

Practice the Presence of God

Let's read some records in God's Word that illustrates to us how to practice the presence of God.

1 Samuel 23:1 Then they told David, saying, Behold, the Philistines fight against Keilah, and they rob the threshingfloors.

2 Therefore David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.

David did not rush in to play superhero, but rather he checked with God first. He took the time necessary to find out what God had to say about what he should do in this situation. We need to sometimes have patience when enquiring of the Lord. If we don't get an answer in five minutes, many times we want to rush right in and do it our way. [Hold]

Jeremiah 42:1 Then all the captains of the forces, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiah, and all the people from the least even unto the greatest, came near,

2 And said unto Jeremiah the prophet, Let, we beseech thee, our supplication be accepted before thee, and pray for us unto the LORD thy God, even for all this remnant; (for we are left but a few of many, as thine eyes do behold us:)

3 That the LORD thy God may shew us the way wherein we may walk, and the thing that we may do.

4 Then Jeremiah the prophet said unto them, I have heard you; behold, I will pray unto the LORD your God according to your words; and it shall come to pass, that whatsoever thing the LORD shall answer you, I will declare it unto you; I will keep nothing back from you.

5 Then they said to Jeremiah, The LORD be a true and faithful witness between us, if we do not even according to all things for the which the LORD thy God shall send thee to us.

6 Whether it be good, or whether it be evil, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God, to whom we send thee; that it may be well with us, when we obey the voice of the LORD our God.

7 And it came to pass after ten days, that the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah.

After 10 days, God finally gives the answer. Patience may be needed to avoid a major mistake.

Today, because of the spirit from God within us, we do not need to enquire of the prophet what the will of the Lord is. We have direct access to Him. We do not even need a priest to intercede on our behalf because Christ himself does it for us.

Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

We can go to God openly and honestly with our questions and petitions and expect that He will not only hear us, but answer us as well.

I John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

God put His spirit into each of us so He could communicate directly with us.

I Samuel 23:1 Then they told David, saying, Behold, the Philistines fight against Keilah, and they rob the threshingfloors.

2 Therefore David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.

3 And David's men said unto him, Behold, we be afraid here in Judah: how much more then if we come to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?

David's men weren't quite sure about his decision. They had enough problems just staying alive as it was where they were.

4 Then David enquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

He went to God a second time just to be sure. Nothing wrong with that. Sometimes you have to check with management to make sure you got it right.

5 So David and his men went to Keilah, and fought with the Philistines, and brought away their cattle, and smote them with a great slaughter. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

6 And it came to pass, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David to Keilah, that he came down with an ephod in his hand.

7 And it was told Saul that David was come to Keilah. And Saul said, God hath delivered him into mine hand; for he is shut in, by entering into a town that hath gates and bars.

8 And Saul called all the people together to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men.

Saul had David cornered in a walled city.

9 And David knew that Saul secretly practised mischief against him; and he said to Abiathar the priest, Bring hither the ephod.

There was a special ephod that was utilized to get an answer from God.

10 Then said David, O LORD God of Israel, thy servant hath certainly heard that Saul seeketh to come to Keilah, to destroy the city for my sake.

11 Will the men of Keilah deliver me up into his hand? will Saul come down, as thy servant hath heard? O LORD God of Israel, I beseech thee, tell thy servant. And the LORD said, He will come down.

12 Then said David, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the LORD said, They will deliver thee up.

One would think since David had just rescued these people that they would have taken care of him. Good thing he checked in with God. God said Saul's coming, and these people will not protect you.

13 Then David and his men, which were about six hundred, arose and departed out of Keilah, and went whithersoever they could go. And it was told Saul that David was escaped from Keilah; and he forbore to go forth.

14 And David abode in the wilderness in strong holds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his hand.

David somehow figured out a way to stay one step ahead of Saul. I wonder how he did that?

David did not panic, have internal turmoil, allow chaos to rule his life. Instead he exercised sound judgment by inquiring of God what he should do. Then he carried out what God told him, and escaped unharmed with all his people.

Matthew 8:23 And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him.

24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep.

25 And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish.

Jesus Christ is sleeping. He is obviously very tired because he is not letting a great tempest disturb his rest. How sharp are most people the moment they are awakened from a deep slumber?

26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

Jesus Christ went from a deep sleep to operating God's power for the deliverance of all rather quickly. What did Jesus Christ do? Did he need to ask God what he should do about the storm? No, he recognized that he had already been given dominion over the weather, so he just spoke to the storm, and it quieted down immediately.

Did Jesus Christ manifest the panic that was going on around him in the boat? No. He did not buy into the defeatist attitude of his disciples. He remained calm, and operated the power God had given him with confidence knowing that God would answer his demand.

Jesus Christ manifested control, confidence, clarity, assurance. He operated the power of God knowing that God would respond to his command since it was according to His will. He did not buy into the panic, chaos, doubt, fear, confusion, lack of direction that the others around him were manifesting.

Psalms 121:1 I will [Shall I] lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

2 My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

The pagan temples were built on hills. The Psalmist is saying, "Shall I look to the pagan gods who reside in the pagan temples on the hills for my help?"

Instead of looking there he tells of where his help really comes from, the true God who lives not on a hill in a temple, but rather is the God who made the heaven and the earth.

3 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

4 Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The purpose for ringing bells before going into a temple was to wake the gods if they were asleep.

How long does it take to get to the true God? Does He have the answers? In fact, God wants us to ask Him for help.

Philippians 4:6 Be careful [anxious] for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

We can live life in the fast lane, because God is faster. When we practice the presence of God, when we enter into God's throne room to get advice or information to help in the time of need, we receive the benefits of having gone there.

Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? [not worth much] and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

31 Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Jesus Christ is teaching that God is even interested in the smallest details of your life. It is okay, in fact encouraged, to talk to God about the tiniest aspects of your life.

1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

To cast is to throw off like a coat. We are to throw off our care, our anxious thoughts, because God cares for us. We are the object of God's care.

This doesn't mean that we discard our responsibilities and just say, "God you take it, it yours, I don't want it." Even though that is what most people think, that is not what this verse is saying.

While we are working on the care, the problem, we do not need to worry. Also, when we are working on something else, we don't need to worry, because God is watching over us to help us to work it all out.