

God is Here

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[0 : 00] Amen. Last time I spoke with you my message was God is.

I talked about the fact of the existence of God. My message today is God is here. God is here. Here with us. The truth of God's presence, of God consciousness, of God consciousness. He is present with us. With us.

Right here. Right now. And all the time. All the time. In Haggai 1 verse 13 it says, Haggai the Lord's messenger spake the Lord's message unto the people saying, I am with you, saith the Lord.

I am with you, saith the Lord. Very simple message. Do we stop and think of this? To think God is present. That consciousness of God.

[1 : 27] Having God in our consciousness. Many times we read his promise. Through the word it says, I will be with you. I will be with you. For example, Isaiah 41 verse 10.

There's one that I love. It says, fear thou not. For I am with thee. Be not dismayed. For I am thy God. I will strengthen thee.

Yea, I will help thee. Yea, I will uphold thee. With the right hand of my righteousness. Fear thou not. For I am with thee.

What a promise. That's one to take to heart, isn't it? Does God seem remote? Distant? Why is there that distance between him and us sometimes?

Why that disconnect sometimes? Could it be that we have drawn away from him? Yes. That we have drawn back from him. What will we do about it? Will we take to heart that scripture that says, draw nigh to God.

[2 : 26] And he will draw nigh to you. As we draw nigh to him, he will draw nigh to us. Like a magnet, as it were. God is here. And the consciousness of God is something constant.

The consciousness of God is something constant. It's always. Always. God is with us. And it's like a walk. Now a question for you.

Who is the oldest man in the Bible? Methuselah. Methuselah. He was 969 years old. So my dad's got a way to go, yeah?

The oldest man in the Bible. 969 years old. Yet, his father was still alive when he died. Interesting. I heard this. Julie was watching something. I had to write this down. 969 years old. But his father was still alive when he died. Enoch.

[3 : 23] Enoch. In Genesis 5.24, it says, And Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him. God took him. So really, Enoch would have to be the oldest, I suppose.

Enoch. By faith, Enoch was translated, it says in Hebrews 11, verse 5. He was translated that he should not see dead. God had translated him.

For before his translation, he had this testimony that he pleased God. He walked with God, and he pleased God. Enoch walked with God.

There was a consciousness of God about Enoch's life. So much so, that he walked with God. It was a constant thing. A day by day by day. A walk. And for us too, that God consciousness, it should be something that we don't just get when we come to fellowship, or when we come to some meeting, or have certain times with God's word or prayer, but it's something that's always a part of our lives. He walks with me, and he talks with me, along my narrow way. It's interesting to see what the Bible says about the presence of the Lord. You know, some make a thing about the presence of the Lord, as if it's something that kind of comes and goes, or we can conjure it up, or it's something manufactured.

[4 : 43] But really, the presence of the Lord is all the time. It's a constant thing. And it's something that we should always be mindful of. Always. In Adam and Eve, in Genesis 3, verse 8, we read that Adam and Eve hid from the presence of the Lord, as if they could.

As if they could, really. But they tried to hide from the presence of the Lord. Then Cain, after his ill doing, he went out from the presence of the Lord.

In Genesis 4, verse 16, he was shunned, in effect, from the presence of the Lord. And then we read of Jonah, too. In chapter 1, verse 10, Jonah fled from the presence of the Lord.

The presence of the Lord. It's good to maybe look through a concordance and look at some of those references to that term, the presence of the Lord.

It's not something that is made by the music we play or by a creative atmosphere that we can manufacture. The presence of the Lord is always.

[5 : 51] He is constant. And it's something, the presence of the Lord should strike terror or bring comfort. Really, one or the other. In 2 Thessalonians 1, we read of the presence of the Lord.

It says from verse 7, And to you who are troubled, rest with us. When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power.

when he shall come to be glorified in his saints and to be admired in all them that believe. So, there's a contrast there. When the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven, when the presence of the Lord will be evident on some, there will be punishment, everlasting destruction, and on others there will be a glorification as he has admired in all them that believe.

A punishment for some, a glorification for others. So, it's one or the other people today, the presence of the Lord, that God consciousness, something we ought to think of now and not leave it till the last minute because we all will have a close encounter with God.

Amen. A close encounter with God. Here is 10.31. It says, It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. You know, I think of my friend Matthew.

[7 : 28] He's come into the hands of God. He's come into the hands of God. I don't know what God's hands have done with Matthew. I pray that he was saved. Only God knows whether he was saved.

I pray that he was saved. But one thing's for sure, that Matthew has come into the hands of the living God. And if you're not saved, it's a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God because those hands will throw you, as it were, by the angels, into that lake of fire that burns forever.

And yet, it's fearful for us as believers too, in a sense. It's that fear that you would get when you're ushered into the presence of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

That ought to make us have a healthy sense of fear, a sense of trepidation, of the wonder of it all, of the glory of it all, of the awesome presence of our mighty and glorious King.

That should be a fearful thing. And friends, one day we will see that presence of the Lord in a very tangible way. And if you do not know him, you will know fear that day.

[8 : 39] You will know fear that day. His presence is always. He is present right now. Right now. And he doesn't clock off. It's not like you switch off his presence when you leave this particular place of worship.

He never clocks off. He is always present. He is here now. And he is dependable. It's a good thing to have that sensitivity to the sense of God.

To that consciousness of God. To develop that consciousness of God in our day-by-day lives, in our everyday life. So that life that we live is under his direction. In Psalm 37 it says, The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord and he deloited in his way.

Though he fall, he will not be cast utterly down. For the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. So when you go through those day-by-day trials and situations, God is here with you.

With you. He upholds you with the right hand of his righteousness. He is with you now. And he will be with you through those roads ahead. Though those roads seem rough and steep.

[9 : 48] He will uphold you, it says. He promises to. For the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. He will uphold you with his hand. And I was thinking of that scripture that was the inspiration for that song that the young people sang earlier on today.

I had to jot it down. I've got to remember, see where I jolted it now. But it's Isaiah 43, verse 2. And the surrounding verses, it says, Fear not, for I have redeemed thee.

I have called thee by my name. Thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee. And through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee.

When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned. Neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour.

Fear thou not, for I have redeemed thee. I have called thee by my name. Now what a wonder it is to know that through the fire, through the flood, through the flame, through the rough times of life, he's still with us.

[10 : 58] Through those times of grieving, through those times of hardship, through those times, sad times, those rough times, he is there. Through the valley, the valley, even the valley, of the shadow, of death.

You will not fear. Why? Because the Lord is, your shepherd. It says my shepherd. You can claim that, for yourself, today. He is my shepherd. The Lord is, my shepherd.

God is here, with you, with us. He guides us, as he did, the children of Israel, when they wandered through, those wanderings, yet following the pillar of fire, God was tangibly, present, present, present, day and night, dwelling with them.

And he dwells with you, with me, in a beautiful sense. There's a wonderful sense, of the consciousness, that God is with us, with us. As we think of this season, of Pentecost, of that time of, of the, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, at this time of year, we think of, the very tangible presence, of God, as the Lord Jesus promised, in John 14.

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you, another comforter, that he may abide, abide with you, forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him, but ye know him, ye know him, for he dwelleth, with you, and shall be, in you.

[12 : 26] I will not leave you, comfortless, I will come to you. The Spirit of God, that not a comforter, he shall abide with you, he abides, notice that the comforter, abides, it's an abiding, it's a residing, it's a permanency to it, it's not just a visitor, who comes and flicks, and pays us a visit, and then, leaves us, for some other, space of time.

He abides, he abides, he abides, the comforter, abides, God is constant, and God is faithful, he abides, he does not come and go. So the question is, who are you walking with?

Do you have, that sense of the, consciousness, of God? The consciousness, of God. Will you be like, Enoch, Enoch, walked, with God? We talk about, walking in love, walking in the Spirit, walking in the light, it's a walk, a walk, a walk, it's not a, a short distance, sprint event, it's a, a walk, it's a walk, it's a, journey, through life.

And so as we walk, this walk, it's important to consider, the company, that we keep. Consider wisely, the company, that we keep. Proverbs 13, verse 20, this is a good one, for young people, and it's a good one, for older people.

Amen? This is a good one, for all of us. It says, he that walketh, with wise men, shall be wise, but, a companion, of fools, shall be, destroyed.

[13 : 57] Young people, watch the company, that you keep. It's very, very important. Very important. He that walketh, with wise men, shall be wise, but, a companion, of fools, shall be destroyed.

And that's for all ages, people today. Who are you walking with? Who are you walking with? Who are you, who are you associating with, as far as that, that, um, devotion of time, that you do, give? Who is that you gather around? For example, in these days, in this social media age, who do you gather around, as far as Facebook goes? Who do you gather around, as far as, the friends that you have on Twitter?

And such things. Of course, doesn't mean much, to some people here today. But, but, but, we're talking about that association, of that, of that company that we keep, the companions that we keep. A companion of fools, shall be destroyed. You don't want to be messing around, with such people. You might want to witness to them, in love, and grace, and, and with, with tears in your eyes, to, to witness to such folk.

[15 : 01] But you don't want to count them, as, as being friends, of the world. Friendship with the world, we know, is not something, to be encouraged. And so, who do you spend time with, is a good question, to ask.

Who do you linger with? Who do you make company with? Is it those who reject him? A companion of fools, shall be destroyed. Work with God.

Make friends, of God's children. His presence, is not something, that we switch on and off, dependent, on our feelings. He says to us, one of the last things, he left planet earth with, he says, lo, I am with you, always, even to, the end of the world.

I am with you, always. He's still with us, brothers and sisters today. The Lord Jesus, he is still with us today. Still with us now, always.

And it's a walk, as we walk through life, and it's, um, something that we don't, make an artificial distinction, between the sacred, and the secular.

[16:03] You know, when, when a brother, makes down there, at the police station, he's still a saint, of the living God. Amen. Even in that, in that workplace, as I am in my workplace, as you are in your workplaces, that you're still, uh, walking with God, as you're mixing with your work, mate, Stuart.

you are a representative, you are a representative, of the living God. What an awesome privilege, that we have. Vic, when you're driving that truck, there's people, that see you, are an ambassador, of the kingdom of heaven, on earth.

And it says, the path of the just, is as the shining light, that shineeth more and more, unto the perfect day, but the way of the wicked, is as darkness, they know not, at what they stumble.

There's a pathway, and we want to choose it wisely. There's a company, that we can, we want to choose that wisely. There's a walking without God, as we have that consciousness of God.

And it's something, that we should always be conscious of. Always be conscious of. Again, it's almost a, um, a deterrent for sin. A deterrent for sin, when we consider, God is watching us.

[17:08] It's a good thing, it's a healthy thing to think. God is watching us, as it says in 2 Chronicles 16, verse 9, for the eyes of the Lord, run to and fro, throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong, on behalf of those, whose heart, is perfect towards him.

Consider, when you're thinking of sin, when there's some thought of sin, when there's some temptation to sin, to find the way of escape, to consider, that you are conscious, that God is with you. So you're not two faced, where you're one thing in church, and one thing outside of church, when you're not in that circle.

There's a consciousness of God, that's 24 by 7, by 365. You're not some kind of chameleon, who changes shape, and, and, uh, nature, uh, when you're in a different circumstance.

That consciousness of God, uh, is something, we have that sense of God's watching over us, and we want to tread carefully along that pathway, and make every step count. To be like David, in 1 Kings 9 verse 4, he walked, uh, with integrity of heart.

Of course, we know David wasn't a good example of that, yet God still counted him, as having integrity of heart. 1 Kings 9 verse 4, when, uh, he was exhorting Solomon, his son.

[18:20] And so, if God be with us, and he is, how should that make us act? It should make us act differently. It should make us take stock of eternal truths, of eternal realities.

To choose that right path, those right companions. Not that we, uh, holier them down, and, uh, turn our backs on, uh, those that are lost. We want to encourage them to trust him, to find him, to know him.

But it should prompt us about the companions that we keep. That we want to make friends with God's children. So the consciousness of God is something that is constant. Secondly, the consciousness of God, is something contagious.

Contagious. The consciousness of God. When you have a consciousness of God, when you get hold of that reality, that you're something eternal, that you are an immortal, ever-living soul, a never-dying soul, that that consciousness of God, grips your life so much, that the earthly, and passing, and temporal things, have lost their attraction.

There's something, uh, that is less attractive, more attractive, about such things, and more attractive, about that consciousness of God. Such that you want to communicate it. You want to communicate, that consciousness, consciousness, of God, and take it with you.

[19:35] Take it with you. When you leave this place, have that little, uh, have a little kit bag, as it were. Have a, have a sack of that consciousness of God, and take it with you. Don't just, uh, clock off, and think, oh, now I can, uh, just forget God, till 10 o'clock next Sunday, or 6 o'clock tonight.

Let's have that consciousness of God, all the time, all the time. Such that it's like a, a, a savor, it's like a fragrance, that permeates the atmosphere, where we go.

It's like, you've heard of, there's been stories in the past, of revivals of old, where, where men of God, have walked into places, and there's been an awe of God, that's just happened, and, as they've walked into the place.

Amen. And that should be like that, for us, in that sense that there's a consciousness, of God, about our lives, and it's something that's contagious. For example, we read in 2 Corinthians, chapter 2, verse 14, it says, Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph, in Christ, and maketh manifest, the savor, or the fragrance, of his knowledge, by us, in every place. For we are unto God, a sweet savor, of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish, to the one, we are the savor, or the smell, the fragrance of death, unto death, and to the other, the savor of life, unto life.

[20 : 55] It's an interesting contrast there, isn't it? So that we, as it were, as ambassadors, as carriers, of this presence, of God, there's something that should, be distinct about the atmosphere, the smell, of the fragrance of our life.

Yes. And there should be something about us, that others can see, that something is different. Amen. Think of, you know, I'm just trying to, draw it down to an earthly, kind of, something we can picture, or imagine, or reflect on, in a, in a tangible way.

When we think of something, that smells, really nice. You know, we think of, you know, when we start, firing up the urn there, there'll be the smell, of that coffee. You know, people like Brad, will be salivating.

You know, these people have got, caffeine addiction. When they, when they smell, that percolating coffee. You know, there's just, just does something to them. Or, or maybe it's the smell, of mum's cooking.

Mum's cooking. The smell of that air freshener, we like. Or, the smell of a new car. The smell of Indian curries. Oh. Or, flowers in full bloom.

[22 : 06] You know, the smells that we like. That's that, I remember as a, as a young child, as I went to a, a particular building, and it had a distinctive smell about it. Where I used to go to Scouts, I think it was.

And then, some, there was a big break, and then years later, I went to that same building, in England, and I remember the smell. It was just something distinctive, about that smell. It smelled the same.

And, I remember that childhood memory, some years afterwards. Distinctive smells. I can remember, as a young chap at school, that my German teacher, used to, really pour on the perfume.

And, my classmates used to say, that her perfume, smelled like a certain brand, of fly spray. You know, there's certain smells, that are distinctive, aren't there? Certain smells, that are distinctive. We can think of smells, that we like, smells that attract. And then, we can think of smells, that repel. Smells that offend. I can remember, one of my first jobs, I lasted all of, about three days, I think, was a cleaner down, at the centre here.

[23 : 08] Before they had the canopy, it was an open, walkway, an open shopping mall, without, but it wasn't enclosed. And my job was, to empty the, the cigarette, ah, ashtrays, in the, it was a very, noble job.

It was something, that had to be done. And I, I gave glory to God, while I was doing it. But it was an awful job, as far as, the smell, of stale cigarette butts. And I don't know, if you're a smoker, I think, even smokers don't love, the smell, of stale cigarette butts.

There's certain smells, that are not very pleasant, or very attractive. And, there's a contrast here, in this verse here, says, there's a contrast, between life, and death. It says that, there's the stench, of sin, and death.

And, you know, as a, as a witnessing Christian, we help people, I trust, to see that, the stench, of sin, and death. You know, I think, as, my wife and I, used to drive up and down, the outback roads, and, and there was, that distinctive smell, of roadkill.

The distinctive smell, of kangaroos, on those outback roads. It was a stench, of death. And, friends, there should be something, about your life, as a believer, that there's a fragrance, to your life.

[24 : 22] Spreading the knowledge, of Christ, as a fragrance. Something that's distinctive, hopefully something, that's attractive, attractive, and should be contagious. Something like, that expensive perfume, that the woman, poured out, on Jesus' body.

A sense, of him, of his pleasing, attractive, presence, and, that fragrance, should be something, contagious, about our lives.

To them, that perish, is the savor of death. We want people, to know, you're in danger, of hellfire. It's like, I was telling Matt, my friend, I didn't want to leave him, with any false hope. He had to trust Christ, it was his only hope, was to call, on Christ. And, maybe I was a fragrance, of death unto him. So, I've told him about hell, about the danger, of his soul, being lost, for eternity. And, there's a sense, where we need to be, telling people, about the fragrance, of death. Of the death, that the wages, of our sin, it's death. It's death to us. And, yet, there's that fragrance, of that wonderful joy, that wonderful, attractive, sensation, and consciousness, of God, that we too, likewise, can pass on.

[25 : 33] And, hopefully, it overflows, to others, such that it's contagious. Contagious. So, that consciousness, of God, is something, that's constant. We don't switch it, on and off. It's something, that's contagious.

It's something, that should permeate, the life that we live, the walk that we walk. And, thirdly, that consciousness, of God, that we ought to have, should bring contentment. Contentment. In Hebrews 13, 5, it says, let your conversation, be without covetousness, and be content, with such things, as ye have. For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

There's a contentment, when we know, he says, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. That sensation, that consciousness, of God, is that he is more than enough. He is more than enough. He is all that I need. That intimacy, with God, that fulfilment, that assurance, of eternal truth, that contentment, that he can grant, to a soul, seeking truth, is that consciousness, of God.

[26 : 30] And it should grow, it should deepen, it should strengthen, as time goes by. And such, that we will sing, as David did, in Psalm 16, thou art show me, the path of life, in thy presence, in thy presence, is fullness of joy.

Fullness of joy, the fullness of joy, is in him. The consciousness of God, something we can grow, as we wait upon him, as we have our mind, fixed upon him, as we seek his face.

That consciousness of God, as we pray, as we learn to pray, as we endeavour to pray, that we'll have, that dependence upon him. In Psalm 91, we do well to read, the whole Psalm 91, but we know there, it talks about, trying circumstances, and God says, in Psalm 91, verse 15, I will be with him, in trouble.

Read Psalm 91, for your homework. Verse 15, in part it says, I will be with him, in trouble. There's people in trouble, in our fellowship.

There's people in trouble, there's circumstances, that are not, as, as, blessed as we'd like them to be. Yet, he's still with you. He's still with you.

[27 : 44] Through those hard times, through that, that hardship, even though it seems like, things are going really hard, he says, I will be with you, in trouble. And I love that one, that he's, how does it go, in the midst of the, the trouble, I've lost track of it, but, you know, even in the, in the midst of the most troubling times, that he is with us.

And he's a very present help, in trouble. That's what it says, isn't it? He's present. He's a very present help, in trouble. And friends, just to wrap up, there's so much more, we could say, about the presence of God, about the consciousness of God.

We could be, as Psalm 139, David was praising, Psalm 139, where can I go? You know, read that one, right through too. I go to, where, where shall I flee, from thy presence?

If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there. If I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. And then he closes with, search me, O God. Read Psalm 139, Where can I go?

He's there already. He's in your tomorrow. He's in your yesterday, and he's in your tomorrow. He's already there. He's already there. Search me, O God, and know my heart.

[29 : 04] Try me, and know my thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way, in me, and lead me, in the way everlasting. Does he know you? I'm preaching to believers, really, this morning.

Does he know you? Do you know him? Do you have that God, consciousness? That consciousness of God. It's not something that you kind of, get a warm and religious feeling, and you can just switch it on, like a light switch, and then switch it off, when you don't need it, at the time.

How is your walk? It should be a constant feature. A constant feature of your life. So even when you're doing, the run of the mill, secular things, trying to earn some money, to pay the bills, that even then, God is with you.

God is with you. Even those day by day, those mundane things of life, that even when you're, when you're getting the cigarette butts, out of the ashtrays, and putting it in the bin, even whatever it is,

that you do, for the glory of God, you can do a job like that, for the glory of God.

It's not about status of things. You can live, for the glory of God, in doing the most humble, of humble jobs. That's right. How is your walk? Have you got a consciousness of God?

[30 : 13] Is there a character to your life? That consciousness of God, it can deepen, it can grow stronger, through prayer, through devotion, and through the word.

It will affect how you think, how you treat others, through your journey of life. You know, some jobs, including mine, you've got to hire and fire people. You've got to do it, with the grace of God.

You know, situations like Brad, how's it cover? You still want to have consistency, and integrity, about what you do. So, you still reflect, that which is righteous, and godly, and true.

And you treat others, as you'd like them to treat you. You know, I've been sacked. I know what it's like, and I know what it's like to be sacked. So you can have that empathy, with someone, that you've got a sack, for example.

It should permeate, the whole of your life. That's the point, I'm making today. It should be something constant. Constant. That your life is consistent, as a Christian. Be a consistent Christian.

[31 : 19] Have that constant, consciousness of God. Have that contagious, consciousness of God. Such that people want to, have that fragrance, is something that, is good about your life.

It's not you, but it's Christ, flowing out, and permeating, the atmosphere of your life. And it's something, that brings contentment. So, you don't really need, anything else. You've got it all.

In him is, everything, that I need. In him, is fullness of joy. Amen. Let us pray. Dear Lord, we thank you, that we can, know that truth, of your word, that it says, I am with thee.

I am with thee. Lord, we thank you, that's a promise, from your word. And so, thus saith the Lord, I am with thee. Lord, let us take that to heart, as we think about, you're coming, in the, in the person of your Holy Spirit, this time of year, in the time, of Pentecost.

We can know, not only, are you with us, but in us. In us. Overflowing our lives, as a, as a, sweet smelling fragrance, that draws others, we pray, to know you too.

[32 : 26] Help us to have, that constant reminder, that you're watching, over us. That one day, we will fall, into your hands, into the, hands of the living God. Let it be something, that's fearful for us, not, uh, knowing that, knowing, Lord, that judgment, has, been poured out, on the sun, for us, and yet, that awesome, trepidation, of stepping into, uh, the throne room, and coming before, your presence, uh, in which there is fullness, of joy.

We pray, if there's any here, today, they're going through, the flood, they're going through, the fire, they're going through, those seasons, of trouble, and, doubt, and fear.

Lord, help them to know, um, that we need not fear, because you are with us. You are with us. Lord, we praise you, we thank you. Bless each heart, each home, each life.

Lord, help us to have, the consciousness of you, in every day, that you give us to live. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.