



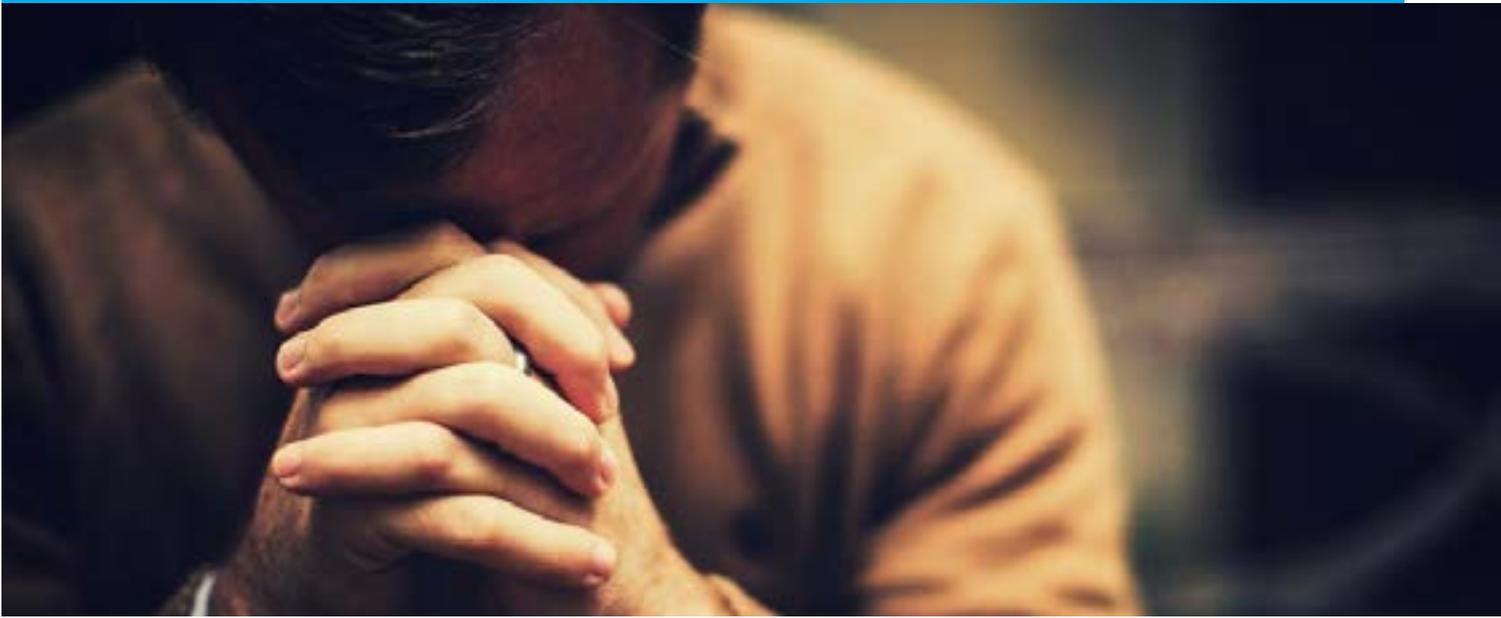
# Cultivating and leveraging on the presence of God

Weekly Message || 29th January, 2018

# Cultivating and leveraging on the presence of God

## PSALMS 16:11 AMP

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forevermore.



The path to abundant life lies In the presence of the Lord. We have established that the key to entering into the presence of the Lord is starting a close relationship with Him. Does this therefore mean that everyone who has a relationship with God and supposedly dwells in His presence automatically experiences abundant life?

Evidence says No!! While a relationship with God inconvertibly grants access into the presence of the Lord, there is more required before a man can experience abundant life on a sustainable basis. Let me quickly add that not only is the intention of God for man, is that they live abundant lives, He has also made adequate preparations in Jesus Christ to ensure it is a reality for every man who chooses so to live!

The secret to enjoying the pleasures and abundant life lies in cultivating and leveraging on the presence of God. Let's discuss three ways to achieve this:

First, a choice to live a life of gratitude and praise must be made.

**Enter His gates with  
thanksgiving and into His  
courts with praise: be thankful  
unto Him and bless His name  
Psalm 100:4 KJV**

Not only does a heart of gratitude open up the presence of God, it makes man get God's attention and indeed His Mercy followed closely by His Grace. The truth is that no matter how difficult our life is or has been, we can always find a reason to be grateful if and when we choose to be. Unfortunately, it is in the human nature, to focus on what we do not have rather than what we have. We must learn to change our perspective to see the glass half full rather than half empty. The point here is living a life of gratitude does not happen without a continuous effort to do so. However, the choice and pursuit of a life of gratitude guarantees us a place in the presence of God.

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Second, is a choice to be transparent in our dealings with God. This does not imply that it is possible to deceive the Almighty ( because it is not!), the issue here is that God desires a willing participant in an open and honest relationship with Him.

**If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.**

**Psalm 66:18 *NLT***



We cannot cultivate the presence of God if we do not acknowledge and repent of sin when it taps up in our lives. This appears rational however too many of us fall into this trap of expecting God in His love to overlook sin. This simply does not happen as it is not in the nature of God to do so, just like every responsible parent loves his child but does not tolerate unconfessed and continuous wrong doing in their children. The even more dangerous trend today is when people deceive themselves into rationalizing sin rather than naming it, confessing it and repenting of it. We have ignored and accepted sin for so long it has become an iniquity: a term I give to unrecognizable and widely accepted sin.

Third is a choice to live a life of complete submission to God.

**“What is more pleasing to the LORD : your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.**

**I Samuel 15:22 NLT**



This probably is one of the most difficult things to do as human beings. However, It just does not work with God : to override his instructions and compensate with giving , service etc no matter how big and or sacrificial it appears to be. We would rather follow our own desires, other than choosing to follow God’s instructions especially where we find it inconvenient, unfair and in whatever way our limited human reasoning suggests. A rather common one is forgiving others and accommodating their weaknesses. God wants us to forgive but we simply struggle to do so in many instances yet we expect God to forgive us no matter how severe our offense is and indeed He does! Praise God. We struggle to do good to those who hurt us, yet God expects us so to do and leave the judgement and vengeance to Him. I know it is easier said than done; but with a choice to do so, God grants us the grace to do so and in addition honors us as we obey his instructions and honor Him. This in my opinion, is one of the most effective ways to cultivate and leverage on the presence of God.



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