

Omnipresence: Joy in God's Presence

Warm-Up Question:

Share a memory, whether recent or a long time ago, when you felt a lot of joy in someone's presence. What was it that brought you so much joy?

READ: Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24

I. THE EXTENT OF GOD'S PRESENCE

- ▶ Read 1 Kings 8:27, Jeremiah 23:23-24, and the top quote in the side bar. Discuss the extent of the presence of God.
- ▶ From Psalm 139:1-3, 8, 13-15, how is God's omni-presence personal?
- ▶ Read Psalm 16:11 and 21:6. What is God's desired reaction from us when it comes to his presence drawing near to us?

II. THE DISTANCE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

- ▶ Have you experienced times of being in the close presence of a person, but at the same time you felt relationally distant from them? Describe any times you have felt this in your relationship with God. What do you think caused it?
- ▶ Even though David felt God's presence in Psalm 139, he felt distance in Psalm 22:1-2 and Psalm 13:1 because of his suffering. Have you ever felt as if God was far away in a difficult time in your life? If so, describe it.
- ▶ From Is. 59:2 and Heb. 4:13, how do our sins cause distance from God's presence? How have you felt this is true in your life?

III. THE JOY IN GOD'S PRESENCE

- ▶ Read the middle quote in the sidebar. Discuss how you see a God in the Scriptures that moves toward you in your sin and suffering.
- ▶ From 1 Peter 3:18, John 17:23, 26, and 14:23, just how close have we been brought to the presence of God? Is it difficult to believe this? Difficult to feel it?
- ▶ Read the bottom quote in the sidebar. What are ways you can pursue to find more joy in the reality and presence of God through everyday moments?

"God, being infinite, does not dwell in space; He swallows up space. God fills heaven and earth just as the ocean fills a bucket which has been submerged in it a mile down... Heaven and earth are submerged in God, and all space too... God is not contained; God contains."
- A.W. Tozer

"The cumulative testimony of the four Gospels is that when Jesus Christ sees the fallenness of the world all about him, his deepest impulse, his most natural instinct, is to move toward that sin and suffering, not away from it."
- *Gentle and Lowly*

"The most holy and important practice in the spiritual life is the presence of God - that is, every moment to take great pleasure that God is with you"
- *The Practice of the Presence of God*

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