

## **Being aware of God's presence**

- God is everywhere - Psalm 139:7,8, Genesis 28:16
- We were created to enjoy God's presence
- God reveals Himself to those who seek Him earnestly. Deut 4:29
- the experience of God's presence in the O.T. Exodus 33:12 *The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."*
- Tabernacle ... Ark of God ... Temple ... Promise ....
- Jesus – God with us Matthew 1:23 *"and they will call him Immanuel" - which means, "God with us."*
- Holy Spirit – God's indwelling presence John 14:16,17
- Hope of heaven – basking in the presence of God. Rev 21:3

### **What would it look like to live like this?**

- To know God's love & holiness James 4:8
- To be empowered & to be His witnesses Acts 1:8
- To be transformed 2 Cor 3:17-18

### **What is meant by the manifest presence of God?**

#### **How can we prepare our hearts to enter God's presence?**

- Seek forgiveness
- Make space
- Thanksgiving
- Praise
- Worship
- Prayer
- Expectation

The message unveiled : God's presence : Nov 1<sup>st</sup>

1. What do these verses teach us about the presence of Jesus?

Matthew 18:19,20; Matthew 28:20; Luke 24:36; John 14:16-18; Acts 2:28; 1 Thess 3:13; Jude 1:24,25.

Share your experience of Jesus' presence with you.

2. The book "The practice of the presence of God" was written by Brother Lawrence, a "lay brother" among monks in the 1600s who went to serve in a monastery at the age of 55. Among his menial tasks were cooking and cleaning up for the order. While his hands did this routine work, he discovered his life's passion: the discipline of constant prayer and praise. He considered it his honour and his duty. It was the art of "practicing the presence of God in one single act that does not end."

Think through an average day and how this would change if you became more aware of God's presence with you. What can we learn from Brother Lawrence's example for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in life outside a monastery?

3. What was the effect of God's presence in these passages? Ex 19:14-19; 1 Kings 8:10,11; John 1:29-34; Rev 1:12-18. When the omnipotent (all-powerful), omniscient (all-knowing), omnipresent (present everywhere), eternal, infinite, holy, just, and loving God condescends to "come down" and touch weak and finite humans, what would you expect or predict might happen to the natural and normal order of things?

Pray together about situations where Jesus' transforming presence needs to be felt.

