

Emmanuel

(Part 2)

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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.

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