there is no where to stop it.

Finally, penance comes in when no more can be taken away from the flesh in the form of self-denial. Then asceticism will manifest itself in different forms, one of which is torture. People have allowed themselves to be whipped, have worn spiked girdles, have crawled on broken glass, and, in some orders, have denied themselves any kind of washing or bathing.

All of this could not deliver them to the relationship we have with the FATHER through simply raising our hands and worshiping Him! God has done the impossible. He has saved us and, because salvation is such an incredibly unearnable thing, Jesus simply said, "rejoice because your names are written in Heaven."

The devil would prefer we attempt to maintain a relationship with God through works. Jesus said, "God is a spirit and those who worship Him, must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

Most of us try to maintain our salvation the same way we maintain our responsibilities. We look at religion as more of a job. But, you are not just an employee. You are A SON OF GOD!

If you were my son and worked for me, I would appreciate the fact you did a good job and were faithful. But, if I were your father, I would want more than that. I would want to be invited to your house for fellowship and I would want to invite you to my house for fellowship. Seeing you every day as you reported to work would not be enough. Turning in your hours every week and collecting a pay check would not be enough. Our relationship would go much deeper than that. You would be my son. I would be your father. What we would do and give to each other would be based more on fellowship and relationship than it would on WORKS.

If we try to maintain a relationship with God based on works alone, our faith will be held hostage waiting for the relationship to begin that will set it free.

It is just like a man who has faithfully punched a time clock all of his life and, from time to time, politely acknowledged the boss with a greeting that recognized his authority. If that boss would call him into his office, look him square in the eye, he would not know how to act. He would be quite uncomfortable because there is no rapport. He does not really know his boss.

One of the tell-tale signs that a man's faith is based on works and not on his relationship with the Father is that it is difficult for him to worship God, especially in the privacy of his own home where no one else can see or hear. This is why worship is so successful at turning a man's life from trying to receive from God based on works to receiving from God based on faith.

In the society we live in, everything is so fast. It is easy to develop a "charge in and get the job done" kind of attitude.

Most of us are trained, or being trained, for some kind of career or job and eventually we develop a lot of confidence in our own ability to perform that job. I am not saying this is bad. In fact, it is good. But we run into trouble in a situation that is out of our control. And, for a person who has the utmost confidence in his own ability to get things done, this can be frustrating. A person like this will tend to be performance oriented in the Kingdom of God.

Coming from a "works" society, it is easy for this kind of person to base his faith on his performance rather than on the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

So, when a situation confronts him which is out of his control, such as cancer, he is like a fish out of

water. It is the hardest thing to stand there, stripped of his own ability, humiliated and his confidence shaken, trying to get to know a God, for whom, in his own estimation, he has worked for and served faithfully.

So, by all means, serve Him faithfully; work your fingers to the bone. Use all the ability you have to further promote the Kingdom of God. Offer your talents and give faithfully and abundantly but do not let your faith stand on a relationship based on these things alone.

God appreciates all you have done for Him but faith is not based on what you do for Him but rather on what He has done for you. This is why works oriented people have trouble sitting in one place and praying in tongues. If they cannot seize control of the situation, they feel frustrated, much less having a supernatural language created for them. Much of the time, while praying in tongues, our mind is left out of the process and this can be very frustrating to the intellectual whose relationship is based on works. They feel like they are wasting their time.

I Corinthians 14:4 says, "For if I pray in an unknown tongue my spirit prayeth but my understanding is unfruitful."

This is how I would get to know my father. I would enter into His presence by lifting my face towards Heaven and saying: "I have come into Your presence to fellowship with You and to worship You as God my Father."

I would find a private place where it would be just between my Father and me. Then I would begin by saying, "I have come into Your presence to tell You how much I love You and appreciate You." I would praise Him because my name is written in Heaven. I would tell Him over and over again how much I love Him.

At first, you may feel like a small voice at the end of a tunnel ... kind of awkward as if to say, "Is anyone out there?" You may feel self-conscious like you are talking to yourself but do not stop. The blood of Jesus has purchased the right for you to enter into His presence.

Worship has the most incredible cleansing effect on the soul. It will tear down the walls between you and God. Drag your senses through the veil of the flesh and present them before God for cleansing and subjection to His Word.

Let me show you the effect that worship can have on your FAITH. Remember when you were in high school or college and you had not prepared for an exam? You dreaded going into the classroom because you knew you were not ready. Didn't that feeling of not being ready feel about the same as when something comes your way now that you are not ready for ... bills overpowering you, disease, etc.?

You want to believe God but you somehow have the feeling you are not quite prepared for the test. But, on the other hand, if you had studied and studied and knew that you "KNEW" you were ready, remember how anxious you were to get there and take the test? The confidence you had affected your whole attitude and mood.

Worship will effect you the same way in the midst of your testings and trials. It will help bring your whole being into fellowship with God until you are filled with confidence and faith in His Word.

People who are not filled with faith and confidence in God are always betrayed by their actions. After the prayer of faith, they go on to make plans for failure. They do not mean to but subconsciously, it comes out of their mouth and governs their actions.

**WORSHIP, ESPECIALLY PRIVATE WORSHIP, WORKS ON THE PART OF YOU THAT NEGATIVE PROGRAM COMES FROM.**

If a multi-millionaire handed you a check for fifty thousand dollars and said, "Here, this is yours", your mind would race a thousand miles an hour. You would be elated. And, if the million aire came back five minutes later and said, "You will have to hold that check for two more weeks for tax purposes and then it is yours, it would not make any difference because you would know that it is good. For the next two weeks your planning would be different, your countenance would be changed, you would talk differently, act differently , plan to go to places, and shop differently BECAUSE YOU KNEW YOU HAD IT.

Because giving is such an easy area to get into works, let me show you how God can prepare you to receive through worship. Most of us ask God to bless us because we really need the things we are asking for. But, in order for our faith to really be free to re ceive from God, it must first be free to give to God.

Our life and faith, as we mature in God, must take on the role of a servant. For, in maturity, faith was designed to serve with as well as to receive with.

As my partner, let me challenge you to put these principles to the test. To develop faith to receive, we must develop faith to give. Purpose in your heart to give a specific amount to God to further His Kingdom here on earth. Then, after you have petitioned God for that certain amount, encourage your faith by finding a private place to worship God and start by worshiping Him for at least fifteen minutes a day. Tell Him how much you love Him, glorify Him, praise Him, love on Him, and worship Him.

Praise God for faith to serve the Kingdom of God and watch what happens when you worship Him for the opportunity to serve. Your worship time will increase and the windows of Heaven will open. The more you exercise your faith as a servant, the more blessed you will become.