

Bible Way Church

OF ATLANTA ROAD

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Empowered by His Presence

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- In this week's message we would like to examine how we as believers are empowered by God's presence to do the extraordinary.
- The biblical phrase *"the Presence of God"* is often used to describe God's initiative in encountering people.
- Throughout the Old Testament there are many examples of how God communicated to His people through His presence.
- In the Garden of Eden, God communicated with Adam and Eve through His presence.
- Genesis 3:8 tells us that when Adam and his wife sinned that they hid themselves from the presence of the Lord.
- In Deuteronomy 34:10 Moses encountered the Presence of God in the form of a burning bush.
- The Lord said to the children of Israel in Exodus 33:14 "my presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest."
- David, the servant of the Lord, understood the significance of God's presence as we witness in the Psalms.
 - Psalm 16:11 "In thy presence is fullness of Joy..."
 - Psalm 51:11 "Cast me not away from thy presence"
 - Psalm 95:2 "Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving".
 - Psalm 140:13 "Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name; the upright shall dwell in thy presence".
- The final Old Testament example we want to share is found in Ezekiel 43:7, where God says to Israel that their sins will prevent His presence.

- As we turn to our text we find that God is doing a new thing as it relates to His presence...
- No longer is He just dwelling among us, but now God's presence will dwell **in** us.
- According to St. Matthew 1:23 the birth of Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah when he declared,
 - “A virgin shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us”.
- For some 33 years as Jesus walked the Earth with His disciples the presence of God was with them.
- In our text Jesus tells His disciples that although He will no longer be with them in a physical form they will not be left without His presence.
- Jesus tells His disciples that just like He was the manifestation of the presence of God, that the Holy Spirit will now serve as the manifestation of His presence.
- Jesus tells them that He would not leave them “comfortless” this word means to be orphaned, to be without parental help, to be helpless, to the powerless.
- The Holy Spirit is the inward personal presence of Christ.
- Through the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives we are empowered to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think.
- Because His presence dwells in us, there are some things we will never be comfortable doing.
- And yes, because of His presence, there are some people who we will never be comfortable being around.
- The power of the inward presence of Christ will change your life.
- Be Empowered!