

Assurance

Part # 1:

How to be certain...of God's Presence

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The hallmark of the Christian faith is that God is alive, active and desires a **personal** relationship with His creation.

Throughout the Bible, God is seen as one who is committed to **revealing** His nature to all who seek Him.

Yet there are times in the lives of both seekers and believers, where we **question** the presence of God, and it's **relevance** in our lives.

Central Point...

Certain Existence

The Bible tells us that the existence of God is **evident** for **all** to see:

Romans 1:20 ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Any attempt to consider the existence of God in terms that we can relate has to consider the following truths:

1. God **predates** the universe – he's not limited by **time**.
2. God **transcends** our reality – he's not limited to the **laws** of the universe.

The Bible is also very clear concerning the extent of God's presence:

Psalm 139:7-12 *Is there anyplace I can go to avoid your Spirit?
to be out of your sight?*

If I climb to the sky, you're there!

If I go underground, you're there!

If I flew on morning's wings

to the far western horizon,

You'd find me in a minute—

you're already there waiting!

Then I said to myself, "Oh, he even sees me in the dark!"

At night I'm immersed in the light!"

It's a fact: darkness isn't dark to you;

night and day, darkness and light, they're all the same to you.."

Two distinct realities:

- for the seeker – a source of **crisis**.

- for the believer – a source of **comfort**.

Focal Point...

Certain Invitation

We can be certain of God's constant presence in our lives when we...

1. Begin each day **seeking** God.

Proverbs 8:17 *I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.*

Psalm 5:3 *Listen to my voice in the morning, LORD.*

Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly.

2. Read God's **Word**.

Psalm 119:129-136 *Every word you give me is a miracle word—
how could I help but obey?*

Break open your words, let the light shine out,

let ordinary people see the meaning.

Mouth open and panting,

I wanted your commands more than anything.

Turn my way, look kindly on me,

as you always do to those who personally love you.

Steady my steps with your Word of promise

so nothing malign gets the better of me.

Rescue me from the grip of bad men and women

so I can live life your way.

Smile on me, your servant;

teach me the right way to live.

I cry rivers of tears

because nobody's living by your book!

3. Pray **daily**.

Our praying should provide opportunities to:

- offering our **day** for His service.

Romans 12:1 *So brothers and sisters, since God has shown us great mercy, I beg you to offer your lives as a living sacrifice to him. Your offering must be only for God and pleasing to him, which is the spiritual way for you to worship.*

- confess our **sin**.

1 John 1:9 *But if we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.*

- present your **needs** and the needs of **others** to God.

James 5:16 *"...pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results."*

- experience God's **peace**.

Philippians 4:6-7 *Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

4. Express daily **thanksgiving**.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 *Whatever happens, keep thanking God because of Jesus Christ. This is what God wants you to do.*

5. **Listen** for God's voice.

Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God!
I will be honored by every nation.
I will be honored throughout the world."

6. At the end of the day, **rest** in Him.

Hebrews 4:1 *Now, since God has left us the promise that we may enter his rest, let us be very careful so none of you will fail to enter.*

Turning Point...

There are generally two responses to the certainty of God's constant presence. We can:

1. attempt to **escape** it.
2. attempt to **embrace** it.

Our challenge...

Believers – simply ask God,

Father God – How can I take full advantage of your constant presence?

Seekers – If you are one checking out the claims of Christianity, know that the future God desires for you to experience is one that includes a growing personal relationship with Him. The good news is that to receive it, you simply have to ask Him.

To invite Christ into your heart, you can simply pray,

Lord Jesus, I want to receive your love today. I believe you came and died for me, and I want to be your friend and follower, starting today. So I officially invite you into my life today. Lead me, guide me, love me, so that I can love others better each day. In Jesus' name, Amen.