Emmanuel

(Part 2)

S015 25 0810P

In part one we were reminded that Emmanuel means "God with us." The fact that God is with us is one of the most valuable and comforting truths in the Bible.

God is the solution to every problem, the deliverance out of every trouble, and the entrance to every blessing and prosperity of every kind.

God is present all the time; He knows everything; He is able to do everything because He has the power to do everything.

He is willing to do all things; in fact, He delights to do these things for us.

God's presence with us is an active presence if we make it active by making use of His presence, or we can make it passive by ignoring His presence.

When we have full confidence and fully realize that God really is with us wherever we are, not in heaven or someplace far away, we will have perfect confidence in Him.

God's presence or our fellowship with God brings fulness of joy, blessings, and pleasures into our lives in this present time which will last for as long as we live.

However, the presence of God will draw the attacks of the devil worse than ever, but if we would receive or have a proper knowledge of God, it would put a stop to those attacks of Satan.

Hebrews 13:5 reminds us: "Let your conversation be without covetousness;" so we were also reminded that no matter what our circumstances may be we are never to get our eyes on any human source of help.

We have a perfect right to take from God anything and everything that we need, and He stands ready to give it to us.

God has a full hand stretched out back and front and invites us to come and take what we need freely. God is standing in front of us now with His hands filled with plenty of money, plenty of peace, plenty of blessings; His presence stands in front of us and says: "Help yourself." The Bible teaches this: "Thou openest Thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing." (Psalm 145:16)

Coming back to our thought of looking to human resources; one night, the pastor continued,

I discovered my hypocrisy. I was filled with the worst kind of unbelief, so I confessed it to God, telling Him that I had not trusted Him at all; that you could not have found my faith if put to the strongest chemical test. I asked Him for that piece of furniture, assuring Him that there was an entire change in my attitude; that I saw Him going to His treasury and getting a bank note to send down directly to me, and I was not going to look to any human being for it.

That very night I received the exact amount in a crisp, new note--no one Satan had selected-not a member of the congregation, but somebody I scarcely was acquainted with; they were searching for me to give me that money. Why? Because my eyes were on God and God's presence brought that money.

"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." (Hebrews 13:5)

The original rendering of this is— "I will-never, never let go your hand." "All you could possibly need spiritually, physically, and temporally, My presence will supply"--that is exactly what it means.

"So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

All fear is gone when we realize the presence of God. Jehoshaphat discovered that when the three great nations came against them. As he realized the circumstances they were placed in, he greatly feared, because he thought he was alone, as a nation; he did not count on God's presence; he did not realize that God was there with the hosts of Heaven standing between him and those armies. They fasted and prayed (went into their closet alone with God) and laid the whole matter before Him; and as God showed him that His presence would be enough, all fear was gone.

After the battle was over, they said: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." He discovered that God was right there all the time; he realized that all the time he worried, fretted, and felt lost; it was all unnecessary, because God was there. God was there just as much before he discovered it, as afterward, but when he did discover it, all fear was gone.

"Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof." (Psalm 46:2-3) We have another wonderful and comforting text in Matthew 28: 18 &20. How we need to grasp the importance of such passages. We need to let the Holy Spirit make these Scriptures real to us. Do not slide over them, but just stop and meditate upon this Word, ask God to shed real light on it.

"All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." This was a wonderful thing for Jesus to speak. From a human standpoint, we would say it was bragging, but not so in this case, as Jesus was telling a truth for the purpose of our everlasting comfort and consolation.

"Teaching then to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

I am with you alway, do you believe it? If we ever grasp the slightest importance of that clause; that God is at our side with all power and authority in Heaven and earth; that Jesus Christ stands before us with all that power and authority for our help, we would not allow Satan to walk over us; neither would we try by our own efforts to straighten things out when we have an expert to do it for us.

The disciples did not realize that when Jesus was on the boat with them; they did not know Who they had on the boat with them; they were ignorant of the fact that He was really divine.

When the storm broke out, they came to Him, saying:"Master, carest Thou not that we perish?" I do not think they meant to say, "You are the Son of God, come and rebuke the winds and waves." They meant to tell Him to come and help bail out the water: "don't you care if we drown?"

They thought it was rather selfish for Him to be sleeping, and they almost drowning with the water coming into the boat. They did not know that He was the divine Son of God and was really able to rebuke those winds and waves. He did not help to bail that water out; He simply said: "Peace be still."

The winds ceased and there was a great calm. They never expected that. If they had, they would not have been frightened. They began talking among themselves: "Who is this we have in our presence, what kind of a man have we here in our midst, that the winds and the waves obey His voice?" They had never realized that His name was "Emmanuel," or God with us. We have a God who MADE the water, and Who could have emptied that whole lake in a few moments of time; He could

have turned it into air, if He had so desired; could have turned it into dry land as He did when the Israelites crossed the Red Sea. That is what it means to have God with us, so the disciples learned this lesson and discovered what it meant to have God with them. We will notice this all through the Bible.

Let us consider Israel, what the presence of God meant to them. God gave them a visible sign: a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. They had no excuse for not believing in God's presence, as these signs revealed His presence with them. They had no Bible to reveal these things, so God gave them signs to encourage them. That pillar of cloud and fire (which represented God's presence), stood between them and their enemies.

There are three parts of this presence of God, which we desire to get hold of: what it meant to people in the Bible; what it means to us; and what it will do for us.

God's presence for us means victory spiritually and the management of ourselves. If we realize what God's presence meant to us, we would not try to control ourselves; we would give God the whole work to do of handling this unmanageable self. If we believed God was present in our homes, we would not be so anxious about making our children, our wives, or our husbands act right. We would hand the whole job over to God for Him to attend to and make them toe the mark.

If you had a servant hired to clean the house and put everything in perfect order, would there be anything left for you to do? If you had a servant to attend to your personal desires, to fix your hair, etc., would you need to be worried about doing it yourself? The presence of God means the same to us; that He will do all we desire Him to do; spiritually, physically, or financially.

God told Joshua this: "Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses....There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." (Joshua 1:3 & 5)

Neither men nor demons, nor diseases, nor anything was able to come between Joshua and that presence; he was victorious everywhere.

When the children of Israel were at Kadesh-Barnea and were halting about going into the promised land, fearful of the giants; Joshua said: "If the Lord delight in us, then He will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defense is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not." (Numbers 14:8 & 9)

That was all they needed to know; that GOD WAS PRESENT! The children of Israel did not need to fear the sons of Anak (the giants), as God was the answer for that problem; they enjoyed perfect protection. This was the 91st Psalm over again. "I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him." (Psalm 91:15)

Let us consider Elisha at Dothan, when a great army came after one man. Elisha's servant did not know God's presence and he was frightened to death. He got up in the morning and saw this host surrounding them, and he exclaimed: "Alas, my master! how shall we do?"

We need not ask that question; we can ask; "What can GOD do?" Whenever we hear anyone asking that question, we may rest assured they do not realize God's presence. Elisha knew God was present, so he said: "Fear not; for they that be with us are more than they that be with them."

The servant would not believe that statement, because he could not see anyone present but that great army; but it was true nevertheless; God was present even though he could not see Him.

"And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray Thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha."

Elisha took that servant to the window and asked God to open his eyes, that he might see what He was able to do. In answer to this prayer, the servant saw chariots of fire standing between them and that hostile army. That lesson never did the servant any real good; it was like Thomas putting his hand in the Master's side, before he would believe; because he, like Thomas, would not believe the bare word, but wanted signs.

God present with us means power for everything; God present with us will mean that our storms will be calmed, the winds and waves will be rebuked; we will discover what manner of man we have with us, that not only winds and waves are subject to Him, but even devils. The disciples discovered this: "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through Thy name." (Luke 10:17)

If we realize just what His presence means, it will enable us to put our feet on Satan's neck where they belong. The very moment we discover that GOD IS WITH US, we will say: "Who can be against us?"

How can this presence of God be realized? There is just one result of believing in the presence of God; that is, you will place everything you desire accomplished into His hands; first of all yourself to be managed and controlled, then your Christian work, your children, your husband, your wife, your body, your finances; in short, everything that concerns you; then you will realize the truth expressed in Romans 8:37: "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."

†††

www.fcgchurch.org
*Receive free Tracts email:
fcgchurch1@gmail.com
Or write to: PO Box 24283
Philadelphia, PA 19120
S014 25 0810P