

# The Presence of God with Us & How We May Receive the Benefits of God's Presence

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It is the greatest, most priceless asset any human being could ever possess—to have God, the Creator of Heaven and earth (and everything in them) to be for us, and at our service—absolutely free, without cost.

There is nothing too trivial or meager for God to do, and conversely, there is nothing too immense—not one thing that He cannot do. All things are possible for Him. Luke 1:37, *“For with God nothing shall be impossible.”* Matthew 19:26, *“But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”*

There is no way that this could not be, as God is the Creator of everything, and has absolute control of every facet of life. Jeremiah 32:17, *“Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee.”*

God can make anything, change anything, in the way He wants it—and it is always for the benefit of His children. That is why it is the greatest most noble gift anyone could have.

Romans 8:31 tells us the scope and range of all this...the Apostle Paul says, *“What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us,”*—meaning on our side; right with us, *“who can be against us?”*

*“He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”* Romans 8:31-32 It would not be possible that He would not give us any lesser thing.

Jesus Christ was the greatest gift that was ever given. As well, it is very encouraging to know the circumstances upon which He was granted to us. This most eminent gift was given to us when we were without strength and unworthy of receiving anything.

We had no faith...no love for God...and we feared not God...just wicked sinners. The

Apostle Paul says in Romans 5:5-6, *“And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”*

“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.”

This magnificent gift, then, carries with it everything we could Scripturally need or desire. Jesus said before He left this earth, *“All power and authority in Heaven and in earth, has been given unto me. And, surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* (Matthew 28:18,20)

Jesus meant that He is at our service, always with us when we need Him—everything He has, everything He is and can do, is at our service.

The most heartening and encouraging thing about it is, there is no cost whatever; it is absolutely free. We do not need any value of ourselves, to receive the full benefit of God's presence. Also, we do not need any strength of our own. In fact, if we are unaware, weak, helpless, we then have our greatest claim to God's blessing, God's presence, and God's power.

2 Corinthians 12:10, *“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”*

Jesus did not come to this earth to help strong people, nor righteous people. He came to do things for sinners, for people who have no strength, people that are totally helpless in themselves, Luke 5:31, *“And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick.”* We want to remember that Jesus is referring to those spiritually “sick”, and when a person is healed spiritually, they can also receive any needed physical healing...and as was stated, His services are entirely free.

The monumental Work of Jesus Christ on the Cross, is the only worthiness or virtue that we need. He rendered it all. Jesus not only took away our sins, sorrows, and regrets, but His Work placed God with us, and at our assistance, perpetually, forever.

It would be sad, pathetic indeed, if we should fail to receive the benefits of such a

provision; such an arrangement when it is free and without cost.

It would be a real pity, because His service is as free as the air we breathe—everything provided without cost.

God's presence is not only free to work for us in everything we Scripturally desire, but God is ready to teach how to obtain it, how to get the benefit of His company and His power. We certainly cannot do this of ourselves in our weak condition, but God can and will teach us how to enter into this exceptional inheritance, endowment.

All this includes our spiritual life, God's righteousness, peace...it encompasses our perfect healing, complete health, and absolute protection of our entire being. It consists of the control and salvation of our family, all the finances we need, and all we would like to give away to others. All of these things should be a reality when we have the presence of God with us—the title of this lesson.

We now refer to the demon-possessed man of Gadara, whose story is found in all three Gospels—showing how important this story is—probably one of the most significant in the ministry of Christ.

Here we have a man possessed with a multitude of demons—as insane as a person could be. Today, we would call him “criminally insane” and a very dangerous individual. He would not live in a house but stayed in a cemetery—wouldn't wear clothes and screamed day and night.

He drifted among the tombstones as it says, cutting himself with sharp stones—very self-destructive behavior. And, when anyone passed by, he would run toward them and attempt to fight.

One could imagine that the medical profession of that time had done its best to cure him. His family probably blamed him for getting into such a condition. The neighbors probably talked about him and sympathized with his wife and children. All of this would be just opposite of the way the Scriptures instruct us to do.

It would be reasonable to assume that the authorities intervened—and after many complaints, would bind him with chains and place him in prison. As we read, however, even that was unsuccessful for he had super-human

strength. He was able to snap the chains and break out of any prison that held him.

The net result then, of all this human effort and plan, is that the man is more demon-possessed than ever, wears no clothes, lives in a cemetery, screams continuously, and fights with anybody passing by.

This is a perfect example of the results that human efforts and human power bring. We can relate much of our troubles in our family, disobedient children, fighting and quarreling, because of using similar efforts as was used with the demoniac.

It was fortunate indeed, that this man lived in a graveyard, because in such a place, all tongues are stilled—no one (not even the neighbors) could badger him. The occupants of that cemetery were as dead as it is possible to be. There were no human efforts there. No one could say a word or do a thing—the place was as free from human efforts as the Garden of Eden.

That is the very reason Jesus risked His life and placed those with Him in jeopardy when crossing the lake—to deliver that man. A terrible storm was approaching, (obviously from Satan, the prince of the power of the air) to avoid from being rebuked, so the devil tried to drown Jesus and His disciples.

The boat was taking in water, and Jesus was asleep at the back, with His head on a cushion. The disciples awoke Him forcefully (it is supposed) and said, *“Don't you care that we perish?”* Jesus, waking up, gave one look at the winds and waves, and said, *“Peace be still.”* — and the weather became calm at once.

The disciples were astonished and said, *“What kind of man have we here with us? He speaks to the winds and waves, and they obey Him?”* Jesus took this risk to deliver the demon-possessed man.

When Jesus got to the cemetery, the man came out wild and savage as ever. Jesus, however, never blamed him for a thing that he said or did. Jesus did not say, “Why are you in this condition?” Or “This is your own fault.” That would be the human way. Jesus calmly asked him his name. A kind and friendly gesture.

In reply, the man said, *“We are legion.”* He meant that there were a multitude of demons in him, and they wanted to stay. All that Jesus did was to instruct and command those devils to

come out. We should notice that Jesus dealt with the devil, who was the real cause of the trouble.

Not to do this would be like hollering at a snowball thrown at us instead of the person who threw it. Anyone possessed with the devil is just as helpless themselves as the snowball is. Thus, we can see how foolish it is to place the blame on the wrong source.

We should deal with the first cause of any trouble in the home. We are to deal with Satan—of course, through God, and the moment the devil is cast out of anyone, the trouble will be over at that moment. The person's behavior will be exemplary—without fault.

You don't have to ask the cause, when a child is disobedient to a parent, is unmanageable, or who grows up to serve the devil. It is because we, the parents, have failed to give God a chance—failed somewhere to train that child in the way God means a child to be raised.

If God is kept out, the devil will come in. This does not have to be, for we all have the great God of Heaven and earth, with all authority in the universe, Who is delighted to correct any situation, simply by asking.

Hannani the prophet said, (2 Chronicles 16:9), *"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him."* Another translation puts it, *"For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him."*

That would mean those who trust in God instead of trusting in ourselves.

When Jesus cast the demons out of the man, what was the result? With God's way of dealing with such people, what happened? The man returned to his right mind immediately; became calm and an entirely different person.

What a lesson for us—what a message to everyone! In addition to being delivered, the man became a Christian and wanted to be with Jesus all the time. Jesus told him, *"You go home and let your folks see what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you."*

Then, another extraordinary thing happened...the devil received an answer to prayer this one and only time. The worst enemy to God and man, asked Jesus to not send them away to the abyss (meaning a great chasm), but

to allow them to enter into the swine. It says that there was a herd of 2000 feeding on a hillside nearby. Jesus agreed and said, *"All right, you may go!"*

Jesus answered the prayer of those demons! How much more sense do the swine have than the average human being! They would rather die than have the devil in them, so they jumped into the lake and were drowned. Human beings can spend their entire life under the control of Satan and self, and be convinced they like it. Certainly, it will be an abrupt realization to find this out in the Lake of Fire.

So, the man returned home as he was told. We can only speculate on the reception he received—how incredible it was to his family when they realized that he was delivered—that it wasn't the same man, because God had changed him.

Again, it is very significant to ponder where this great deliverance took place—in a graveyard, a cemetery, where all resentment, worry, self-effort, and all human plans, had been laid aside forever. It was an ideal place for Jesus to work—where the last human effort and the last worry were erased, eradicated forever. We will notice that when conditions are like this, Jesus was able to work instantaneously and effectually.

This example makes it very plain to us all—just how to apply the Scriptures in our home life. It places the entire responsibility for the peace of our homes, the salvation of every loved one, squarely on the shoulders of every genuine Christian in the household.

The spiritual blessing involved in receiving our deliverance in God's way, is of more importance than the victories themselves—however valuable they may be.

This, however, must be underscored and emphasized, that the most important thing of all, is our preparation for Eternal Life. This is true, because the Scriptures proclaim and declare that the only passage to Eternal Life, is to get our victories and deliverances here, and to be conquerors in all things of this present life.

Romans 8:37, *"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."*



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