

IN HIS PRESENCE

By : Jerry Jenkins

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Forward

By: Librada Jenkins

I have been married to Jerry for twenty four and one half years. He has been a great man from the time we met. God has blessed him with an uncanny amount of wisdom, love, understanding and patience. This was evident even before we dedicated our lives to Jesus. This has also been his mainstay in whatever situation is set before him, whether of his own making or others. These have been qualities in his personal life and in Ministry.

In 1995 Jerry started working in the Children's Church where we attended Church. In 1996 he was ordained as a Pastor and served as a Children/Youth Pastor for five years. He has ministered in many Churches. He was a Chaplain to the local Sheriff's Department for almost two years. He has done Jail Ministry for over three years. In 2001 and 2002 we traveled to Cuba where he ministered to over a dozen Churches. He has seen many people healed, delivered and set free by the Power of God. He has been to Jamaica where he ministered to over 2000 children in the Public Schools and at local Churches.

Not only has it been my privilege to be his wife, he has also poured in me those same qualities I mentioned before: Wisdom, Love, Understanding and patience. I hope you enjoy and gleam what God put in his heart to write in this book. May this be a blessing to you as you worship the King in whatever you do.

I Love You Jer,
Librada

Prelude

“Who wrote the Bible? Where’s the proof? Who wrote Tom Sawyer? Just man! That’s all, man.” These are the words that came out of my mouth as a teenager looking at myself in the bathroom mirror.

I was thirteen years old when I first heard that you had to accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior. I had grown up in a Lutheran church, and I thought I was going to heaven just because I was born and raised going to church. My mom wanted me to go to a private school in seventh grade because the public school was becoming an unsafe place, and she thought I might end up in big trouble. She proceeded to find a private Christian school for me to attend, but I didn’t want to go to a school having to wear a uniform. I had to take a test to enter this school, and I understood that if I didn’t pass the test, I would not get into the school. I figured I’d easily render the situation by failing the test, so I “Christmas treed” the test. I don’t remember if it was fifty or one hundred questions, but they were multiple choice. It only took me about five to ten minutes to just mark a, b, c, or d. I did not read any of the questions, I just marked the answers. Well, it wasn’t this school that you had to pass the test to get in, so I just ended up in the remedial class. It was my worst academic year. Detention, suspension, fights, paddling’s and I was in trouble constantly.

This was the year, though, that in chapel I did hear the gospel. It was the first time I remember hearing that becoming a Christian was not automatic, but you had to be born again. When the minister asked if anyone wanted to receive Jesus, as his personal Lord and Savior, I was too embarrassed to go up front like he suggested. I did sit there in my seat, and I repeated the prayer of salvation. I remember having a new interest in the Word of God and wanting to know who Jesus is. What I mostly saw though, were the rules, regulations and laws, just religion. I didn’t see the love, joy or the relationship. So I turned away because I didn’t want a god who had no joy or fun. At thirteen, when I asked Jesus into my heart, the little desire I had for Him was pushed out by the fun I was having fulfilling my fleshly desires. I know that for many years a spiritual battle was going on to keep me from the presence of God. Until I was twenty-five, I had no desire to serve God.

At the age of twenty-five, I found God’s love when my wife and I moved from Miami, Florida, to Ocala, Florida. I was enjoying the sin that I was living in, and I had no desire for going to church. I knew how to “play” church as I had continued to go over the years, but I did not have a relationship with Jesus.

I had learned how to go to church under the influence of alcohol or drugs and live the life I wanted to. I did what I wanted to do, whenever I wanted. I would go to church, sit, listen and continue in a sinful lifestyle.

The day His love drew me in.

My sister and her family had come up for the weekend. She told me “I’m here for one weekend. I’m going to find you a church.” I was fine with that. I knew I could go, sit for an hour or so, and saw no need to make a commitment. She asked the Holy Spirit to direct her to a church for my wife and me. She then went to a bible bookstore, and while she was there, she spoke to a lady who directed her to a Spirit filled church. It was one the Holy Spirit had shown her in the phone book. The next day, we went to the morning service. Remember, I had no desire to attend church regularly. I figured I’ll go, and then I can do what I want.

Well, we pulled in the parking lot of the church and I knew I was HOME. I thought to myself “there is something different going on here.” I don’t even remember the sermon of that first service. All I remember was, it was a guest speaker. I just don’t remember anything he said. I did continue to go every Sunday. I found the love of God instead of some religion. I rededicated myself to Jesus. We later became members and got involved through volunteering.

I realized that God is love. He wants a relationship with us. There are rules and laws in the relationship, but it is not about the rules and laws, it is about Jesus. It is what He has done for us and where He wants to bring us.

In my renewed relationship with Jesus, I learned how to praise and worship the Lord. I would spend hours at night, as I drove tractor trailers for a living, listening to praise and worship and teachings. I soon picked up on drawing close to Jesus through worship. As I drove and worshiped Him, His presence would fill the cab of my truck. I would bask in His presence through the nights. As I spent time with Him, He would speak to me and I would ask questions and He answered me.

I could see how David learned of Him as he tended the sheep and worshiped the Lord. There has been times that I would be in His presence for days. Times that just going about my day, He shows up and touches me. He wants a relationship with us. A close and personal relationship. Not one that maybe one day I will see Him, but a here and now relationship. Jesus died that we may have life and life more abundant. That is here on earth, now, as well as in heaven.

That is a taste of my life leading up to my main purpose for this book, which is to help guide you into His presence, or deeper into His presence. He longs for you to be “face to face” with Him, sitting on His lap. He wants an “intimate relationship” with you. He

wants to hold you. There is always a deeper place in Him than where you have been. No matter how deep you have been, there is always a deeper place.

I have asked many “what is God’s main purpose for your life?” They usually answer, “to minister to others”, or “to lead others into the kingdom”. But God has one purpose for your life and that is relationship. Your number one purpose with God is to have an intimate relationship with Him. Everything else, is a byproduct of that relationship. We will talk more about this relationship throughout the book. Just remember, it’s all about Jesus and our relationship with Him.

In that relationship, deep worship is the most intimate act we can have with Him. When we worship someone or something, we give our full attention to it. Some people worship their job, their car, their house, their husband or wife, etc. We have a desire inside us to fulfill this worship. But it is intended to be totally focused on God, our Father. When we turn our face to Him in true worship, there is a joyful fulfillment that wells up inside us. God longs for you and me to be in His presence, we just need to take the time to do it.

Deep Worship

There are many levels to praise and worship. We enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. It takes some steps to enter into the Holy of Holies. Many people stay in the outer courts and never enter into the very place Jesus made available by shedding His blood. The veil was torn from top to bottom, so we may enter into the Holy of Holies.

The Holy of Holies is a very deep and intimate place where God wants all believers to enter in. Most churches don't teach about this place, I believe it's because a lot of pastors don't know how to get there. Also, it is a place that's not understood and it takes up too much of their time to get there. With the hour to an hour and a half services most people are comfortable with, it doesn't allow enough time to enter into His presence. It's not because it takes longer, but it does take time and pastors "need" their time teaching and preaching.

See, it's an uncomfortable place for many people to go. Today's lifestyle doesn't allow for us to spend time quietly. Just think, our microwaves, fast food places and convenience stores make our lives "on the go." People that don't have these conveniences spend almost all day preparing meals. With a lot of people, it is go, go, go. So, when we get to church, everything is the same, go, go, go. Entering in and sitting in the presence of God takes time, and unfortunately this is one thing most people don't want to give up. It is also a fact that sitting quietly in God's presence doesn't fit with many pastors or people. They think that not having someone speaking or singing is not a good thing and that people will leave if there is no action going on.

See, I have spent many hours learning how to enter into the very Holy of Holies. I have sat at His feet and in His presence so much, that I have learned how to get in very quickly. It no longer takes me forty-five minutes or more to enter in. Just a few minutes in focused worship and I am there. It is a training process. What have you done that doesn't take practice? To get better at anything, it takes practice. Yes, some are born with natural abilities to do things, but we were all born to worship God. Every one of us has been called to worship. His desire is for you to enter into His presence. That is why the veil was torn, so that the priest is not the only one allowed in. You can get in also.

My focus in this book is the very deep, intimate worship. Praise and worship is taught and known, but do you enter into the Holy of Holies? Do you sit on His lap and get lost in Him? Do you know that quiet place in Him where He is embracing you and His presence is so heavy you think you will explode? If you have been there, or close to there, this book is intended to help you get deeper. If you haven't, this book is to help you learn how. Remember that there is a place so deep in Him and a place deeper still.

Take time to focus totally on Him and learn to get so lost in Him, that you experience His presence. This place is the most intimate that we, as humans, can be with Him. God wants an intimate relationship with you. Yes, He wants you to sit on His lap and wants to

converse with you. He created you for this very reason. You were made in His image and for His glory. Do you know why the birds of the air, the trees, and nature glorify God? Because they do what God created them to do. All we need to do is that which He created us to do, have a relationship with Him and in that relationship, worship Him.

There are many revelations on worship. I am not the only one that has written a book on worship, this book contains what God has done for me and shown me. This is to add to what God has shown you. Just know that we have a place in His presence and He desires us to get in His presence.

Why Worship

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve knew God's presence. However, when they fell into sin, they hid themselves from the very one that they had communed with. Many of us don't get into His presence because we think that we are not good enough to be there. We are not, but the blood of Jesus changed that. Because of what He has done, we have the ability to enter into the very throne room of God. That is the reason Jesus came, to make a way for us to enter in.

Our natural man wants to hide from His presence. We know we have sinned and we are afraid to "show" ourselves to Him. Let's look at Genesis 3:8.

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

They hid because of sin. We have the blood of Jesus. We don't need to hide. Through the blood of Jesus we have a "right" to come to the Father. We can come boldly when the blood of Jesus has cleansed us.

Hebrews 4:13-16

13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. 14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrew 10:19-22

19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Some of us just don't know there is such a place. Many churches have taught the Word, prayer, and how to live, but haven't taught the people how to enter into His presence. Many praise Him and glorify Him, but they turn away before they get into His throne room.

God gave me a "picture" of this very thing one Sunday during worship. I saw a man knocking on a door and God answering it. The man stood at the doorway thanking Him, praising Him and glorifying Him. God then stepped aside for the man to come in, but the man walked away. God wanted the man to come in, sit and converse with Him, but he

didn't understand that, so the man did what he thought was needed and left. Remember Mary, sitting at Jesus' feet and Jesus told Martha that, "Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." God wants us not to only enter in, but to sit with Him and converse with Him. Not us only speaking to Him, but also allowing Him to speak back to us.

As I linger in His presence, He gives me so much understanding and revelation. I ask Him questions and He answers them. He guides me into His truths and shows me His ways. I spend time with Him and have relationship with Him. This is what He wants. He longs for us to spend time with Him. He wants us to sit and talk with us, answer our questions, love on us and be our Abba (Father).

So, why worship? He desires for you to be in His presence. He made a way for you to enter in because that's what He wants. We will spend an eternity with Him, so why not learn to sit with Him now? In the next chapters, I will share with you some things He has done in me and for me through worship. Change comes in worship.

Entering In

We enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise (Ps. 100:4). To enter in, we must praise Him. We must glorify Him. Because He has done so much for each of us, He is worthy of all of our praise.

Entering into the courts is known by most of us. This is a joyful place to be. We praise Him and get excited about all He has done. He loves to hear us glorifying Him. It also brings down walls and brings freedom to us. The enemy doesn't like us to glorify God, he wants us to glorify him.

Have you ever heard someone naming all of the things the devil has done in their lives? The devil did this, the devil did that, what are they doing? They are glorifying Satan. They are confessing all the things the devil has done. Don't do that... Glorify God, tell others what the Lord has done for you. That is how you bring glory to God, by confessing what He has done for you. If you confess what Satan has done to you, you are actually glorifying him. God deserves the glory and no one else.

Rev. 12:11 says

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

See, overcome the enemy in your life by not glorifying him. Quit praising Satan for what he has done. He deserves no glory. Glorify God in everything, praise Him for every little thing good in your life. Instead of saying, "The devil tried to kill me today," say "Thank You Jesus that You protected me." It's how you look at each situation. Stop looking at the negative and focus on the positive. This will change your heart and you will have a total different outlook in your life.

People that I have met who are always complaining or giving the devil the glory are the most miserable people I have seen. Your outlook in life will determine the condition of your heart. Instead of griping and complaining, glorify God and free up the wells of joy. This means you need to change the way you think and speak. It will take practice, but it is well worth it.

When you wake up in the morning, glorify God. Start right then entering into His presence. Give Him glory by thanking Him for the day. Don't start complaining that it's too hot or too cold, raining, too sunny, snowing, etc. Glorify Him that you have another day to praise Him here on the earth, and reveal His glory to others.

Daily take time to praise & worship Him. Most of us have some time every day to give to Jesus. Find time to spend some intimate time with Him. The more you seek His face, the deeper you'll get and the easier it will be to get into His presence. Learn how to "get lost" in His presence.

There is a whole lot that the Word of God says about seeking Him. Study the scriptures about praising and worshiping God. Here are a few references.

1 Chronicles 16:11 Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore!

2 Chronicles 7:14 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Psalm 24:6 This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face.
Selah

Psalm 27:4 One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.

Psalm 27:6-9 6 And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.

⁷ Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

⁸ When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."

⁹ Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation.

Psalm 29:2 Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness

Psalm 105:4 Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore!

John 4:23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

In the Old Testament, God directed Moses in how to build the temple. He was very precise in the details of how to build it and what was to be in it. The Holy of Holies was a place where man came to meet God. Today, our bodies are the temples and our hearts are the place where God comes to meet with you. I'm not talking about the muscle, but the very center of your being. This is the "Holy of Holies" where God comes to meet with you.

So, in order to go deeper into His presence, you must push past (the veil), your flesh, and mind and into the very depth of your being. What am I saying? Pushing past your flesh is not allowing your flesh to say, "I don't like this, let's do something else," because your flesh is the very thing that must die to enter into His presence. Your flesh is where sin abides. So, in order to be close to the Father, your flesh must be put to death (the fleshly desires). You cannot allow it to do what it wants. You don't have to be perfect, just do not allow your flesh to determine what you are going to do or think.

When I trained my flesh to focus on God, it didn't happen instantly. I would start by closing my eyes and focusing on Jesus. I tried to picture Him sitting on His throne. My

flesh would think “what’s for lunch” or how uncomfortable it was. My attention would be drawn to the thing my flesh desired. I would have to get my focus back on Jesus. Two seconds later, I would think about a juicy hamburger or the nap my flesh so desperately desired. Again, I had to get my focus back on Jesus. Like a wandering puppy on a leash, keep bringing your mind back in line to focus on Jesus. Teach your mind how to “heel” and not wander off.

Your mind, or you soul (mind, will and emotions), must be changed. Let’s read Romans 12:1 & 2

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

We must change the very way we think by the Word of God, so our thoughts line up with the Word of God. When we are born again, our spirits are instantly renewed. Our flesh is destined to die because of sin. We cannot change that fact. The part that we work on is our soul. We change the way we think by the Word of God, and that changes our will. So as we start thinking like God thinks, our desires (our will) starts lining up with His will. Then we can accomplish what He wants us to do. Our emotions are something we work with, but we cannot allow them to guide us.

Like how the military takes a young person and breaks them down physically and mentally to build them back up to be obedient to their superiors, the Word of God breaks down our natural way of thinking and teaches us how to think and be like Jesus. And like Jesus, we will want to get separated from others, to get alone with the Father.

When you learn God’s presence, you will gain a hunger for Him. You will want to seek His face. You will want to enter in, but not only enter, but get into the most Holy place and hang out in His presence.

Pressing In

A lot of people have not experienced His presence because they don't press in. Then, if they do get in, they only get a glimpse of Him, and then leave. His presence is a place to hang out. Don't rush in, and then out again. Pressing into His presence is actually something you do. It is when you focus on His presence and push in the spirit realm into His presence. It is what you do from your heart. You push past everything else in you and reach to Him.

Get into His presence and stay there. Get quiet before Him. Sit on His lap and look into His face. There, you will receive so much. He will speak directly into your heart. He wants you there on His lap, sitting and receiving from Him. He is your daddy, and if you never got to sit on your natural daddy's lap, sit on your Abba's (Father's) lap. It is life changing.

By pressing in, I mean to focus. Focus only on Him. Push every other thought out. This is the part we need to practice. Cast all your cares on Him, and then seek Him. Set your whole being on Him.

Pressing in takes some practice. We must practice from entering in, to staying in His presence. Your flesh and the enemy will try to distract you from going all the way to His throne. It is hard on your flesh and the enemy doesn't like you in His presence, and the enemy surely doesn't want you to go there, because in His presence is change. You cannot sit in God's presence and come out the same. Every time I have entered into His presence, He has done something in me. I don't always know what He did, but I come out changed and with renewed strength.

Your flesh must die in order to enter into His presence (Exodus 33:20). What am I saying in this? The more that we are dead to our fleshly desires and ways, the deeper into His presence we can get. When we submit ourselves and our ways to Him, we can reach further into His presence than when we allow our flesh to rule us.

Pressing in takes practice, because our brain is not used to shutting the things of this world out. As you worship, your brain wants to think about other things. So, we must practice pressing in. The more you do it, the easier it gets. You train yourself to focus on Jesus.

Pressing in is also a spiritual force. Pushing past the things of this world, the cares and worries, your job situation, your money situation and into His presence. God's worthiness is not dependent on anything in or of this world. He is worthy, period. So us pressing in, seeking His face is not due to whether your situation is good or bad, in fact, your situation might change when you press into His presence.

Some people are good singers, or can play an instrument. Whether you can or not doesn't matter, you can use Mp3's, CD's, whatever it takes. Don't use the excuse that you can't. Not all are anointed to lead worship, but all are called to worship.

In these next chapters, I will share some experiences with you. These experiences happened during different times of worship. I know where I was physically, but in the spiritual realm, I was in a different place. I have spent many hours, days and weeks in His presence, daily glorifying Him and worshiping Him. These experiences were special times for me. They were times of God showing me things that happened in worship. They have changed my life and each of them I remember as if they happened minutes ago.

At His Feet

One particular week as I was seeking the Father's face, I felt as if I was a million miles from Him. I had learned how to get into His presence very quickly, but during this week I felt so distant from Him. I continued day after day of that week seeking His face, and I cried out to Him, longing for His presence. I didn't understand why I was not able to get there. I was seeking His face, as usual, and crying out to Him. I remember crying at the top of my lungs with tears running down my face yelling "GOD WHERE ARE YOU? I WANT YOU, I NEED YOU." I felt so lost the whole week. That following Sunday morning, I decided to press in and seek His face like never before. I put some worship music on before church started and got on my face. I put everything else behind and pressed in. At last, I knew I was entering in to the place I had been seeking for the last week. All of a sudden, feet, as bronze, were before me. Just above the ankles, I also saw what appeared to be a white robe, just the bottom of it. I knew that I was lying at His feet as He sat on His throne. His presence was so intense, I started crying, then that turned into joy and I lay there laughing, and then weeping again. The intensity of His presence was so strong, I thought I was going to explode. I was so glad that I was at His feet, that I had entered His presence, the place I had been desiring to be. I was filled and satisfied being in His presence. This lasted maybe up to five minutes. Being at my Savior's feet was life changing for me, a place I was honored and blessed to be at. Then as I got up on my knees, I looked down at the carpet and saw drag marks where my fingers had pulled across the carpet. It looked as if I had been dragged away from His presence. He then spoke in my heart and said, "When you spend eternity with me, the only way to get you from my feet and from my presence will be to drag you away." This was an experience I will never forget.

There are times He wants you to press in more to get deeper into His presence. As we mature in Him, He calls us deeper. If you feel like you are not getting in, don't give up, just press in harder until you find Him. He is calling you to press in even more, because He wants you deeper in His presence.

It reminds me of learning to swim. Daddy stands in the shallow water, wanting you to swim to him. The better you get, the further back he goes. God wants you to get deeper. He backs up some, so you have to press in more. It's not that He wants you to "drown", but He wants you to be a stronger swimmer, or a more intimate worshiper.

One Sunday night at a church, during worship they started singing Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah. Most of you know this one word, but powerful proclaiming song. As these words rang out, I saw a being flash across the front of the church and down the side. I could tell this being went down every aisle looking at each person's heart. I could only see the eyes and face outline for a brief second with "swish" like lines behind it as it was moving at a very high rate of speed. I knew this was an angel of the Lord. After this angel went through and looked at every person, I looked up and saw angels lining up on the left and right in a "V" pattern and opening the heavens up for our worship to ascend to the Lord. The angels in unison bowed down as our worship ascended.

I know that the angel came and looked at every person's heart in the church. He must have seen that the church's focus was on Jesus. This then allowed for an open heaven for worship to ascend. As you worship, you join in with the host of heaven that is worshipping twenty four- seven. They cease not to worship, and we are able to join in with them in worship. They will make sure the heavens are opened for your worship to ascend to the very throne of God.

Seeking His Face

Many of you have heard the expression, “Seek His face, not His hand”. To seek His face, you have to pass His hand. The hand is symbolic of Him supplying your need. So lay down your worries and cares about your needs. It is more important to be in His face. His provision will come, but the goal is to be face to face with Him.

As I have said, it takes practice to push past your mind, your needs, and the needs of this world. Many Christians only seek Him on Sunday and think that it is enough. Seeking the face of our Father God needs our daily attention. Some days you can spend more time than others, but every day we need to take some time.

Lets look at Ephesians 5:17-20

¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

In verse 18, it says “but be filled with the Spirit”. The words “be filled” have a continuous meaning. It actually means, be, being filled. It’s a continuous filling. Think of how a car needs gas. You go to the gas station to fill up the car, but in order to keep the car running, you need to go back regularly. So in order for us to stay full, we need to regularly get in God’s presence and get a refill.

Be being filled

During one week I had spent several days continuously in His presence. I woke up, went through my day, and went to sleep deep in His presence. I worked at nights then, and on this Saturday morning, like most Saturdays, I didn’t sleep. Friends of ours came over that day. They were spending the night and going to church with us the next morning. We had a wonderful time in God’s presence together. We didn’t go to bed until somewhere around 1:30 Sunday morning. The alarm went off at 6am to get ready for church. I sprang out of bed with energy and excitement. God’s presence was still even stronger. We went to church and before service, as usual, I put on worship music. I got on my face and pressed in even deeper. I put on the song Agnus Dei and put it on repeat. It may have played through three or four times as I sang and worshiped Him. Then I got quiet, lay still and basked in His presence. The next thing I knew, Jesus picked me up, His hands were under my arms, as a father picks up his child. He started spinning around, and I could feel my feet, as if they were flapping in the air. After going around four or five times, He pulled me close and kissed me on each cheek. He then put me down on my feet, took one step back, it wasn’t a step like ours, it seemed like He was twelve feet back. He then placed His hand on my chest, and said, “That’s what it’s all about, be being filled.” Then He was gone. Very simple, yet so profound, I knew exactly what He was saying.

He was saying that it's about us staying in His presence. It's about our relationship with Him. He wants a deep relationship with us, but a lot of us have a very shallow one. Have you "sat" on the Father's lap and embraced Him? Have you sat with Him and let Him minister to you? He wants to! He wants you to come to Him and sit with Him. He wants to continually fill you with His Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the third part of the trinity, but a very important part. He is also the part that is working in us. The Holy Spirit means the pure breath or wind of God. How do you tell if someone's breath smells good or not? You get close to them. As you get close to God, He breathes on you. As He breathes on you, the Word that you have placed in your heart will be breathed upon and given life. Before Jesus (the Word) fulfilled that which He was sent forth to do, the Holy Spirit showed up. In Genesis 1:2 before God spoke (the Word), the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. In the New Testament, when the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary, Jesus was conceived. When John baptized Jesus, the Holy Spirit came down upon Jesus and sent Him forth. So, in order for the Word to go forth, to accomplish that which it was sent forth to do, the Spirit must be there to send the Word forth. Just like our words go forth with our breath, God's Word (Jesus) goes forth by the Holy Spirit. The Word must have the Spirit. Without the Spirit of God giving life to the Word of God, the Word will not have life. For instance, many have read the Word of God, yet they gain no life from it. That is because they don't allow the Holy Spirit to give it life. The Bible is a book containing the Word of God, but without the Spirit of God, the Word will have no life. You need to allow the Holy Spirit breath life on the Word.

So when you enter into His presence and allow Him to breathe on you, the Word of God you have placed in your heart is breathed on and given life. Jesus said that the Word is like a seed. We sew it in our hearts and the Holy Spirit gives it life. It then springs up to be a great tree and bears fruit. You will bear the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, longsuffering and self control. The fruit of the Spirit will be sweet to others, as they taste and see that the Lord is good because His fruit will flow from your very being.

Go back to Ephesians 5:17-20 and look at vss. 18-20. Verse 18 doesn't end with a period. It has a comma, which means it continues. So, "be filled with the Spirit" has a lot to do with vss. 19 and 20 saying "singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Worship is an area that is missed a lot. Deep worship is missed even more. Many pastors and ministers worry more about money than worship. God doesn't need your money, He does long for your worship. When Jesus was entering into Jerusalem in Luke

19:37-40 it says;

³⁷ Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen,

³⁸ saying:

“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

³⁹ And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.”

⁴⁰ But He answered and said to them, “I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.”

Look at verse 40, if the disciples didn't cry out, the stones would. This gives you an understanding on the importance of our worship. The Pharisees, the very ones who were supposed to be the spiritual leaders, missed God before their very eyes and tried to stop the worship. Don't let anyone or anything stand in your way of worshiping God and being in His presence.

Sometimes it seems that churches want to rush through worship so the pastor can get up and preach. Now don't get me wrong, I am not saying the pastor needs to stay seated. But I do know that God doesn't sit ready to take notes because the preacher has said something awesome. We are gathered together at church to worship our Father and Jesus, that is why we go. Shouldn't we give some time to truly worship Him? It is better to be in the presence of God than man. Pastors need to teach more about the presence of God and how to get there. Five minutes in the presence of God can do more than an hour of preaching. Remember, God does move in the teaching and preaching, we just need to make sure we are taught how to get in and hang out in His presence.

One day, I was preaching at a church and the anointing was very heavy while we were in worship. The microphone was handed to me and I stood up and called the worship leader back to continue in worship. We were able to get deeper in His presence. I had felt that we were moving on before God wanted to. He wanted more, and I had to give more to Him. His presence was more valuable than what I had to say. Even though God is the one who gave me the very thing I was ministering on, I still had time to deliver my message and God still moved.

In His Presence

Now that we are there, in His presence, what do we do? Two words.
HANG OUT.

This is the place we want to be and the place we strive to enter. Once again, don't just knock on the door, say hi, and then leave. Go in, sit down, and converse with Him. Up to this point, you've been doing a lot of speaking (singing), so now that you are there, and you know He is in your midst, be quiet. Just stay there, you never know what He will say or do. Your experience with Him will be life changing. As Moses came off the mountain with his face glowing so brightly that he had to cover it, you can come out changed. It is impossible to hang out in God's presence and come out the same. It could be new revelation, you can experience something as I have, or even more. Expect Him to do a new thing in, and for you, when you get into His presence.

In His Presence is the highest place you can be. Let's look at the book of Revelation. What are those who are closest to His throne doing?

Revelation 4:8-11 says

8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:

“Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”

9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

11 “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”

Those closest beings to His throne continually worship Him. So if we want to be close to Him, I believe that worship is a very important key. Why don't churches stress this more? Why aren't they teaching Christians to focus more on worship? Concerts are nice, but that's it, just nice. We need to stop performing so much and have worship times instead. I have been to many Christian concerts. The best ones have been the ones that focus on getting into the presence of God.

This is also where we understand the true “worship” songs. These songs have no “I, me, we or us” words in them. They are songs totally focused on Him. My favorite worship song is Agnus Dei (Latin for Lamb of God) by Michael W. Smith. The words in this song are totally focused on Him. I can play this song and put it on repeat and let it play over and over. I get “lost” in the spirit as I continually focus on Jesus, who He is and His worthiness. The more I focus on Him, the less I see myself and I am swept into His presence.

Soaring in His presence

In church, one Sunday, praise and worship was awesome. Different than other days, most of the songs were about going higher, getting higher into His presence. There were a couple of songs about soaring like an eagle. Now understand, eagles are one of my favorite animals, and there is much to learn and understand about them. I was pressing in and thinking how eagles soar and soar higher than other birds. The next thing I knew, I was soaring. I mean, I was as an eagle. My physical posture was bent over and arms spread out wide. I could tell I was flying above the clouds. As I looked down, through the clouds, I saw snow peaked mountains far, far below me. I had a few minutes of knowing what an eagle felt like high up in the sky. There were no worries, nothing of the earth mattered. It was like, instead of speaking to a mountain for it to move, I entered into God's presence and soared over it. The worship leader even looked at my wife, who was next to me and mouthed, "He is flying."

This truly spoke to me. Like I said, eagles are one of my favorites in the animal kingdom because there is such freedom in them. There is freedom in the presence of God. All earthly needs and matters disappear, and your only focus is on Him.

In the mountains, eagles will normally sit on a high place and wait for a wind to come and carry them. We need to get into the presence of God by allowing the Holy Spirit (the Holy breath or wind of God) to come and carry us into His presence.

There are other birds that attack and pester eagles. The eagles don't fret over these attacks, they just climb higher into the atmosphere. Eagles climb higher and leave the other birds below. We can climb higher in the presence of God, and all our troubles and worries can't reach us. In His presence, He can show you how to take care of the earthy things.

When you have need of direction or understanding, this is the place to come to receive it. When you minister to others, you draw upon the anointing to minister. When it comes to self, it's not the anointing that you draw upon, but your relationship with the Father. It is in His presence that you get your answers and direction. Healing can also be found in His presence. Seek His face and He will direct your ways.

One Sunday while working in children's church as a young believer, I was standing against the back wall before the service. The Pastor and another person came to me and we discussed the plans for service. I started getting an asthma attack. I had smoked cigarettes before coming back to the Lord. Because of this, I ended up with asthma. So after the Pastor let us know the service plans, they walked away and I was having a full blown asthma attack. I said "God I can't do what you want me to do like this." He said, "Go up front and get on your face and worship me." I did and He healed me.

In His presence is everything you need, spiritually. When Moses came down from the mountain, he had to cover his face because the glory of God was still evident. He had sat in God's presence and it changed him and even affected his physical being. When Jesus came to the earth, the Holy Spirit came upon Him and he regularly went to commune

with the Father. He sat in the Father's presence regularly, away from others. Jesus would walk along, and people would cry out to Him and do what was needed to get into His presence. They did this just to be touched and changed by Him. They knew that if they just touched him in faith they could be healed. They knew He could heal them and even raise their dead loved ones.

When we continue in His presence, others can tell. They can see and feel the anointing on you. When you spend time in God's presence, you come out changed and the anointing fills and overflows your very being. I have had others be next to me and feel heat coming from me because of the anointing. Others have felt the very presence of God because of the time I have sat with Him.

As you linger in God's presence, others will be touched because of the anointing that rests upon you. Press into His presence, totally focus on Him and worship Him. Then get quiet and still, allowing His presence to saturate you. When you come out, you will notice a difference. You will be changed and others you minister to will be changed because of God's presence.

He has called us into His presence. He has made the way for us to enter. It is the greatest place to be. We just need to go there. Take the time and seek His face. Leave everything in and of this world behind, to be lost in Him.

How To Worship

I know that many of you will think this title may sound almost insulting. Many though, don't know just how to go about it. They have been shown different ways and are not sure how to exactly enter into God's presence.

One of my pastors taught on how to pray and he said the most important thing to know is to just pray. Sometimes this is hard to understand. Asking how to do something and being told to "just go do it", can be frustrating. So here I want to break it down to help you understand how to enter into His throne room and stay there.

I want to start by bringing in this understanding first. God is love. We know that because He tells us that in 1 John 4:8. We also know that we need to trust Him. These two things are essential to getting deep into His presence. I have known that love and trust work together, but didn't understand how. One night as I was driving, I asked God, "Father, I know love and trust work together, but I don't understand how. How do they work together?" Asking God these types of questions is normal for me. I have spent many hours driving and worshiping and asking Him questions. I knew that love and trust worked together, but thought that you trusted someone because you loved that person. God's answer to me was; "Your wife doesn't trust you because she loves you, she can only trust you as much as she understands your love for her. And My people can only trust Me as much as they understand My love for them... Do you trust Me? Can I trust you?"

This was a lot to take in, and God asking me if He could trust me was a lot to swallow. My answer to Him was "I hope You can trust me!" This understanding has been life changing for me. I can now see why many people don't trust Him. They don't understand His love for them. This is why He also takes us through the rough times, through them, He shows us His love for us if we allow Him to. Therefore, as much as you understand His love for you, you are able to trust Him. We can say it this way; only as much as we understand the power and depth of God's love for us, can we put our trust in Him.

One night He gave me this vision. In the vision, I was driving a car, He was sitting in the passenger seat and had all the controls of the car just like I did. The car then went out of control into three hundred and sixty degree spins. I was doing everything I could to bring the car under control, turning the wheel, tapping the brake, gas, everything. I then look at God with a face like, "Do something". He looked at me, just as calm as could be, while I was freaking out and said "Let go". I was like, "let go? We will crash" Like if what I was doing was helping. It surely wasn't, we were continuing spinning in three sixty's and all that I was doing was not helping a bit. He said again, "Let go." I looked at Him and just took both hands off the steering wheel. He then grabbed the steering wheel on His side and in a fraction of a second the car was totally set back on course in control. He then looked at me and I knew I was to take back over as He let go of the wheel. I knew instantly all that He was trying to tell me. He knows the end from the beginning, He

knows every curve, bump, road block, slick spot and problem area. He doesn't take you on a detour, He lets you go right through the situations. Why? Because He wants you to understand His love for you, He wants you to know how much He cares about and for you. He allows you to go through things so you will let Him demonstrate His love for you. He wants to take care of every situation for you, but you have to give it to Him. He wants you to see His love for you and that you can trust Him.

This works into worship because deep worship is the most intimate thing we can do with our Creator. As husband and wife come together through intimate lovemaking, we can become intimate with God through worship. Understanding His love for you and your trust in Him will help determine how deep you will enter into His presence.

As I mentioned earlier in chapter three, entering into His throne room takes some steps and we start at the gates. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. There is a procession to His throne. I also said that there are many levels to praise and worship. When entering into His courts we are clapping, shouting, jumping and excited, glorifying Him for who He is and what He's done. Continuing in, we sing to Him and tell Him we want and love to worship Him and glorify Him. We lift our hands and our voices declaring who He is and what He's done. We whoop and holler and shout and sing and dance. Our voices are loud and the beat is normally fast, flags are waved and by this, walls (in us) come down and freedom is achieved.

In praise we often use the words I, we, us, and me. The closer we get to God's throne the less our songs involve us. The less shouting, clapping, dancing, whooping and hollering we do. In worship the focus is less on us, and more on Him. Remember, love does not focus on self. So, as we "make love" to Him, our focus needs to turn from ourselves and totally on Him. It goes from Thank you God for what you've done for me, to Father, You are worthy of all glory, honor, and praise. Any injection of self, takes away from the purity of the intimacy.

Getting into His presence doesn't always happen overnight. You have to teach your flesh to be quiet and stay still. You have to teach your mind to stop focusing on other things. This is the training part, like I said, a puppy on a leash. Stop letting your mind wander, and keep your focus on Him. I try to picture Him on his throne (as much as my understanding allows). When my mind wanders, I picture His throne again. At first, it is a continual thing to keep correcting yourself, just like the puppy. As you continue to enter in, you will be able to keep focused longer and enter in deeper. If you continue, one day you will find yourself lost in His presence.

Many churches have praise and worship. Some do take the time to enter in and "hang out" in His presence. Many mix the praise and worship up and it can be confusing. Some sing a praise song then a worship song then end with a praise song. That way the people are pumped up, and the blood is flowing, so they don't fall asleep during the sermon. The songs need to progress to the throne room. Starting with the high praise and ending in focused worship.

Once you are in His presence, stay there. Don't jump back into praise. Many people get right up to or even into the Holy of Holies, and their worship is totally focused on Him. Then they move to the next song, and the focus of the song brings them back out to the inner courts. They actually move out of His presence and into more of a form of praise than deep worship. Once you are in His presence, in the Holy of Holies, stay there. Keep your worship totally focused on Him. Don't start singing about yourself again. This is where you press in deeper. Now is not the time to clap your hands and holler. Get quiet before Him. Be still and know He is God. Let His presence wash over you again and again. Let His love engulf you. Listen, He may want to tell you something or just tell you how much He loves you. Sit in His lap and let Him minister to you. He wants to be your daddy and love on you. He wants to tell you how special you are and strengthen you by encouraging you.

Remember my eagle experience? When you are in His presence, it is His love that carries you. His love lifts you from where you are, to where He is. God is love and to soar in Him is to soar in love. The only way you can soar is to totally trust in Him and allow His love to carry you. Learn His love for you. Spread your wings and allow Him to carry you to a place so deep in Him, you will never be the same.

Order of Worship

In this chapter I want to put it all together in proper direction. Some things that I have said will be repeated, but my focus is to make a clear direction from the gates of the temple to the Most Holy Place. As I go through the temple, I will also give some examples of our praise and worship that we do starting from the outer courts to the most holy place.

There is an order of how we enter and get into His presence. I have been in many worship services and have seen this order all messed up. Some have started in worship and gone into praise, while others go from praise to worship and back to praise again while never getting into deep worship. God is a God of order. He has specific ways for things to be done. When He instructed Moses on building the tabernacle, He was very specific on how things were to be made. When you read God's instructions to Moses, there were clear directions on all specifics of how he was to build it. Size, shape, amount, how things were to be layered, what it was to look like, etc. Then we come in and do it how we want to and expect His presence? He is the director, the one who we are worshipping anyway. What does He want?

Here we are today and our worship services seem to be just put together by "us" and the songs we do are what "we" feel like doing or hearing that day. We sing the songs that make us feel good or the ones that are "moving" us. Why are we doing this? It is not about "us", it is all about Him. Our God who created us and everything we see and can't see, He is the one we are praising and worshipping. When I give my wife something, I don't give her something that I like or that I want, I give her what she would like or desire. We need to give God what He wants. We need to ask Him what He wants to hear, what He desires to hear us sing to Him. So take time to ask the Father that by His Holy Spirit He would show you what He wants to hear for that time of praise and worship. Even if it is a week ahead of time, there is no distance of time in Him. He can tell you on Monday what He wants to hear next Sunday.

So from the beginning, we know that we are to enter into His gates with thanksgiving and enter His courts with praise (Psalm 100:4). We thank Him and praise Him to enter, shouting and leaping with joy. He is worthy of all glory honor and praise, for all that He has done, is doing and everything He is going to do. With loud joyful voices and clapping, shouting and dancing. Hands lifted high we glorify Him.

When we are in the tabernacle, we see there are pieces of furniture there. These pieces of old testament furniture represent new testament things. Here are some examples of the Old/New Testament correlation of the furniture.

The first one we see is the altar of burnt offering. This is the place where sacrifices were made. So we come into the tabernacle singing and declaring who He is and what He has done. And we come right to the altar of burnt offerings. We need to first come to know, believe and admit that there is an eternal God (entering in with thanksgiving and praises).

Then we come up to the sacrifice the altar of burnt offering or the cross. We can go no further without the sacrifice. Accepting what Jesus has done for us and allowing Him to cleanse us from all of our sins.

That brings us to the bronze laver. This is where the priests were to wash their hands and feet. New testament parallel can be water baptism or washing of water by the Word (Eph. 5:26). But without this, the priests could not enter. Also this is where we are to wash everything off of this world, cares, worries, forgiving others, etc. We are still in the place of praise, and glorifying Him.

Also in praising, is where walls come down. When the Israelites marched around Jericho and shouted, the walls came down. Your praise, will bring walls down that are inside of you. Walls that have been built to keep people out due to being hurt and because of things others have done wrong to you. We naturally build these walls to protect ourselves from others hurting us again, but when we build these walls, we are building a prison for ourselves. Praise will break these walls down. The more intense the praise, the faster the walls will come down. Praise like this also casts out pride and fear. Pride that if others see you, you won't look so cool to them and fear that what if someone else doesn't like it or understand it.

Some may need to do some intense praising, because the things inside of you may be real tough to break unless you make a conscious decision to do some serious praising. The praise I am talking about may even strain your voice. Some are so bound that they can barely sing at all. There is so much built up inside of them, that they can't verbally praise Jesus. You may have to force yourself to scream it out and jump to get yourself free. If you can't dance and shout for Jesus (unless you can't physically) then there is something inside of you that you need to get free from. If you can't shout and rejoice for Jesus like a fanatical football fan can when his team wins the superbowl, then there is something in you that you need to get free from.

So take some time to get free from whatever is hindering you. Praise like King David did, radically and joyfully. If others are embarrassed, then they are the ones who need freedom.

We then enter the Holy Place where we see to our right is the table of showbread. This is a parallel of the Word of God. The Word (Jesus) is our foundation, everything is built on the Word. We must partake of the Word and keep it before us. In our praise, this is a parallel place where we thank and glorify Him for allowing His body to be broken for us. We also praise Him that we are a part of His body and His bride.

To our left is the golden lampstand. The lamps fire kept burning because of the oil in it. The oil is a parallel to the Holy Spirit. We need to keep the Holy Spirit active in us, one way is by praying in tongues. We need the fire of God to continually burn within us and His presence will do just that. Asking the Holy Spirit to come in and move and have His way is a type of worship we can give. Singing in the Holy Spirit (other tongues) is another way of worship.

The next thing we come to is the altar of incense. This is a parallel of our prayers. Our prayers go up to God as a sweet incense to Him. There are many different songs of prayer that we can sing to the Lord. These songs can be songs that ask God to intervene in our situations, also songs that the Holy Spirit may come and have His way. Prayer songs are ones where you are asking God to do something in you, others, a city or even a nation.

We then come to the most holy place. In the old testament there was a veil. It was a large and fairly thick material with no opening in it. When Jesus hung on the cross and died, the veil was torn in two from top to bottom. There was no opening before that in the veil. So, how did the priest get from the holy place to the holy of holies, past the veil? Only one way that I can see is on their face. They had to get down on their face, humbling themselves, and enter into the presence of God. So humbling ourselves to enter into His presence is important, like Jesus said, you must become like a child.

So as we continue to press in, our words become less about us and totally focused on Him. Remember, love has nothing to do with self, but focuses on the other person. As we press into the Holy of Holies, we must humble ourselves and we will end up on our knees or our face. We humble ourselves and enter into the Holy of Holies. Our worship is now totally focused on Him. No I, we, us words, just words focused on Him. Lay on the floor and get lost in Him. The more you focus on Him, the deeper in His presence you will get. Let go of everything else, every thought, care and worry. Just focus on Him totally. Keep pressing in till you can see and feel a breakthrough. There will be a point that you know you are there, but don't give up until you reach His face. Then just be quiet. Shut everything else out and be quiet, maybe just repeat His name in your head, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.

This is the place where He can speak to you so clear, give you visions, a place where change in your life is absolute. As you lie there allowing the Holy Spirit (the very breath of God) to wash over you, over and over and over again. This is the place that was created for you and me and opened up when Jesus hung on the cross and the veil was torn in two. As you hang out in His presence, you will get filled and His presence will get all over you.

This is just like the waitress going to the drink dispenser and filling up her pitcher. As you are in His presence, He fills you up. Then when you go out into the world, you can minister and His presence spills out onto others. This is what Jesus did. He stayed full of the presence of God and His presence touched others. The deeper your relationship is with God, the more you will see others lives changed around you. But before you run empty, just get back into His presence and get filled up again.

We who are born again are the bride of Christ. We, as born again believers are called not only to having a savior, but into a relationship with Jesus. One reason the church is so poor and sick is because they ask Jesus to be their savior, but they don't go to the place that Jesus opened up for them. In the Old Testament, the priests were the ones allowed

into the presence of God to represent the children of Israel. Not just anyone could enter in. Jesus made the Holy of Holies available for every born again believer. Yet, many don't enter in, just like when God told Moses to have the children of Israel to come up to the mountain. They were afraid, they thought God would strike them dead. Why is it today that the church is not taught how to get to the very place that was made available to them? It's as if the church is still out in the desert and scared of His presence. Jesus made entering into His Holy presence possible. He wants us in His presence. If He didn't, He would not have torn the veil. Our Lord and King longs for us to enter into His presence. He desires to hold you, for you to sit in His lap, to touch you and love on you. Don't accept the lie that you can't or that it's not His desire. Your relationship with Him is priority one. He longs for that intimate relationship with you.

The only veil left today is your flesh and mind. You have to put everything of your flesh and desires to death and seek His face. It's not hard to get there, but it can be a battle. Don't give up, press in till your flesh and mind are not controlling you but that His desire for intimate worship with you is fully flowing.

He has called YOU into a relationship with Him and in His presence is where true and total freedom and peace is. He wants you to know it not only in heaven, but He has made it available here on earth by His precious blood. Your life in Him starts when you are born again, not when you die and go to heaven. Start your relationship now, seek His face, crawl up into your Papa's lap and get to know Him. Remember, He longs for that deep, intimate relationship with you.