

Liv'n the Presence: Going Out and Coming In - 3

Today we are starting a new sermon series called, "Liv'n the Presence." For the next few Sundays, we will continue talking about how we can live in the presence of God! Worship was how David led the Israelites into the presence of God. Believers entered into God's presence then, and we can enter into God's presence now. In this series, Liv'n the Presence, **our hope is to help you learn how to live, every day no matter your circumstances, in the presence of God.** God wants us to live in his presence.

When talking about the presence of God, for clarity, it's good to remember 3 things:

1) There is the Omni-Presence of God

This means that God is everywhere. As Psalm 139:7 explains, "*Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?*" The Omni-Presence of God is everywhere.

2) Then there is the Inner-Presence of God

This is when the Holy Spirit comes to live within us when we trust in Jesus Christ.

3) And the Manifest-Presence of God

And this is when God makes His presence known among us. This is what this sermon series will focus on – the Manifest-Presence of God.

We don't just get into God's presence on Sunday, and try make it through the rest of the week on our own, God wants us to live in his presence every day.

This week's message is called, Going Out and Coming In. It is actually about living in the victory of God's presence. I'm pretty sure most people know, that Solomon asked God for wisdom... even a lot of people who aren't regular church goers know that Solomon ask God for wisdom.

But do we know why?

Solomon actually gives a reason... when God as Solomon to ask for whatever he wanted, Solomon ask for wisdom and then explained, "**There something I don't know, so give me an understanding heart.**" And God gave him a wise and understanding heart.

We find this conversation in today's scripture 1 Kings 3:5-12 NKJV.

Starting at verse 5, at Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night;

and God said, “Ask what I should give you? And Solomon said, ‘you have shown great mercy to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in truth, in righteousness, and in an uprightness of heart with you; you have continued this great kindness for him and you have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is today. Now O Lord my God, you have made your servant... king instead of my father David, **but I am a little child; I do not know how to Go out or Come in.**”

There's the reason Solomon asked for wisdom - My father David knew how to do something - I did not know how to do. “I don't know how to go out or come in.”

- When I first looked at that scripture, I had no idea what it meant. Maybe... I don't think they had doorknobs back then, maybe Solomon didn't know how to use a door latch. Maybe King David had no problem going around his estate and going in and coming out of rooms. But Solomon was only a child and couldn't work the door latches or doorknobs.

Obviously, that's not with Solomon is talking about.

Seriously, what do we do when a scripture doesn't make sense and wonder how do we find the answer? How do we interpret. It's dangerous when we try to interpret the Bible on our own! But whenever you find something in the Bible and you don't know what it means, the Bible will always explain itself.

So to find the answer, let's look at other places in the Bible that talk about it:

- This scripture, Moses is praying to God about his successor, the next leader who is going to lead the people of Israel. In Numbers 27:15, Moses said to God, “*May the Lord, the God who gives breath to all living things, appoint someone over this community **to go out and come in** before them, one **who will lead them out and bring them in**, so the Lord's people will not be like sheep without a shepherd.*”

Moses and Solomon were talking to God, they were both talking about leadership.

- Solomon said, my father knew how to go out and come in, and I don't know how to do that.
- Moses said, before Joshua was put in as a leader, “God make sure he knows how to go out and to come in. That he knows how to lead the people in and lead the people out.”

When Moses is ready to step down from leadership and he was making his retirement speech to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 31:1-2.

- It says, "*Then Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel. And he said to them: "I am one hundred and twenty years old today (That is not the standard retirement age for a pastor, but if you do make it... it is time to retire - but here is the one reason Moses gave as to why he is retiring) **I can no longer go out and come in... also the Lord has said to me, 'You shall not cross over this Jordan.'***"

Moses said, I just can't get the Door latches to work anymore!

- Another scripture that's important from Deuteronomy 28:6 "*Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.*" Does that mean leaving and coming into your house... No it does not."
- Even Jesus used this phrase in John 10:9, "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, *and will go in and out and find pasture.*"

Remember! The Bible always explains itself – so what does it mean?

The definition of **going in and going out** is found in Joshua 11:6 when Caleb is talking to Joshua, "*As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in.*"

Coming in and going out are military terms.

- Solomon said, "Dad was a Warrior, he knew how to lead the people out and he knew how to lead the people in. Solomon said, "My father was a Warrior and he knew how to bring the people in." I don't know how to do that, I need wisdom to do that. God, I don't know how to go to war and come back from war.
- Moses was saying I'm a 120 years old and I can't lead you out to war anymore I can't bring you back from war.

Everything in the Old and New Testament are important truths for us... right?

- Ask you a simple question, "Are we still in a war? Do you face battles in life?"
Oh ya! We have physical, financial, relational battles, we have battles with health, battles at work and school, and we have spiritual battles!

- So we need to learn how to **go out** to battle and we need to learn how to **come in** from battle.

In today's scripture, **1 Samuel 18:12-16** Solomon said David - my father knew how to do this. Even the King of Israel, King Saul was afraid of David because God had taken His anointing off of Saul and placed it on David... and David knew how to go in and out – of war

Because Saul was afraid of David, he had David leave... but to make things look good, King Saul put him in charge of an army of a 1000. The scripture also says that David lived and chose wisely in all his ways... and the people saw that and that made King Saul even more fearful of David... especially because **the Lord was with him – David knew how to live in the manifest presence of God.** And all Israel and Judah loved David **because** he went out in and came in before them.

We talked about how this refers to war, so let's deal with the coming in part. Let's look to see what happened when they **went out for war**, and what they did when they **came in from war**.

1) They came in to worship.

- If they **lost** the war, they came back in worshipped and asked God why they lost, to find out what they did wrong.
- If they **won** the war, they came into worship to celebrate and thank the Lord God.
- If they were in the **middle** of a war, they would come in from battle go into worship, get refreshed and go back out.

Think about this for a few minutes, think about worship on weekends, and your private time with God during the week.

- **If you just lost** the war, you lost some battle in your life. You would come in and talk to God to find out what when wrong, what to change or repent, and how to do or behave more Godly or Christ-like in the next battle.
- **If you won** some battle in your life, you come in and thank the Lord and rejoice!

- **If you're still in the middle** of a battle, you come into God's presence and get refreshed. Talk to God and seek updated battle plans on how to do better.

Talking about worship and living in God's presence, in 1 Samuel 18, there are 3 principles about coming into God's presence, 3 principles about worship!

1. Worship brings God's presence into our lives

Look at 1 Samuel 18:12, 14, "*Now Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him, but had departed from Saul... and David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the Lord was with him.*" This is what made David so great, because the Lord was with him:

- David knew how to enter the presence of God! He lived in the presence of God... and David knew how to do this even before he became king. David was doing this... even when he was a shepherd.

We have a book in the Bible and much of it was written by David! IT is the song book of the Bible - you know them as the Book of Psalms. **Psalm means song.** David wrote and sang many worship songs to the Lord - David was the worshipper.

What made David a great king is that he knew how to worship.

- He understood that to be empowered when you were going out into battle... **you need to know how to come in... come into worship.**
- And when we go out, we are not going out from the presence of God... **we go out with the presence of God.** If you don't come into the presence of God, **You have nothing to go out with.**

Do you really want to go to work or school or into some meeting or problem... **without the anointing of God on you?** If you do, you are going to struggle! You need God's presence, God's anointing and favor on you no matter what you do.

- Do you know what Jesus last words were - **not to go!** Jesus did say that. But in Acts 1, Jesus' last words were to stay until the Holy Spirit has come upon you, the presence of God – and you receive the power.

If you do not stay and get empowered from the Presence of God, you will have nothing to go with! Does that make sense are you following me!

Worship is not something you do only on Sunday morning. It's something you do every day. Before you battle in the world, you need to come into the presence of God and get filled up and empowered, worship brings the presence of God.

2. Worship brings the fear of God into our lives.

I don't confuse the word fear that I am using – I am not talking about being fearful of God. **But the Bible does say, “Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”**

Think of it this way, in I Samuel 18:12, "*Now Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him, but had departed from Saul.* (And we know that an evil spirit had come upon Saul this time) *And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the Lord was with him.*" Then in verse 15 it says, "*Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him.*"

Think of it this way - - the presence of God with the anointing left King Saul and in verse 10, God allowed a distressing spirit to come onto Saul...

- God's presence was on David and an evil spirit was Saul. So it really wasn't Saul who is afraid of David, **it was the evil spirit that was afraid of God!**

Imagine the battles that we experience think of being in a war and having Jesus with you. Then Satan comes in is about to beat up on you, but you had a quiet time with God that day, and the enemy couldn't even come close... because Jesus is with you. Imagine God's presence being on you so strong; that wherever you go, the devil and his dominion fears you. **Because God is right there with you - that's what we have to understand.** So worship brings God's presence worship and the fear of God...

3. Worship brings God's wisdom into our lives

1 Samuel 18:14, "*And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the Lord was with him.*" Solomon the wisest man that ever lived, Why was he wise? Because he asked God To teach him what is father knew.

Yes, his father David was a Warrior, that means he knew how to go out. But his

father was also a worshipper, Which means he knew how to come in.

- Solomon learned to come into the presence of God
- David behaved wisely in all his ways because the Lord was with him.

If you don't know what to do about a situation why not have Jesus right there with you, Why not have the presence of God there right with you? If you want to know how to respond when something comes up that's tough for you are difficult, Where something unexpected comes at you... Wouldn't you rather respond with the wisdom of God?

- The reason you respond with the wisdom of God is because god's right there.

My hope with the sermon series is to help each of us get to a whole new level of living in the presence of God... Everyday.