

Omnipresence of God

Good morning, thanks for coming and allowing me to talk to you today. Thank you for your prayers as I worked on this message.

Often when we talk about the attributes of God we say, “yea I knew that”, but do we? There are many things of God that we find extremely difficult to comprehend or maybe even impossible to comprehend. And if we do understand them, have we allowed those attributes to change our lives? If we really understood them, I mean really understood them, would they not immediately bring us to our knees. In reality someday, it will, everyone will bow.

Philippians 2:9-12

⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Everyone will bow when they find out the name of Jesus and his attributes!

Last week, Mike talked about the Sovereignty of God. I think we all grew more knowledgeable on God's Sovereignty. God is powerful, all knowing, eternal, unchanging, self-sufficient. Thank you Mike for helping us to know God more.

Some of God's attributes are easy to understand:

All powerful – ok I know that power can be concentrated, and that God could have all power

All knowing - I can accept that God has all knowledge, especially as science discover new things. By the way, the things science are finding brings us closer to God not farther away as some atheists say.

How about eternal - This is a little more difficult. Everything in our life has a beginning and an end. Everything is born and unfortunately dies. When we say that God is outside of time, what does that mean. Isn't an hour today the same as yesterday? Can we even comprehend differences in time or even such things as no time? As I stated, as science reveals more about the universe we understand more about God. Since humanity began, people thought time was a constant until Albert Einstein in 1905 stated in his Special Theory of Relativity that time is not a constant. That was new to man, but God has always lived outside time. I

have tried to explain Einsteins Theory of Relativity to Deb, and I was not successful and I will not attempt to do that today.

How about the Omnipresence of God. Like eternal, omnipresence has no relationship to our existence. We have no comprehension of being in multiple places at the same time.

Today's message is on the Omnipresence of God.

Today's lesson will be broken down into four parts:

- 1) What is omnipresence
- 2) Biblical examples of saints sensing the omnipresence of God and why
- 3) Current day saints sensing the omnipresence of God and why
- 4) How as children of God we should respond

The Omnipresence of God is one of those attributes of God.

Omnipresence has two root words: omni and presence. Omni has the meaning of "all" or "every". Whereas presence has the meaning of "state of being somewhere" or being in a place or thing.

The Webster dictionary gives the definition of omnipresence as "widely or constantly encountered; common or widespread." Or we can say everywhere at the same time.

Looking at a Biblical dictionary it says that God's omnipresence is always being present everywhere. God's essence fills all space and that God's power and knowledge extend to every point in the universe at the same time. God transcends space and time while still being present in all of creation.

Ok, I think omnipresence is going to be a little harder to comprehend.

Let's look at what the Psalmist said.

Psalm 139:7-10

- ⁷ Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?
⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.

King Solomon wrote in Proverbs:
Proverbs 15:3

³ The eyes of the Lord are in every place,
keeping watch on the evil and the good.

Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 43:2:

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

In the New Testament we read:

Hebrews 13:5b

^{5b} for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

God will never leave you. He is always by your side. God is omnipresent in our life. He will never leave you nor forsake you.

When I was younger (much younger), I contemplated my life in heaven. I assumed that there may be hundreds of millions of people in heaven, although we could assume the narrow gate allows significantly fewer than that in heaven. But let's assume 100 million in heaven. If we also assume God is watching over hundreds of millions of His followers here on earth. So, if 200 million people looking for time with God. If everyone was allotted 10 minutes then doing the math, I could have my 10 minutes with God once every 3800 years. Obviously, my younger thinking was incorrect. God is with me and you right now and an hour from now and next week and next month and when you are taking your last breath and then into eternity.

How can God be everywhere? This is a question that many would ask, they ask because they desire to make God relatable to humanity and in doing so reduce God to an idol of their imagination.

To get an understand of how God can be omnipresent we first must understand that God is able to be omnipresent because “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24).

God is equally near to all parts of His universe.

God, being infinite, does not dwell in space; He swallows up all space.

God told Jeremiah in Jeremiah 23:23-24

²³ “Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God far away? ²⁴ Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord.

2 Chronicles 2:6

⁶ But who is able to build him a house, since heaven, even highest heaven, cannot contain him? Who am I to build a house for him, except as a place to make offerings before him?

God fills heaven and earth just as the ocean fills a bucket which has been submerged in it a mile down.

We know that God is out in space or in the air, but a more appropriate thought might be that he is like the water that surrounds us when we are at the bottom of the pool. He surrounds us. There is no part of us that he does not touch. You can't get away from him.

Luke tells us in Acts 17:28

²⁸ for “In him we live and move and have our being”

God is everywhere surrounding us, but we know from both the Bible saints and our own experiences we don't always sense His presence.

Let's look at the Lord revealed Himself to the first human, Adam.

Genesis 3:9-10

⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”^[a] ¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”

By the way God was not wondering where Adam was, he was asking if Adam knew where he (Adam) was.

The Bible is full of references showing the Lord revealing Himself to His children, but why. What are the purposes for the Lord revealing Himself.

Let's look at three reasons the Lord showed his presence to Moses.

First, Hebrews 11:27

²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.

Seeing him who is invisible.

The first reason for God to reveal himself - Overcoming Fear: The verse implies that Moses' faith allowed him to overcome fear, as he saw the invisible God who was with him.

The second verse, Exodus 33:18-23

¹⁸ Moses said, "Please show me your glory." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The Lord.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live."

The second reason for God to reveal himself is for us to gain faith. Because of God's glory, Moses was able to act boldly. Moses' faith allowed him to see the invisible God and act accordingly, even when facing earthly challenges. It suggests that Moses was able to persevere and overcome obstacles because he believed in and followed God, even though God was not physically visible.

The third, Deuteronomy 3:23-27

Moses Forbidden to Enter the Land

²³ "And I pleaded with the Lord at that time, saying, ²⁴ 'O Lord God, you have only begun to show your servant your greatness and your mighty hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as yours? ²⁵ Please let me go over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, that good hill country and Lebanon.' ²⁶ But the Lord was angry with me because of you and would not listen to me. And the Lord said to me, 'Enough from you; do not speak to me of this matter again. ²⁷ Go up to the top of Pisgah and lift up your eyes westward and northward and southward and eastward, and look at it with your eyes, for you shall not go over this Jordan.

In Deuteronomy we see the third reason – the Lord was showing Moses the consequences of his sin.

The Lord shows his presence to disciple Moses of this sin.

So, looking at Moses we see at least three reasons the Lord shows his presence:

- 1) Remove our fear
- 2) Give us strength
- 3) Correct us or outline the consequence of our sin

Additional Old Testament saints seeing the presence of God.

In 1 Kings 19:11-13, God whispered to the prophet Elijah.

¹¹ And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. ¹² And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper.^[a] ¹³ And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

God removing Elijah’s fear.

Joshua 5:14

¹⁴ And he said, “No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped^[c] and said to him, “What does my lord say to his servant?” ¹⁵ And the commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, “Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

God giving Joshua strength.

There are many, many other examples of the presence of the Lord in the Old and New Testament with the Apostle Paul and the Apostle John.

The presence of the Lord is not restricted to Bible saints and Biblical times. The presence of the Lord includes today and today’s saints.

I asked some members if they have really, truly felt the presence of the Lord. One of the best was from Gloria.

Quoting from Gloria:

"The Lord gave me such joy when I woke up from one of my surgeries and I knew in my heart that all I had was Christ, and I didn't need anything else. Nothing else mattered! If I could have moved, opened my eyes or talked I would have gotten up and danced. I was so happy. I have never felt his presence more, it was awesome. I didn't want to lose that intimate awareness of his presence. It was like a taste of the day that I will be in His presence and have that joy and more for eternity. It is a time that I remind myself of when the troubles of this world start to infringe on my joy in Christ. The Red Sea Rules book says God's presence in the trial is much better than exemption from the trial. True statement!"

God gave Gloria great joy.

Another from Lisa: "In response to your request my deepest sense of the omnipresence of our Lord has always been during times of importunate prayer. During those distressful times I am impressed with His presence around me and in me as His Spirit directs even my prayers when words fail me."

God gave Lisa a source of strength.

As both Gloria and Lisa have felt the presence of the Lord in their life. Hopefully all of us have also sometime in our lives been overwhelmed with the presence of the Lord.

Feeling God's presence is a deeply personal experience that can manifest in various ways, from Intense Love to Peace and Joy to an Inner Knowing. Individuals may experience a powerful, blissful feeling of love. Or they may feel a sense of peace and joy beyond words. Some individuals may experience a warm, comforting feeling, like an enveloping presence, or even a surge of energy. It can also manifest as a sense of inner knowing, a quiet assurance, or a feeling of love and connection.

In my own life I have felt the Lord's presence many times:

- 1) When I was saved, many of you have also sensed the Lord's presence for the first time when you were saved.
- 2) After the death of our first child, a miscarriage. I was overcome with a feeling of the Lord holding me up and giving me assurance that he had a plan for Deb and I and our family. By the way, I consider myself a modern-day Job, the Lord came right back and blesses us with twins and then a third although sometimes I wonder about Daniel!

- 3) During some medical issues of my own, again the Lord overwhelmed me and gave me assurance that he was in control.
- 4) One time on a flight to China for business. Not sure why the Lord overwhelmed me. I didn't feel I was in any danger or anything, but on the plane the Lord presence surrounded me and gave me assurance that even in this communist country, he was still there. And then he showed me what my fellow engineers in China were doing to reach the people in China for the Lord even though these engineers knew they were being watched.

I have asked many you where and what were the circumstances of feeling the presence of the Lord. These are some of your responses:

- When you were saved
- In the shower - confronted with some unconfessed sin
- At a church service, confronted by the fact that the father knows me completely – leading to salvation
- In health scares – giving strength to persevere
- In the death of love ones – strength to continue walking with the Lord
- In rough area or countries – to give strength and courage

This will date me, but on December 24, 1968 (Christmas eve) the crew of Apollo 8 read from Genesis while they were orbiting the moon. Understand this was the very first time that any man had left the earth, if there was a problem there was no way to save these men. And from my understanding they all felt the presence of the Lord while they were orbiting the moon – overcoming fear.

Our God and his presence is not restricted to your home, He is not restricted to your travels, He is not restricted by your country, He is not restricted by your planet or moon. The Lord is omnipresent.

If you have not felt the presence of the Lord in a long time, I pray that you would.

I have always wondered at the faith on the early Christians that faced the lions in the coliseum, but with the presence of God, I see that facing the lions would not be difficult.

I believe that at the moment of death all believers will feel the presence of the Lord and will have complete joy and comfort.

Paul tells the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians 5:8

⁸ We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. KJV

Even if we claim to understand God's omnipresence, we often feel He is distance from us.

But you may say, but I don't sense him, I don't feel his presence.

I know you might find this unbelievable, but Deb and I fight occasionally, although I am right 95% of the time, but that is for a different message. I also expect that there may be one more fight when we get home today.

The point is that we are near to each other, we are in the same house, maybe in the same room, but we are quite distant from each other. We don't see each other nor communicate with each other although we are physically still very close.

David felt that the Lord was not present with him in Psalm 13.

13 How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

² How long must I take counsel in my soul
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

³ Consider and answer me, O Lord my God;
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

⁴ lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

⁵ But I have trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

⁶ I will sing to the Lord,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

All of us sometimes feel the Lord is not present but he is. We have chosen to separate ourselves from him by our sin. I pray that if there is something that is keeping you from God you will repent and that in the very near future you are overwhelmed with God's presence.

The omnipresence of God can be a terrifying truth.

From the moment we lay our head down to the moment we wake up, God is there examining our heart conditions, our thoughts are known.

God knows every wicked word we speak, our lies, our anger, our blasphemy before we speak, and yet He does not destroy us. He allows us to speak and live another day. He is slow to anger and patient with us. How unexplainable are His ways. How thankful we must be that He holds onto us, not the other way around.

He knows our words and as a good Father, He continues to love us. He disciplines us with patient care, forming our character, conforming us into the image of His Son.

Our omnipresent God is our protector. God says “you will not need to fight this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf” (2 Chron 20:17).

We often trust in our own strength and ability to resist temptation, persevere in suffering and endure during times of persecution. However, the armor we are given is not our own, it is from God. Eph 6:13 “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

We fight the good fight, but it is He who gives us the strength. On our own we have no strength, but we are His and because of Him we are overcomers.

1 John 4:4

⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

As much as we desire an emotional experience of feeling God's presence, we often desire to escape His presence. Just like Adam, we flee in shame from Him when we sin. We flee from Him when we avoid a time of prayer and Bible study. We run from the risks that He wants us to take for the sake of the gospel.

Even if we try to escape Him in Sheol, in other words death, can we avoid Him?

Charles Spurgeon stated that “to trust God in the light is nothing, but to trust Him in the dark – that is faith.

Even when we don't feel Him, and feel we are walking alone through this dark world, through faith we can trust that He is guiding us by the hand, leading us through sanctification to glorification.

Often, because of our own lack of faith we fail to see his presence even though he is right beside us.

A poem this poem I believe you all know:

One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.
This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me."
He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you."

Psalm 139:17-18

¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
¹⁸ If I would count them, they are more than the sand.
I awake, and I am still with you.

What should our response to this reality and how must it change the way we live?

How does the truth of God omnipresence affect us?

- 1) It must change our view of secret sins.
- 2) It must lead to passion for prayer
- 3) It must comfort us in knowing we are never alone
- 4) It must drive us to be obedient

First, It must change our view of secret sins.

We know God is omnipresent yet the moment we think no one is looking we pursue sinful pleasures. We can't flee from His watchful eye, so why do we continue to do that which is right in our own eyes? In remembering God's omnipresence, we can be on the offence against temptations and the attacks of the enemy.

Psalm 119:11

¹¹ I have stored up your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.

The Word of God and knowledge of who God is must change our view of hidden sin. Knowing He is there next to us much change the practices and habits in private and in public.

The Psalmist explains the anguish of trying to hide our sin in comparison to confession and repentance.

Psalm 32:3-5

³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up^[a] as by the heat of summer.
⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Let us live our lives as people bought with a price, our life is not our own. Let us flee not from His presence, but from sin. We need to long for obedience and hate what the Lord hates and love what the Lord loves.

I love the answer that Isaiah gave after he saw the presence of the Lord.

Isaiah 6:4-7

Isaiah's Vision of the Lord

6 ⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

Do we have the same awe as Isaiah to the might and glory of the Lord?

Woe is me, for I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips!

Are we awed by the omnipresence of the Lord and His great power?

Second, it must lead to passion for prayer

How often do we neglect prayer because it feels like we are just talking to ourselves, or perhaps we use the excuse that He is sovereign and what He wants will happen so why pray.

The Lord is near to either witness our desire to spend time with Him, or our lazy neglect of Him.

Matthew 6:6

⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

How simple are these instructions from Jesus, go, without a show and desire Him.

Knowing our Lord is omnipresent we can feel confident that we are not alone and that the Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. The Lord hears the prayers of His children and answers to their petitions according to His will.

So let us remember the words of Paul,

Philippians 4:6

⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

The third reality, it must comfort us in knowing we are never alone

We may believe in God, yet we doubt He is near. He is invisible and our lack of sight weakens our faith. We must repent of these feelings. We feel that way because we are either ignorant of the truth of who He is, we deny it, or we turn to our own self-reliance.

Do we believe the words of the prophet Isaiah?

Isaiah 43:2

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

We may feel like David,

Psalm 89:46-47

⁴⁶ How long, O Lord? Will you hide yourself forever?

How long will your wrath burn like fire?

⁴⁷ Remember how short my time is!

Even when you don't feel Him, He is there. He may be silent or seemly distant for a moment, perhaps to discipline us or to teach us, but He is working all things for His glory and our good.

Lastly, it must bring us into obedience.

The final reason we often see the presence of the Lord is because of sin. Sin associated with doing something against God desire or not doing what he commands us.

Likewise, Josua saw the same presence of God.

Joshua 7:2-11

Israel Defeated at Ai

² Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, "Go up and spy out the land." And the men went up and spied out Ai.

⁴ So about three thousand men went up there from the people. And they fled before the men of Ai,

⁵ and the men of Ai killed about thirty-six of their men and chased them before the gate

⁶ Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until the evening, he and the elders of Israel. And they put dust on their heads.

¹⁰ The Lord said to Joshua, "Get up! Why have you fallen on your face? ¹¹ Israel has sinned;

My own experience with the omnipresence of the Lord.

Last November when I was preaching, I told the story of Bob who I was witnessing to. Sorry for those who are hearing the story a second time, or some of you who may be hearing it for the tenth time. But this story is critical to this message and as an example of the omnipresence of the Lord. Earlier I had talked about the presence of the Lord in my life during times of trials, hardships or times of uncertainty. I also felt the presence of the Lord just like Jonah did because of my disobedience. I have been witnessing to man named Bob for several years. Bob was an extremely smart man and was well read. In November of 2023 Bob asked me to show that God existed, that Jesus was his son and that he died for our sins. The challenge was that he wanted proof

without referencing the Bible. Although we all know that the Bible not only is our source of counsel it also is an accurate historical reference. Anyway, I took on the challenge and the Lord provided the answers to Bob's questions within a couple of months. Now here is where my disobedience comes in, I procrastinated going over to Bob's house. Does anyone else fight with procrastination? Really, no fights with procrastination but me. Anyway, on May 30, 2024, I was working on Deb's 5th wheel, and I dropped it right on my brand-new truck. While I was sitting on the lawn pouting about why me (this was my Joshua moment), I felt the presence of the Lord telling me to **get up** and go over to Bob's house and share the results of my findings. I immediately got in my new but damaged truck and went over to Bob's, and we had a great discussion, and Bob was clearly understanding all the information the Lord had given me. The next Tuesday I witnessed to Bob and two other people also witnessed to him. On Thursday Bob went to heaven.

The Lord in His perfect timing had shown His presence to me to confront my sin and to confront Bob on his.

I am so thankful that God showed His presence and disciplined me for my sin while I was hooking up my truck.

How is it imaginable that God should withhold from his people? How shall he not clothe them, feed them, protect and deliver them? Surely if he would not spare his own son, it can never be imagined that ever he should withhold from his people what is good for them.

He is near seeing your sin, healing your pain, fighting your battles and this must bring comfort.

When God transforms our heart, that faith which he gives us places all confidence not in our abilities or works but on Christ and Christ alone. Our lives are no longer our own, we have died to self and that death is gain for our dependencies is completely on the On God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

All creation is not only by his design but is sustained by Him. If God took a day off from being God for only a brief second, the entire universe would cease.

1 Corinthians 3:16

¹⁶ Do you not know that you^[a] are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

God who in us is always near, so let us stop making excuses for living as if God was not close. Let us trust in His Word and who He is, the all-powerful, all-knowing, omnipresent sovereign God.

Romans 8:32

³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Let's pray.