WALKING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Teaching Notes by Joyce Meyer

Joyce Meyer Ministries
Plot No. 512 / B, Road No. 30
Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad - 500 033
Telangana
INDIA
91-40-2300 6777
www.jmmindia.org
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WALKING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

I. The Need
   A. Stability
   B. Fullness of joy

II. The Answer
   A. The presence of God
      1. Presence (defined) – Face, nearness, anointing, grace, ability, and enablement.
      2. Stability
         a. Psalm 16:8 – Set the Lord continually before you, and you shall not be moved.
         b. Psalm 91:1 – He Who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty…
      3. Joy
         Psalm 16:11 – In Your presence is fullness of joy.

III. Priorities
   A. God demands first place in your life.
First (defined) – In time, place, order, or importance. Chiefly at the beginning.

2. **Matthew 8:19-21** – I’ll follow You, Jesus; but **first** let me care for my father.

3. **Luke 14:16-26** – Many were invited who made excuses not to come. Jesus said, “If I’m not **FIRST** (more important than anything else), you cannot be My disciple.”

4. **Luke 10:38-42** – Mary and Martha (Martha had her priorities out of line).

B. Count the cost.

1. **Luke 14:28** – Who would try to build a building without first sitting down to calculate the cost?

2. Many are called, but few are chosen – many are called, but few are willing to take the responsibility for the call.

3. When God calls you into something, He calls you out of something.
   a. Example: Moses – **Exodus 33:11-23**
   b. **Exodus 34:28-33** – He stood in God’s presence, and God’s glory shone on his face so bright that he had to wear a veil.
   c. **Hebrews 11:24-25** – Moses chose a life of hardship in order to obey God rather than the fleeting enjoyment of a sinful life.

IV. Seeking

A. **Psalm 27:4** – One thing should be sought.

1. **Seek** – Require as VITAL.
2. **VITAL** means you will die without it.

B. Require God as a **VITAL** necessity.

1. Examples:
   a. Kidney machine
   b. Pacemaker
   c. Minister’s meeting

C. **Seek** – Put your MIND on.

1. **Colossians 3:1-2** – Seek things above (higher things) by keeping your mind set on what is above.

2. Example: If a person is said to be self-seeking, that person has his MIND on himself most of the time.

V. **God is a Jealous God.**

A. **James 4:4-5** – You [are like] unfaithful wives [having illicit love affairs with the world . . .

1. How would your spouse respond if you said you loved him/her but spent most of your time with someone else, thinking about someone else, and talking about someone else?

B. **James 4:6** – You choose to put God first. He will give you grace.

1. Determination alone isn’t sufficient.

2. You need grace.

C. Divine jealousy

1. **Exodus 20:1-5** – Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

2. **Deuteronomy 6:15** – For the Lord your God in the midst of you is a jealous God . . .
D. What kind of things is God jealous of?

1. People:
   a. Advice
   b. People-pleasers

2. Things we own:
   How do you behave if something is lost or damaged that means a lot to you?

3. Job position

VI. Desires

A. Seek God’s face – not His hand.

1. Remember, presence means face.

B. Seek to know Him and His ways. Seek to be like Jesus.

1. **Exodus 33:13** – Moses
2. **Philippians 3:10** – Paul

C. **Psalm 37:4** – Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He will give you the desires … of your heart.

1. **Matthew 6:33** – Seek the kingdom. He will add the things.
2. (Share some examples.)

D. **Deuteronomy 8:3** – Man shall not live by bread alone.

1. **John 6:47-58** – Jesus is the Living Bread.
3. **Psalm 42:1-2** – As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants and longs for You, oh my God.

VII. **Mirage**

A. **Isaiah 49:8-10**

B. **Jeremiah 2:13** – Empty wells

VIII. **Purity In Prayer**

A. Do you pray for the inner man as much as the outer man? (See list of Prayers For The Inner Man on page six.)

B. **II Corinthians 4:8-18** – Paul said his problems didn’t bother him because he looked to eternal things rather than temporal – the inner rather than the outer.

IX. **Closing Thoughts**

A. We need stability and joy.

B. It comes through dwelling in the presence of God.

C. Dwelling in the presence of God comes through right choices and right priorities.

D. We must understand that dwelling in the presence of God is a **VITAL NECESSITY**.

E. God is jealous.

F. Seek His face, not His hand.

G. Man cannot live by bread alone.

H. When you are thirsty, be careful that you are not deceived by mirages.

I. Pray for the inner man.
PRAYER FOR THE INNER MAN

**Ephesians 3:16**  Strengthen me in the inner man.

**Ephesians 3:17**  That I may be rooted deep in love and founded securely on love.

**Ephesians 3:18**  Let me grasp God’s love – the breadth and length and height and depth of it.

**Ephesians 3:19**  That I might be filled through all my being with the fullness of God.

**Ephesians 3:19**  That I might become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself.

**Philippians 3:10**  That I may “know” Him and the power of His resurrection.

**Ephesians 1:17**  That He might grant me a spirit of wisdom and revelation.

**Ephesians 1:18**  That the eyes of my heart be flooded with light.

**Ephesians 1:19**  That I might know the greatness of His power in me.

**Philippians 1:10**  That I may learn to sense what is vital and of real value.

**Philippians 1:11**  That I may abound and be filled with the fruits of righteousness.

**John 17:12**  That He will keep and protect me from the evil one.  
*(Jesus’ prayer)*

**Colossians 1:9**  That I may know God’s will.

**Colossians 1:11-12**  That I may be strengthened with all power, [to exercise] every kind of endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks.