

## Devotional: Day 28: The Presence of God, The Holy Spirit

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God has a His way of letting us know what is right and what is wrong, and what His will is. This week has been a major week of counseling and ‘standing’ with many members of the worship and the church in general.

There seems to be a common start to every conversation, our spirits first testify that something is out of place! Whether we call it a feeling, knowing, an intuition, or a green light on the inside, we all have a witness in our spirit when something is in question.

**Colossians 4:12:** *“Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.”*

This is not usually an audible voice, just a witness in our hearts – something is not quite ‘right’. Or, you get a witness about certain opportunities and whether or not you should ‘go’ or ‘not go’. Even as I write I am questioning a few potential trips.

Even people who do not know God have some ability to discern. But, for the Christian, the Holy Spirit is inside to tell us what to do. We need to discern with our inner spirit and we increase our ability to discern by spending more time in His presence.

**Psalms 32:8:** *“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.”*

The presence of God changes everything.

Without God’s presence, though advances are made and things appear to change, the most critical aspect, that of the eternal, does not change. A simple and key element in all we do as Christians is that if God’s Presence is *there*, change is assured; but without His Presence, no amount of money, effort, genius or training seems to accomplish very much of anything *lasting*. We have repeatedly taught you and many others we work with, ‘Only what you do for Christ will last.’

**Psalms 48:14:** *“For this is God, our God forever and ever; He will be our guide even to death.”*

**Isaiah 42:16:** *“I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.”*

Someone who has been in the presence of God and has experienced an atmosphere saturated with that Presence comes away from the experience with a different view, one defined by hope and confidence.

As we come to the end of our fasting period, there should a new zeal, appetite and passion to remain in the Word of God. Feeding that experience of being in His presence with God’s Word, enhances the effect, strengthening vision and increasing faith to do *all* the will of God. In an earlier devotional, I was

encouraging all of us to find more time for personal worship. In daily worship the experience is reproduced; in prayer the experience *takes over*.

He has set eternity in our hearts... It is time to invite the presence of Almighty God into our lives—into every office, decision, event, place and situation.

You may be wondering about the picture that I have used at the top of the page! Well, my sister Mary Thompson-Myers living out in Calgary sent it to me this morning with the attached words from a Bob Frew:

*"I took this picture on Interstate.20, traveling to Leeds, AL. It has given me strength in the times of trouble. I feel I should share it with the rest of the world. I hope it is an inspiration to you. It just goes to show what we already know...We have a God, and he's watching over us. I e-mailed this picture to News Channel Fox 6. I was contacted by Meteorologist James Spann. He said that this picture of the sky is showing up in all states and around the world. He wanted to know where I was from and where I took it. He saw a similar picture taken in Texas. He said this is amazing to him. Would you look at this picture? It reminds me of that song 'He's got the whole world in his hands.' He is definitely in control."*

For me, I am reminded that His presence always surrounds us!