

PRACTICING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

To practice the presence of God, we have to step through the veil, into the unseen realm. It is called engaging God.

When Jesus died on the cross, the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom, giving us access into the heavenly realms. But first we have to learn to live beyond the veil.

Rev 3: ²⁰Behold, (this is a word used to express strong emotion, calling attention to something, Look!) *I stand* (to cause to be in a place or position, to position oneself)*at* (Of place)*the door*(an entrance, way or passage into), *and knock*(occurring right now, strike loudly at the door for entrance) : *if any man hear*(an action subject to a condition, to listen to someone and pay attention)*my voice, and open the door, I will come in*(motion into, enter) *to him, and will sup* (to eat or dine, a feast, a celebratory meal, something that provides a great deal of pleasure) *with him, and he with me.*

Jesus is knocking at the door of our spirit for entrance into our spirit. When we open the door of our spirit to him he comes in and communes with us.

The life of God flows out of heaven into our spirit and our soul becomes aware of it. To be aware of the life of God is to be aware of the presence of God in it.

When the life of God flows into our spirit and soul we are being filled with the Spirit. When we are filled with the Spirit we become aware of the presence of God. When we are aware of the presence of God we are aware of the unseen realm, because we are aware of God's Spirit which is invisible.

The kingdom of heaven is as close as the air we breathe; it is a spiritual dimension that we can learn how to step into. It is stepping beyond the veil.

The kingdom of heaven is inside of us, there is a door in our spirit that we can open or step into.

I call it activating our spirit, so that it is communing with God. Our will has direct control over our spirit, so we can see it as opening a door for God to come in, or we can see it as stepping into our spirit, or the unseen realm.

We can use things in the natural to help us engage God like picturing a door and then closing our eyes and see it in our mind and then open that door inviting God into us. Or we can take a step forward in the natural as a symbol of stepping into the unseen realm; we are using natural things as triggers to help our spirit engage God.

Our spirit has to connect with God's Spirit, so that the life of God flows into it. When God's life flows into our spirit we become conscious of God.

If we have the ability to pray in tongues we can pray in tongues and become aware of God's presence.

We can worship God through singing and become aware of the presence of God.

We are commanded to be continually filled with the Spirit. When the Spirit fills us we become aware of the presence of God.

What we are learning is how to tune into God by our will so that we become aware of his presence. Once we experience the fruit of the Spirit, we can tune into and experience God' presence in it.

1 Corinthians 6: ¹⁷But he that is joined (continuous repeated action- the relationship is one of intimacy, join together with, unite with, to make cohere) *unto the Lord is one* (to indicate the singularity of something, thus emphasizing that there is but one only. one and the same, not at variance with, in accord with) *spirit.*

We are to join our spirit to the Lord continually, so that it becomes one spirit. So we need to be spirit-conscious in order to join our spirit to the Lord to become God conscious, to be one spirit. Our spirit becomes one with the Lord as his life flows into it.

God is Spirit so we need to be spirit-conscious in order to be aware of the presence of God (John 4:24).

The essence of meditation is to be able to move our state of consciousness from the soul-body realm into the spirit realm of God's kingdom, so that our spirit is making contact with unseen realm of God's Kingdom.

The basics of a walk with God, like praying in the Spirit, worship, meditation on the Word, prayer, etc. helps to bring us into this spiritual state of consciousness.

It is not just important to be able to achieve spiritual consciousness but it is also essential to maintain it. It is possible to be spiritually conscious of the presence of God twenty-four hours every day (1 Thess. 5:16-18; Gal. 6:18; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 4:14; 14:16-18; 15:11; 16:22).

As we are a three part being (spirit, soul and body), we have the ability to be conscious of three realms (1 Thess. 5:23).

The first and lowest consciousness is to have our thoughts and consciousness filled constantly with the lower passions of the flesh – body consciousness.

The second type of consciousness is soul consciousness, where our thoughts constantly revolve around the things of this life, which can open us up to Worry, anxiety and all the other kind of thoughts that concern themselves with this passing scene.

Soul-consciousness has to do with the things of the soul life, our natural life or self life, the things of this world, where our thoughts basically revolve around the things concerning ourselves.

The secret of enjoying the presence of God constantly is to be spirit conscious, to be conscious of our spirits connection to God.

When our spirit is communing with the Lord we are conscious of the unseen realm, we are conscious of the life and presence of God that fills heaven and flows from his throne into us.

There's a difference between what the bible say exists and what we actually experience. We have to appropriate, practice, and develop an awareness of the Lord.

We have to “Draw nigh to the Lord, and He draws nigh to you” (James 4:8). We come close to the Lord by opening the door. *If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and sup with him, and he with me.* Revelation 3:20.

We're not going to have that spiritual glow or sense the presence of the Lord automatically. It comes because we practice it; we appropriate it.

The practicing of His presence is one thing, but bringing His presence into manifestation for others is another. The Old Testament tells how the Israelites carried the Ark of the Covenant with the staves placed through the little loops on the side. The ark became a real symbol to them because God said that He would manifest His presence there.

When the people wanted God in the situation they carried Him into it. They moved God right into the tabernacle. His presence was there. They built the tabernacle, but the tabernacle was nothing without the presence of the Lord in it. After the temple was built Solomon brought in the ark. The priests drew out the staves and discarded them, indicating that the ark was to remain in the temple. No one could move God out of the situation.

When we practice the presence of the Lord we take His presence as it is real to us and bring it into manifestation. When we bless someone we believe to manifest the Lord's presence to that person in the blessing, and the Lord becomes real to them.

God is always present but we have to tune into him. An understanding of that little phrase "tune in" is very important. Although you can't find it in the Bible or any concordance, it should be there.

We have to tune out a lot of things when we tune in to the presence of the Lord. When we walk with God we transfer the concentration of our conscious mind to what we want to be real to us. We can choose what you want to tune in to—it may be our girl friend or boy friend, husband or wife, some particular situation, or the Lord.

The Lord will become real to not only when we tune into him, but also when we learn how to bring His presence into every situation.

When the Israelites were going out to war they took the Ark of the Covenant with them. God said, “The battle is not yours, but the Lord’s” (II Chronicles 20:15), and so they carried the Lord right into the middle of the battle. If it’s the Lord’s battle He should be there to do some fighting.

Once David and his men were down in a little ravine and the Philistines were walking beside it. The Lord said, “Don’t make a move until you hear the sound in the tops of the mulberry trees” (II Samuel 5:24). You’re not to make a move until you know the Lord is in front of you and then you follow Him. The Lord must be brought into the situation. We don’t just practice His presence for our own comfort, but make Him a part of every problem.

From time to time, people who do not know the lord intimately have tapped into this realm briefly without realizing it.

For example, when they are visiting a place that has natural scenic beauty and are enraptured by it. Or when they are watching a sunset or sunrise and were momentarily caught up in the beauty of the scene. Or when they were walking along a trail (with their pet dog) and momentarily their thoughts turn away from the affairs of this life and they were enjoying the companionship of their pet and the scenery, they were unconsciously aware of God.

The essence of it is to have our thoughts pulled away from our own life and for a brief moment we were “not thinking” but rather were enjoying the “flow of beautiful inspirational thoughts.”

We have looked outside of ourselves and are tapping into the flow of God's presence and thoughts. For a moment, we became aware of the birds singing, the beautiful colors of creation, the sounds of the flowing stream, etc. All creation was made to lead us to God (Romans 1:20).

This "brief moment" can be our constant consciousness even though we might be required to perform duties in this temporal world.

This is just the beginner's phase and there are depths of spiritual ecstasy to be obtained as we learn how to walk in the fullness of God's love.

When we feel the love of God for others being moved to tears we are experiencing a moment of spirit consciousness, our spirit communing with the Lord's.

The soul has its own love but there is always a selfishness that also contains other hidden feelings that are not in line with God's love – anger, jealousy, indignation, self-righteousness, etc.).

The moment of pure spirit conscious love is filled with a lightness and there is also a sense of union and peace that issues from the God who is love (1 John 4:8).

In Kathryn Kuhlman's healing services many people got healed when they stopped thinking about their own needs and started praying for others worst off than them.

They tapped into the power of the Spirit which is received through their spirits.

Kathryn Kuhlman herself described her own spirit consciousness (to be a vessel for God's Spirit to flow through) when she described the sensation of love she felt when she sees a sick child being held by their parents waiting for a touch of healing.

She described how at that moment, if she could, she would give her own life to this child.

Spirit consciousness can also be called "love consciousness" – by love we mean the unselfish, self-sacrificing love of God.

In the realm of God's Spirit, one does not think of oneself alone but is constantly conscious of the love of God for others.

There is always a sense of oneness with God and with all His creation in the practice of the presence of God.

As we learn experience and understand what this spirit consciousness is like, we can practice this every day until it is a daily part of our life.

When we are practicing this and sense a stress or strain, we stop, relax and start again.

The soul is very subtle and has creep in again. Spirit consciousness is a letting go, a yielding, a rest, a union with God but soul consciousness involves striving, strain and stress.

Through time and patience, this state of consciousness becomes our daily life and even in our sleep, we need to learn how to fall asleep with our spirit communing with God.

He who has entered into this rest has ceased from his own works (Heb. 4:10). The achievement of this rest is when the spirit is freed from the soul and the body and enters the divine flow of God's life and energy.

By choosing spirit consciousness, all the intents and thoughts of our heart can become one and in union with the flow of life and thoughts from God.