Practicing The Presence of God

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1. The Daily Presence

Lets turn to Matt. 6. We want to pull out something that Jesus spoke about in the Sermon on the Mount.

> ***Matt. 6:22-34 The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness. No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, or about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to the span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O men of little faith. Therefore do not be anxious saying, What shall we eat? Or What shall we wear? For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well. Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day.***

Now we have always memorized verse 33. It says, Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things shall be your as well. But there is another verse that is next to it that we sometimes overlook and do not see the connection. In fact verse 34 plays a role for verse 33 to be activated. Verse 34 says Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day.

You will notice that Jesus talked about worry many times. Starting from verse 25 you find it mentioned several times. It is first found in verse 25 it says do not worry. Then verse 27 which of you by worrying - this is the second time. Verse 28 the third time - why do you worry? Then the fourth time in verse 31 therefore do not worry. And then He adds the fifth time as if we forgot what He says. He says in verse 34 do not worry. Five times He mentioned worry, "Do not worry," "Which of you by worrying?" "Why do you worry?" "Why do you worry?" "Therefore do not worry." "Do not worry."

And as I was meditating on these passages, I realize that when Jesus tells us not to do something, He always gives us a solution as to how handle it and what to do. Some people try all kinds of ways to stop themselves from worrying, like smoking, taking anti-depressant pills, drinking and the like. Worrying seems to be second nature to human beings. But the Christian way is to practice Philippians 4: 6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Then I realized that there is something that Jesus said in verse 34 that is not very well understood. See we understand the first part that tells us not to worry about tomorrow. What about the second part that says for tomorrow will be anxious for itself? Or as the NKJV says for tomorrow will worry about its own things? What does He mean by for tomorrow will worry about its own things? I thought human beings do the worrying; the day doesn't do its worrying. But Jesus says, "Let tomorrow worry about itself."

We are going on a new series and we are teaching on the practicing on the presence of God. We have talked about the three levels of God's

presence in general and the degrees of God's presence. I believe practicing the presence of God has a totally different set of rules that we need to adhere to. It is talking about having God's presence while you are driving a car; when you are cooking your food; when you are busy about the things of this life; when you walk down the supermarket; while you are doing your office work; having God's presence in everything that we do. So far, many of us have seen God's presence to be progressive and a reward that we receive at the end of a certain accomplishment. We know we can seek His presence in a prayer meeting. We know that God manifest Himself into our life. We know that God reveals Himself in His glorious presence from time to time. Yet there is an area where we learn to practice the presence of God. Imagine what it is like if 24 hours we sense and we know God's presence. Yet that is something that God desires us to have.

Daily Walk

So let me give a few pointers here as we do a series on practicing the presence of God. Under No. 1 it is a daily walk. Yesterday you may have God's glorious presence. In fact, sometimes you may have a strong manifestation of God and after sometime you forgot about it. It may have touched your life and changed you to a certain extend and then afterwards you forgot about that. You lose your temper, you lose your cool, you get irritated and God's presence seems to leave. Sometimes some people who have experienced God's glorious presence don't seem to be able to keep it. That will be a great concern. I mean if you experienced God's presence and you cannot keep it, something could be wrong. We could be leaking vessels. We are not vessels that could contain and hold on to His presence. God wants us to learn how to practice His presence, to know and acknowledge His presence.

One of the first keys that I found in the practice of God's presence is to take it one day at a time. When you develop that further we may need to take it one moment at a time. It doesn't mean that we do not plan our lives in a responsible way. We can do with the help of the Spirit of God. But as we grow out of our childhood, we live more by the month and the year than by the day. We lose the sense of enjoying God's presence everyday. For example, a student studying on a three year course may

be so engrossed in trying to finish that three year course that he forgets the moments and the days that passed by and that he does not seem to be enjoying God's presence everyday.

And one of the keys is do not worry; Jesus tells us five times not to worry; He tells us to live one day at a time. Your bills may be due on the 7th of the next month. But the 7th is still some time away. Isn't it amazing that on the 30th of the previous month you are worrying when the 7th hasn't come yet? It's still a long way. I am not talking about evading your responsibility. But I am talking about an aspect of God's promise that says here about seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you. That's an aspect about learning how to walk with God day by day and you take it one day at a time. One day at a time, you approach the situation.

Recently as God spoke to me about buying a building to set up a new office, there were several things that I began to learn in the process. I felt what it was like when for example a payment of two hundred thousands dollars is due in just 3 days' time and there isn't any resources. You know what the feeling is like when you have really exhausted all your resources. I mean you have to trust God with all your might and there is nobody else to turn to. We have walked through that step by step all through the way. See you walk by faith and not by sight. When the Lord began to speak to us about buying up a building, all we had was enough funds for the down payment and there were several other things to pay for. We began to take them step by step. And I said, "Lord this is really stretching our faith." Then I heard the voice of the Holy Spirit whispering in my heart and said, "Son, there is one key that I will show you."

I am speaking to some of you who may be having debts for million of dollars. Or you may be having financial debts for hundred of thousands of dollars. Or for some of you may be having a problem of settling a payment of a few hundred dollars. The main key is to take it one step at a time. The Lord said, "Son I want you to take it one day at a time." He didn't even want me to think about those things. He said, "Wait till it comes and you'll see." And I almost live in a sense from week to week. We negotiated with several banks for loans. Then we received negative answers from some banks. What are you going to do when you have paid your deposit and it seems that there is no way you are going to get

your loan? Think about the feeling. You would lose the down payment of several thousands of dollars for nothing. What I normally do is I go for a very long walk. I said, “Let me forget about it and let me enjoy a good walk and talk with God and enjoy God’s presence.” I need to get into that position. I call it a position of God’s presence. Then I started talking to God practicing Philippians 4. God said, “Don’t worry wait and you will see what happens.” Miraculously things started to turn. I could see week by week the situation changing. Suddenly one banker started calling up followed by another saying that our loan application was approved and suddenly I began to see some positive developments. I told my wife, “There are times when I carried the burdens and nobody knew.”

I heard about another brother who was down and discouraged because he didn’t clinch a particular deal. I said he doesn’t know what I went through. I told my wife just exactly one week ago I have negative answers for every loan application and I never told a soul; I never got discouraged. What I learn is to practice God’s presence. Learn to walk day by day with Him. God said, “Just enjoy My presence today. Tomorrow is tomorrow.” Let’s think about it: if tomorrow you were to die, what’s the best thing for you to do? Enjoy today. I am not talking about eat, drink and be merry. I am talking about fast and pray and praise. Right now, I may as well enjoy God’s presence. I began to see it in a different way. I said, “Well, if you are going to lose your money, wait till the day come and lose your money. But until you lose your money now rejoice in God.” You might as well worship God, enjoy His presence. If that’s going to happen well let it happen. As for you and the house of the Lord, you are going to worship God. And I made a determination in my heart that I will spend my time with God and I will continue praising God and continue worshiping God.

You deal with all your feelings. What are some of the feelings that you would have when you are in that situation. No. 1 you feel like everyone has deserted you. No. 2 you get upset and angry and disappointed because people whom you think should help you did not help you. No. 3 you began to get upset at God why He doesn’t come through. All those things are emotional stirrings that need to be calmed. The Lord showed me how to walk one step at a time. I said to God, “For let me pray and worship You and take it one step.” And then the very next week good

news came when it was bad news before. Suddenly all the bankers said, “Okay.” And I sat there and said, “Imagine if I was not a believer how I could have reacted.” You could be so discouraged so down then you give up pursuing. The very next week everything went through. Then another next week another situation comes. And you learn to walk one step at a time. We are at a stage where we have walked through all those things step by step, one step at a time. And almost everything is falling together. You don’t know the amount of tension involved that is there you could easily fall into. That’s when I learnt how to walk and exercise God’s presence. Over the past 4 months, I have been working 7 days a week non-stop. I have to preach on Sundays. I had to travel here and there to minister the same way. At the same time in the new office, I was helping the renovation and cleaning the place everyday. Only yesterday, I stayed right through and Saturday right up to 6 in the evening and went for the choir presentation without letting down on whatever I am doing.

God taught me something during these 4 months the daily presence of God. How His presence is as strong wherever and whatever you do. And there are key principles that God began to show me about taking it moment by moment.

Let me give you scriptures to show you that the secret of the Christian life in drawing strength and getting Matt. 6:33 to work for you have to do with a daily thing and not weekly thing or yearly things.

Look at the book of Psalms 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord. And on his law he meditates day and night. Many Christians have forgotten the principle of walking daily with God.

In Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success.

Daily process it’s the secret of learning of how to take one day at a time. Remember tomorrow is still tomorrow. How you treat today and how you walk today is the key to tomorrow’s success. Some of you your bills are coming up lets next week. But the next week is still 7 days away. You take it one day at a time. For now while you are in church, enjoy God’s presence. You may have burdens in your heart; you may have family

problems, business problems. But those are outside. You are in church now. When you worship God, you worship with all your heart. You enjoy this moment with God.

I began to observe and look into the scriptures to see how this daily presence works in our life. We will cover more and more points as it comes. And the main point we are covering now is how we need to acknowledge the presence of God daily. And as you learn to acknowledge it daily, you learn to acknowledge it moment by moment in whatever situation you are in. I began to remind myself that the presence of God is my main pursuit in my life. What do I do and what happen to get the daily presence of God. So, we are still at point one. We have only covered one today but under two little sub-points:-

a) A Desire And A Hunger For God's Presence.

I am used to spend a lot of time with God and the strength of God's presence. I love to just be alone with God. I love to see that whatever little task we need to do, the desire for God is always there and it burns in my heart. God wants us to desire Him. There must come a hunger for His presence and His longing. You enjoy it coming over your spirit. You enjoy it coming over your soul. This presence of God and you could sense everyday. Its awesome, there is a hunger that we need. Some people don't desire that presence but once you have contacted God's presence, you want it again and again. This is why it is important to come to a prayer or a revival meeting or any meeting that has a presence of God. Because once you tasted the presence of God then you know what you missed. If you don't taste the presence of God in a meeting like this, we don't even know what we missed. We don't know what we could have had. Once you have the presence of God and you missed it its different you feel different. Its like you are missing something like your clothes are missing. Like a part of you is missing. The hunger must be there. There is the intimate missing of God.

Jesus walked so close in God's presence that I believe all the time He was conscious of God's presence. There was only one moment in His life when He could not feel that presence. In the book of Matt. 27:46 when

Jesus was hanging on the cross because He became sin for us. As He hung on the cross, for a moment of time God has to turn His face away from Jesus because He became sin for us and God cannot take sin. When at 12 noon the sixth hour, it was supposed to be bright but it was dark. Even the heavens were dark when God turned His face away. Storm cloud seems to be gathering at 12 noon. It was pitch darkness. At that very moment Jesus felt that presence left Him. And He cried and cried that is the secret cry of every sinner when He lost God “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” My God, my God why hast thou forsaken Me. O He missed that presence. For that several hours when He was on the cross He missed God’s presence. Man was born in sin and didn’t even know the presence that he lost. But Jesus knew what He lost the presence of God. And it’s that presence that He wants more than anything else. The presence of God is more valuable than silver and gold. The presence of God is more valuable than rubies and diamonds.

Before the nation of Israel fell and was conquered, the presence of God left them. As long as the presence of God was still there they were preserved. King David when he fell into sin. He didn’t cry that he lost his kingdom. He didn’t cried that he will lose his prestige and his fame and his silver and his gold. But that cry came in the book of Psalms 53 that says, “Take not Thy Spirit from me.” It is because if he didn’t have His Spirit, nothing else counts. That hunger for God’s presence must be in our lives until it means more to have God’s presence in our lives than to have success. Although the presence will bring you success, in our hearts we need to hunger for His presence. We need to long for His presence. And you won’t know what you missed until you taste a glimpse of His glory. In corporate meetings where you are touched by the presence of God, you would know what you could have had. And you began to hunger for more.

Without that hunger it is not possible to practice the presence of God daily. I remember that I worked 7 days a week non-stop meanwhile keeping the same responsibilities. I remember there are times when I said God I love to be with you and I love that presence. And I cried and said God I really missed you. Then God began to speak to me teach me about His daily presence.

Let me give some more scriptures in the book of Exodus 33:17-18 And

the Lord said to Moses, ”This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” Moses said, “I pray thee show me Thy glory.” Look at how hungry Moses was for God. And God has answered his prayer it was not enough he wants God’s presence. Then in verse 12 Moses said to the Lord, “See, thou sayest to me, “Bring up this people; but thou has not let me know whom thou will send with me. Yet thou hast said “I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.” Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found favor in they sight, shown me now thy ways, that I may know thee and find favor in thy sight. Consider too that this nation is thy people.” And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” And he said to him, “If thy presence will not go with me, do not carry us up from here.”

Some of us may not know what is transpiring here. After the children of Israel had sinned against God and failed God, God said in chapter 32:34 But now go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you; behold, my angel shall go before you. God Himself implies that He doesn’t want to be with His people. He just sends His angel with His people. Moses was not satisfied with just the angel’s presence. Moses wanted God Himself to be present. He didn’t get stuck in just the manifestation. He wanted God’s presence. And when he hungered after God and said, “God if your presence doesn’t go with us we don’t want to go Lord.” We want your presence. We need your presence. And God said, “Alright My presence will go with you.” Then only was Moses satisfied. Then he asked something for himself. He wanted personally to have more of the presence of God. We need to develop a great hunger for His presence. When the hunger is there then only can we practice the presence of God. There is a little book called “The Practice of God’s Presence” by Bro. Lawrence. He learned to practice God’s presence and I have benefited through these 4 months because I had the opportunity to practice the presence of God. I had the opportunity to develop the daily presence of God. I take it positively. I take every challenge that comes. I remember I was working very hard and still meditating on the presence of God. My physical body was tired out but the presence is there. The hunger for the presence is part of the key to draw on His presence.

In the gospel of Luke 24 the reason why we need to hunger for God’s

presence is that God wants to be invited into our daily life. It's up to us whether we invite God into our daily life or not. You could be so busy doing it without God. Did you invite God into your office work? Did you invite God into everything that you do? Invite God into your daily life. In Luke 24 they didn't it was Jesus but Jesus was walking with them and it says here in verse 28 So they drew near the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, but they constrained Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." He indicated that he would have gone further. Jesus wanted to go further and didn't want to stay. He would have gone further and disappeared out of their lives and they wouldn't know who was this man that talked to them that caused their hearts to burn like fire when He spoke the words of God. They didn't know it was Jesus. Then they in verse 29 they said, "Stay with as the day is far spent" not knowing that they were inviting the Lord. Then the Lord stayed.

But its something that is interesting there. God does not interfere in our daily affairs until we invite Him. Some of you probably lost your keys or lost something you misplaced in the house somewhere. And you could never find it. But have you notice all you have to do is ask God where is it. The moment you ask Him and say Lord can you help me to find it? It just pops up. Either it comes to your mind you remember where it was or you just find it in the very place almost by accident. The question is why for 3 day and 3 nights you have been looking high and low and you never really put it as part of your praise. I mean to say you may be thinking that God is too big for me to look for my house keys. God is big enough for big problems and God is available for the smallest problems. I have found that we need to ask Him and we need to hunger for Him in our daily lives. We need to desire for His presence to be there. We need to desire His daily presence. Some of you ladies are so involved in your kitchen planning a menu for your whole family and you never asked God for help. Even though you could be an expert cook at least you could be polite to say God welcome into my cooking, welcome into my daily life, welcome to my kitchen. Help me in all these daily things. I have found that in all the small little things we need to actually invite Him. I remember when we planning the renovation I asked God, "What shall we do about this and what about that? O God we are stuck here, help me in this little thing." Then His presence and ideas come. That's if He is invited. He will

not help you to look for your lost keys until you ask Him. Why, He wants to be wanted and to be desired. He doesn't want to intrude into our daily life. Although He is the Lord He is the gentle Lord. Although He is the Lord and the owner of our lives yet He wants a day-to-day welcome in our life. Some of you may be in different profession. You could be an accountant, lawyer or whatever every file you take you say, "God help me to do this. Lord I need your presence as I do this." As you acknowledge it something will come out of your life. The practice of God's presence will increase in your life and you learn to walk daily with God.

b) Tuning Your Frame Of Mind To The Presence Of God

Lets turn to II Cor. 3:14 onwards But their minds were hardened; for to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ it is taken away. Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their minds; but when a man turns to the Lord the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

The second condition in the practice of God's presence is that it is actually just a frame of mind. The first is hunger for God. Secondly it's a frame of mind. Let me give a little example that could identify with your life. Lets say that you get up in the morning and you didn't do your devotion well. And by the day you didn't really feel God's presence. But somewhere along the line in the day maybe in the afternoon you picked up an inspirational Christian book. And as you read that Christian book which takes you lets say about one to two hours. And you complete the reading of it because it is very interesting. From the time you started reading you didn't feel God's presence. When you completed reading you were touched by the book and you sensed God's presence. What has taken place? Geographically everything is the same. Physically everything is still the same. What happened is the words that were coming from the book has affected your mind. Begin to turn your mind

into a certain frame of reference that access God's presence. And in that different frame of mind that was turned about by the thoughts that came through the book you sensed God's presence. So it's the frame of mind.

The bible says that the veil between the presence of God, the glory of God and our life is in the mind. So reverse it and you get the answer. Every time you cannot sense God's presence means that you are in the wrong frame of mind. Every time you cannot sense God's presence it is because somewhere along the day your frame of mind has changed to a certain set where you cannot sense His presence. And all you need to do is to turn back that frame of mind back into the position where you can sense God's presence. We have been doing that through hearing tapes, reading books, singing songs, reading inspirational books or through fellowship with Christian people who love God and love the presence of God or through testimonies. All these things come to your perception through words and through thoughts that affect you and turn your mind here for God is present everywhere. When you don't feel His presence, it is because your frame of mind has been turned in such a way that you can't detect His presence. Your radio transmitter is set in a wrong place. The radio waves are there but you can't pick it up because it's not set correctly into the presence of God.

The presence of God is always there. It is Paul who quoted these words in the book of Acts in Him we live and move and have our being. Paul is one of those who practiced the presence of God. Some of us may think that is a small little truth. It's a powerful truth that will cause you to be immune to many of the things Christians go through. Acts 17:28 For in him we live and move and have our being. So Paul is talking about the presence of God everywhere. Do you know where Paul was? Paul was in the Greek temple. And he was not affected by any demon powers that were there. When you learn to practice God's presence demons are afraid of you not you of demons. Idols if there demons involved are afraid of you not you of them. But so many Christians are afraid of idols and temples and all these things. And when the restaurant has a little altar there they feel so uncomfortable sitting there eating their meals. What kind of testimony do we have? You mean our God is only in the church, in a prayer meeting, in a revival meeting but not with us when we are alone? When we practice the presence of God you carry God's presence

wherever you are. And Paul was in the temple and he was not affected. I know Christians get affected when they are near those things. Why should it be? I mean you could be passing an idol worshipping procession if you are practicing the presence of God it wouldn't affect you. Some Christians who see a voodoo on the floor or something like that they wouldn't even dare to go and step on it. They say don't step on it, who knows your leg may get injured afterwards. Your leg becomes cursed.

The presence of God is a mind frame. If you get locked into a right mind frame the presence of God is always there. Like God says, "My presence will give you rest," He told Moses. And when you are at rest you do not worry. When you don't worry you seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things are added to you. You take it one day at a time. You just enjoy His presence day by day. Tomorrow is tomorrow; today let me enjoy God's presence. The problems are your problems. Just take it one at a time just enjoy God's presence. Some of you may have tremendous burdens in your heart. Don't put them all together at one time. Just enjoy God's presence and tomorrow some of you are going back to work. As you go back to work, just enjoy God's presence and ask God what is the first thing for me to do. Maybe it may take 10 steps to solve your problem. And you cannot see the solution because the solution is in 10 steps.

But as you practice God's presence, some of the most complicated situations you got into will unwind by themselves by God's grace. I asked God what to do and God took me one step at a time. For me sometimes it takes 16 steps to solve one problem. Then God showed me just one little step. God said the first thing I want you to do is just fill this form and put this thing through. So I just signed the form, gave it in, and say God now I just enjoy your presence. Then, "Lord, what is step two?" My problem was still not solved since this is just one sixteenth of it. Then the Lord said, "Now I want you to call them and propose this." So I just called them and made my proposal to them. Sometimes it takes 16 steps to solve one problem. But if I had allowed myself to worry about that it will never be solved. Now not every idea that you have comes from God. But its important that you learn to discern in the Spirit and begin to move one step at a time. Then by the end of the time you finished everything and I

looked back and said how did the whole thing take place. You couldn't believe that all those things were done because it was done through the grace of God.

As we take step by step the Lord began to show a way. It doesn't happen in one big step. Many of us are not seeing the solution because you think the solution one step. It may be many tiny little steps. And some of the steps are so small that it looks like you are not moving. I want to encourage some of you that I know what shoes you are in. Some of you big business men you shared with me your problems. I know what its like. But it's the same principle that we all got to tap on, the presence of God. And if my mind was not in the frame of reference I don't think the small little step could even come. I will not be receiving that because I have turned the wrong way. It's important to keep your mind in the right frame of reference whatever problem you are in. Because it is through your mind that God will give you the Spirit of wisdom, the ideas to bring solutions to your problems. Now just sitting down and asking God to go and do the work will not solve the problem. I had to do my part. God prospers the works of your hands. God prospers whatever little step you take. They were not be solved by just sitting down and doing nothing. Praying to God, keeping His presence and taking one little step that He shows at a time, solved the problem.

For example, we had mortgaged a house for a certain amount. It was a hundred and thirty thousand in order to have a cash flow. One of the ideas God gave was your house is now more valuable. Go and revalue it and increase the over draft. We did that and it was increased to one hundred and ninety two. See small little step that you do. And when we were doing it we wouldn't realize how important it was to have the capacity. I believe that if I had not taken that first step up till today nothing would have happened. The first tiny little step was to take all we have and commit ourselves to that road and say it time to buy our building instead of renting. That one step leads to many other little steps to take. The frame of reference is important. I want to encourage some of you who are starting your own business. God's presence is always there. In Him we live and move and have our being. Whenever you cannot feel God's presence, your mind frame has been off set. I have found out it doesn't take much to turn off it. Sometimes just negligence to hold fast

your thoughts it is turned off. Sometimes its just you spent too long on the papers and you need to get your mind back. Sometimes you spent too long on analyzing a problem intellectually and you get your mind off set. Every time you cannot feel God's presence is not because God is not there. It is because your mind frame is not tuned correctly. For some of us it may take a whole book to inspire you. But if you learn the secret of how to turn back your mind frame you could have God's presence every second. All you have to do is suddenly catch yourself and say, "I don't sense God's presence anymore." That's all it takes. You learn to switch your mind frame to God's presence. For some of us as we start it maybe difficult. You may need to sing some song or read the bible or whatever. But as you began to learn, what the mind frame is like it becomes easier to switch to it. For me all I have to do is to meditate on His presence and my mind is set in that mind frame. We learn that its all one thought away. The presence of God is only one thought away. Just like your life and death is only one breath away. The spirit world and consciousness of God's presence is only one thought away.

2. Spirit Of Thanksgiving

We are on a series of the Practice of the Presence of God. Last Sunday we spoke about the daily presence and how we need to live our lives daily, moment by moment for His presence. And not to set our gear forward and start worrying or keep looking backwards and start being feel condemned. But for moment to moment, we practice the presence of God. And that was on the area of the daily presence that is just point one.

This morning we will share on point two. And we are giving you keys to practice the presence of God. All of us desire His presence to be with us, upon us all the time. We desire to experience His presence wherever we go, whether we are in a car or in a supermarket in a prayer meeting in church or on the streets. We want to experience this tangible presence of His always around us and upon us. Paul had a revelation that in Him we live and move and have our being. Paul knows the daily presence of God.

The second key to practicing the presence of God is called the Spirit of thanksgiving. One of the most important truths that is simple and yet easily forgotten and practiced is the key of thanksgiving. Every time we

take ourselves away into our worries and our anxieties we began to lose the presence of God. But every time you began to thank God, the presence of God began to build upon your life all over again. I would to challenge you at any time in your life when you don't feel the presence of God any more; when the worries of this life and the day to day activities cloud your mind and your memory all you have to do is pull yourself back for a moment and begin to give thanks. Begin to thank God for your life, thank God for the sunshine, thank God for the day, thank God for your friends, thank God for His blessings, thank God for your good health and every time you begin to thank God the presence of God builds up.

The interesting thing is that it is not automatic. We have to train ourselves to give thanks. There are 3 vital areas that we need to learn how to give thanks.

1. Give Thanks In Everything

No. 1 First Thessalonians 5:18 onwards and I believe he is talking about practicing the presence of God since in verse 17 he is talking about praying without ceasing, or having a consciousness of the spirit of prayer moving constantly in your life. All of us want to sense the presence of God in our lives all the time. Verse 18 Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. All we have to do is give thanks in everything. He didn't say give thanks for everything. But here he says give thanks in everything. In every circumstance, in every situation, no matter how many problems assail you, no matter how many mountains stand before you, if you were to stop for moment and give thanks the presence of God will be right there. Giving thanks constantly is one of the immediate cures. We know that the world has a pill for everything. There are pills for headache there are pills for cold, there are pills for fever. There are pills for all these things. But there is no pill for worry. When someone is worried, there is no pill. There is an antidote for worry, thanksgiving. Every time you worry, you have moved out of the position of thanksgiving into fear and anxiety.

Paul mentioned thanksgiving not just one time but several times and I will read 2 little verses. First in the book of Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Do you notice the connection between the peace

of God in our hearts and being thankful? Being thankful is an important key to keep our peace. No matter how tense the situation if you learn to be thankful it changes the atmosphere.

Philippians 4:6-7 Have no anxiety about everything, but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. The peace of God will guard your heart and your mind. The word guard is the Greek word for garrison like a fortress to prevent any anxiety and any worry and any fear from coming in provided you give thanks. Give thanks for the little things for the big things in every thing give thanks to God.

In the book of Acts 16, we see a tremendous revival and a great move of the Holy Spirit. Paul was in prison and for a moment, it looks like his missionary journey was not working. He obeyed the Macedonian call, went to Philippi, preached the gospel, cast out devils and got into prison. Things were not working out fine. Maybe your life is like the life of the apostle Paul. You have obeyed your vision. Maybe some of you called to the ministry had gone into the ministry obeying the Macedonian call. Maybe some of you in the business world have obeyed the dream that God has placed in your life and you launch into the dream. And as you have launched forth, you did what you know was right. Of course, demonic forces come against you like Paul had. At first, there was no result, or maybe some small little result. And then the worst thing came. When you began to glorify the name of Jesus, worst things happened to you.

When Paul began to cast out the devil in Jesus name he said, “I adjure you, in the name of Jesus, come out.” And the demon came out from the little girl. And he got himself into prison. It would be the easiest thing to say “Why Lord?” It would have been the easiest thing to say, “God I give up. The moment I get out of this prison I am not going to do your will any more.” It would have been the easiest thing to say and complain to God. It would have been the easiest thing to blame God. But Paul and Silas at midnight with their back bruised and bleeding from the whipping they received, not understanding how things are going to work out, what can you do? Give thanks. In your problem, in your situation gives thanks and the peace of God will come. “Thank God we are alive. Thank God, we

are not dead. Thank God that I am not sick. Thank God that I have done God's will." When they gave thanks, the presence of God started coming. It was a spiritual earthquake that came into that place and the whole place was turned upside down. The chains were broken and Paul was loosed at midnight.

Give thanks in your circumstances. It is a skill that we must be reminded constantly. Give thanks and don't worry. Many times, we tell people not to worry. It would be better for you to say, "Don't worry; give thanks." Immediately when you give thanks, your worries will be gone. That's the secret of God working in your life. What do you feel like when somebody stabs you at the back? You wouldn't feel like giving thanks. Remember this all the testing, the trials, the problems, the mountains and the darts of the devil thrown against you have only two objectives. No. 1 to steal the Word of God out of your life or the revelation that God has given you. That will be your future. No. 2 to steal the presence of God from your life. And if the devil cannot steal your joy, he cannot steal your strength. And if you choose by act of the will to give thanks, you retain the presence of God. Do you know that if the devil have not made you sick or have not destroyed you yet, but if the devil succeeds in making you complain, he has started on his victory road in your life? Before sickness came, before disease came, sorrow came. If the devil cannot stop you giving thanks to God, he cannot succeed. The purpose of the devil is to make you curse God and die. And so the bigger missiles he throws at you and if one of the missiles hits you, just turn around and say, "Thank You Lord, I can look around. Thank You Lord I am alive." Some of you may have lost everything in your life. You may have lost your home, your business, and your finances. You may be so deep in depth like a bottomless pit, nevertheless give thanks that you are still alive. In spite of everything, you are still alive. And as long as there is life there is hope. Where there is hope there can be faith. Where there can be faith the mountain can move. But it starts with giving thanks. First area is giving thanks in everything. In every circumstance, you find something to give thanks to God.

2. Give Thanks For People

The second area can be a little bit difficult. But Paul does it all the time. In

every first chapter of his epistles, he always starts with giving thanks for. There are some things you give thanks in. There are some things you give thanks for. In Rom. 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you. Thanking God for people. Giving thanks to God in every circumstance. In his first letter to the Corinthians, I want you to know that when Paul was writing this epistle he was actually very upset. He was in tears and he was disappointed because the Corinthians had gone slightly astray. But yet Paul said in I Cor. 1: 4 I give thanks to God always for you. Do you know sometimes it's very difficult to give thanks to God for people? We can give thanks to God in everything. But we can't give thanks to God for people. And I find it in every epistle. But look at the first chapter of every epistle of Paul you find him mentioning that he gives thanks to God for the people he is writing to. Some of these people are actually causing much sorrow and heartache to him. Like the Galatians who were falling away and Paul says, "I travail for you." And yet he gave thanks to God for them.

One of the little secrets about the ministry of God is that many people in the ministry get burnt out. Many pastors I know get burnt out, worried and cast down. And many of them are not able to give thanks to God for their own churches, for their congregation, for their sheep. For some of them who are really burnt out look at their sheep and they are tired of it. These pastors forgot the little secret about the presence of God - give thanks for the people. You mean that long horned sheep? Yes, give thanks for people. You mean that curly sheep with that extra long hair? Yes, give thanks to God for those people. How can Paul give thanks to God for some of the most difficult people? Lets say you are apostle Tan Ah Kow. And you write, Tan Ah Kow an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ I am disappointed in you. You backslidden, how can you dishonor me? It would have been an attitude of not giving thanks. But the first thing Paul did when he looked at the Corinthians was he wept, he cried and he said, "I thank God for you." He looks at the Galatians and says, "I thank God for you." He looked at the Romans whom he has never really met before and he said, "I thank God for you."

Let me emphasize this fact a lot of Christians can thank God in every thing but they can't thank God for the people around them. They can't find good things in the people because different people have different

gifts and different strength. Let's take for example, the crows. They say that the crow is a very selfish bird. Do you know that selfishness is the opposite of caring. The crow cared so much for his own that it becomes selfishly caring. I want you to know that crows can be the most generous bird. I have done a little reading about crows. And surprisingly crows are also the most generous bird. Sometime ago in Israel there was a flock of crows who came and kept attacking a certain place because a little baby crow was inside. Until the little baby crow was let loose they kept attacking and sacrificing their lives. I am giving this illustration to show you that every person's weak point is actually a strong point seen in reverse. All your strongest gifts can be potential dangers and can hurt people. But at the time the things that are hurting people in your life could be your strongest assets. And if you learn to give thanks to God for people, you can draw the best out of their lives.

Here is a little story about charitable behavior among animals. And it says even more remarkable was how a pet South African crow performed a rescue operation. According to the couple that owned it, this crow was on excellent terms with the puppy. One day this puppy disappeared and was not seen for several days. The couple noticed that the crow was not eating as usual. It would take some food, fly off, return again and fly off with more food. In the end they followed the crow, which led them to the puppy, which was trapped in a snare and for 6 days had been fed by the crow. The puppy was in perfect condition. So Elijah was not the first one fed by crows. And there are other documentations of crows taking care and feeding other animals. We have a bible story about Elijah being fed by crows. And yet we have thought that the crow is a selfish animal. If the selfishness is turned in a wrong way, then it becomes truly selfish. But when it's turned in a right way it's a selfishness that cares. That caring attitude will even cause the crows to sacrifice its life for those that he is taking care of. That's just a little story to show that things are not always what they look.

It is difficult to give thanks to God for people because you can't seem to find something to give thanks for. Why not ask God to show you. Sometimes we have a wrong image of crows. When you picture a lion almost the average person think about brave king of the beasts. Let me tell you what my research shows. Lions especially the king lion, the male

lions are the laziest of all animals. Now that doesn't refer to Jesus Lion of Judah. I am just trying to show how our pre-conceptions can be wrong. I read to you from the animal book. It says here in the section on lions. It may seem anthropomorphic to accuse the lion of being lazy. But there is really no better way to describe their life style. Look at it some of us exalt some people like heroes, yet others think they are like crows. We have a superficial impression of people based on what we see and know. And we don't know that behind the scene they may have been feeding the little puppy for 6 days who could have died if it wasn't for them. However to some people's minds certain personalities are like noble lions who deserve respect. But we don't know the reason why they look so proper is because they have been sleeping all the time. The other guy may have been working for 20 hours and sleeping for 4 hours. Whereas the other guy sleeping for 20 hours and working for 4 hours. It says the lion is among the laziest especially the male of its species. Male lions if given the choice they will sleep for up to 20 hours out of every 24 hours depending on females to do all the work of securing food and raising the young. If a male lion awakes from his nap with a big appetite and there is no readily available food it will sometimes devour one of his own cubs rather than expand his effort to go and search for more legitimate food.

I just give a little bit of research to show you how first impression can be wrong. First impression of a crow bird is not a lovely looking bird. But the first impression of a lion when it comes up is to say, "Don't disturb him." But you didn't know he has been sleeping for 20 hours. I bring animals stories to illustrate how first impression can be wrong. I will guarantee you that there is some good that we will find in everyone. That there is something that is precious in every life. Even some of the people you despised and you don't like, when you begin to go into their life you may find something that touch you. Provided we are willing to give thanks for people. Pastors give thanks to God for the congregation you minister to.

Do you now that some of the people in the bible whom we put up as heroes, if you really walk close with them you may not like them. Lets say its Paul. Paul is a very strict man. He may scold you. He may loose his temper. He is a little bit like Noel Hayes or a disciplinarian person. He will think nothing of scolding you and hurting your feelings. He will come to you and say, "Sit up properly this is the house of God." And then he

continues preaching some of his most beautiful sermon, love is kind, love is patient etc. But in the natural, he is a disciplinarian. You may think about Moses. And you think that he is the meekest man on the earth. Wait until he looses his temper.

As I say all things have to be balanced. When you see somebody who is extra meek, it may be because somewhere in another corner he has let out all his steam. That's why he has no more steam left. I pray God that its won't be some poor little wife that gets all the steam. Then in front of people, he is meek. He can afford to do that because all his steam has gone out at home. When he gets home he overturns the tables and demands, "Where is my supper?" He lets out all his steam. No wonder by the time he comes out he is like a mouse.

I believe in balance. It is the same way with some people's spiritual life. Some people are so hyper-spiritual that they don't know how to plan their life. They don't keep bank accounts. When offerings come to them they say, "Thank you, God provides." And they go for expensive food, hotels and holidays. They don't do natural things properly. Of course, you have the opposite who are so natural that they don't expect miracles from God. There are all kinds of people in this world. Sometimes God put the people the hardest to thank God for in your life. Some of you speak of some difficult people in your lives as a thorn in the flesh. In the bible, a thorn in the flesh in the New Testament refers to Satanic forces. But sometimes the opposites are the most difficult situations and people you deal with draw the best out of us. We need to understand that every one has their gift.

The first thing we learn in everything give thanks. The second thing is for everyone give thanks. If there is one little individual in your life whom you know by name whom you never could give thanks for then you have unforgiveness in your heart for him. Until we can give thanks for everyone there will be no release in your life of the presence of God.

3. Give Thanks On Behalf Of Things God Has Done

The third area of giving thanks found in Ephesians 5:19 Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making

melody unto the Lord with all your heart, always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus to God the Father. The humble people are people who can give thanks for the smallest thing. If you don't believe me try this. Learn how to be thankful and give God for everything. It gives you a very humble feeling. One of the keys to walking in humility, which is an important key because Jesus walked in humility, is to walk thankfully. To thank God for people, keep thanking God and it will preserve humility in your life and prevent pride from coming in. Paul here talks about submission which is easy when its giving thanks. People who are thankful are people who are submissive. People who are not submissive are people who are not thankful.

I can draw incidences from the bible not just from animal stories. As I look at Adam and Eve when they were first created, if they had been thankful for what God gave they may not have fallen. But they were looking at that one tree. God says all the trees in the garden are yours except one. And of all the many things, they must look at that one tree and be tempted. There were many other trees they had not tried out. They were not thankful for what is there. But they were complaining of what they don't have. If we were to focus not on what we don't have but focus on what we have and give thanks to God for that, we would have more. If we were to focus on what we don't have and complain on what we don't have, we may even lose what we have. This is what Adam and Eve lost.

Why were Cain and Abel in a bad relationship and why did Cain kill Abel? Because Cain was not thankful to God for whatever he was doing. If he had a thankful attitude and said, "Thank you Lord for teaching me. I am sorry Lord you didn't accept my sacrifice but thank you Lord for accepting Abel's sacrifice. Thank you God for Abel." How can you thank God for someone and still kill him? If he thanked God for Abel then he would be opened to Abel helping his life. The secret of not losing your temper is to thank God for people. Husband when you are losing your temper against your wife, look at your wife and say, "Thank God for my wife." And when you began to thank God for your wife and think about the good things she has done, there will be no more temper left to lose. Thank God in the daily circumstances of life.

Now here in Ephesians 5 Paul gives a slightly different angle. He says

giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. What he means is thanking God on behalf of all things in Him. The word to could be translated in God. And that is the third area of thanksgiving. Now this third area of thanksgiving is a kind of thanksgiving that we do in our church. Maybe you have a project and your project is completed successfully. You have your blessing. And you end up with thanksgiving on behalf of those things that God has done. There are 3 levels of thanksgiving. The first is in everything give thanks. The second is for everyone give thanks. The third is on behalf of the things that God has done we give thanks to God. And that will create a greater joy and opportunity for God to work in our life. Begin to change your attitude in life. Begin to give thanks to God for all that He has done. And every time He does something and we give thanks, it stirs the Father heart of God to do more for our lives.

4. Faith Thanksgiving

Having looked at those three areas here is another fourth area that is very powerful in thanksgiving. I call it faith thanksgiving. Faith thanksgiving is a thanksgiving that is saying what God says about the circumstances. The word thanksgiving comes from the Greek word eucharisteo it is from two words. From the word charis which means the grace of God and from the word eu which means good. So the word eucharisteo has been talking about good grace. Which is why we are sharing here part of the key or the secret of practicing the presence of God is giving thanks. Because when you give thanks you are drawing on the grace of God to fill you with His goodness. The word thanksgiving means good grace. And every time you give thanks you draw the grace of God and the presence of God into your life. And there is an aspect where you learn how to move in that even further.

There is another word translated thanksgiving in the Greek. Look at Lk.2:38 And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. The word give thanks is the word homologeo, which means to say the same thing. I could translate it that when she came she said the same thing to God. Then in Heb. 13:15 Through him than let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that

acknowledge (giving thanks to) His name. Now the word giving thanks in Heb.13:15 is the word homologeo. Offer a sacrifice of praise to God that is the fruit of our lips saying the same thing in Hs name. What he means here is to agree with God. To say what God says about the situation. And you do it by giving thanks, by faith.

Now how does that faith operate? Turn to Ephesians one. I like to show something here. In Christ everything has been done. It is not future tense; it is past tense. In the wonderful spiritual way it has been done. And one of the things that have been done is that we are already seated at the heavenly places in Christ. When you begin to receive this revelation you pray differently. Normally you pray O God save my family. You know what the bible says. In II Cor. 5 God has already by faith saved the world. I don't mean that if they don't turn to Jesus that they will go to heaven. But it does mean that the message is no different. The message is not a message of condemnation.

Turn to II Cor. 5:18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Or the word of reconciliation. So when you get this revelation if you are down here you would be praying O God save the world. But when you enter into that realm you will be seeing that it is done, it has been done, the world is saved in Christ. And you will be praying O God show the world, open the eyes of the people of the world that they may see that they have been saved in Christ. And your prayers will be more powerful. They will reach out and save your family faster than any other way. When you pray according to the bible is different. When they got the revelation, they will pray O God open the eyes of my family that they may know that Jesus died for their sins. And that is scriptural praying that their eyes could be opened. It's a different way of praying, a different approach to your life. In the same way everything you need is already in Christ. When you have the revelation that is in Him and you believe that is done, your prayer and your walk is different.

Look at Eph. 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His

glorious inheritance in the saints and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power in us who believe. Now up to that time do you know that he has not asked God for anything new in their lives except a greater measure of the Holy Spirit? All he is asking for is that we the church would have our eyes opened that we may know what is already there. It is not for God to send it, not for God to do it, but for us to realize it. Like I said the presence of God is here all the time, there is enough power to heal any blind person, any sick person if you can get a revelation of that. You acknowledge that it is there first, the presence then you thank God for that.

Fourth area is faith thanksgiving and you will see that presence beginning to rise up according to your faith level. But when you don't see it as there all your crying will not work. To strengthen that point look at verse 19 Do you notice it says, "What is the exceeding greatness of His power towards us who believe."? We have always looked at the words towards us who believe to those who believe that Jesus is our Savior. Not so, in the Greek it actually sounds this way. He prayed that the eyes of your understanding be enlightened that you may know what is the hope of your calling. That is No. 1. No. 2 what are the riches of His glory of His inheritance. His glory, His riches are already there. It's for us to see it. Except we don't see it therefore it's not ours. So Paul prayed, "O God give them the Holy Spirit in a greater measure so that their eyes can be opened." In fact the Holy Spirit didn't give you anything. The Holy Spirit only came to open your eyes to help you see what is already there for you in Christ. The Holy Spirit comes to show you that the riches of His inheritance in Christ Jesus is there is for you to see it. The hope of His calling for us to see it and the exceeding greatness of His power towards us, those who believe according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ Jesus when He raised Him from the dead. In a sense he is saying that this work for those who believe that they are raised in Jesus Christ and seated at the right hand of God. There are a lot of believers who don't believe that. They don't believe that they could be seated with Jesus.

Some people don't understand how can anyone sit on Christ's throne. My only answer is, "Haven't they read the bible? Haven't they read Ephesians?" What do they mean by seated at the right hand of God.

Don’t forget there are 4 to 5 billion people on this earth. Maybe there are about a billion Christians today and in the past generations of 2000 years of the church age. How many Christians are there already in Christ? Don’t tell me there are one billion thrones at the right hand of God. There is only one throne. We are seated with Him. But not every believer can see that. They can’t see that they are with Him and in Him. And we need to see that we are there. Once we see that we are there we believe that we are there you homologeo and you agree with God that is done and you give thanks to God. When you give thanks to God it releases a powerful force to work in your life.

3. Making Melody

I was meditating on the spirit of excellence in the early days of my life when I was yet unknown to many people. But I made a decision in my life that if I were to do something first I will do it with an excellent spirit. Through these years God has shown me something about the spirit of excellence. I just give you a few points No 1 the only way you can stand before kings and Prime Ministers and be the head and not the tail is by having an excellent spirit. The people who are in power and position respect an excellent spirit and they recognize excellence when they see it even if a poor man does it. If a poor man were to be able to do some gold handicraft with the most excellent spirit so that the whole world knows that there is no one like him. Even kings will hear about that poor man. It is an excellent spirit that distinguishes us to stand before kings and Prime Ministers.

No. 2 it is an excellent spirit that will bring us to positions of power and influence. It’s different from No. 1. No. 1 you find favor and grace. Some times you do something well once. You can only have one opportunity. But if it becomes a part of your life that gift of yours, if you are able to play a piano, you play it with an excellent spirit you distinguish yourself from others. And you play probably in the best orchestra in the world. If you are able to do metal work, you distinguish yourself with an excellent spirit. You will probably be working for the richest man in the world, the Sultan of Brunei and doing something for him. The world will hear about you when you will distinguish yourself. If you were to be a mechanic, and you develop it with the spirit of excellence, you will probably be having a

good retirement, since you will be serving the top people in town who know you.

Let me look at the reverse situation. If you are out there in the world and you are rich, you are mighty and you are powerful. When you want to do something what do you look for? You look for the best. And so whatever we have when we put our heart into it and put an excellent spirit, we will distinguish ourselves. And here Daniel started equal. But he became the top of the three. And the king decided to give him a position like the right hand over the Middle Persian Empire.

No. 3 an excellent spirit can only come forth and be sustained under the hand of God. Without God to keep us humble, without God to continue to propel creativity in our lives we will not be able to retain it. Creativity stops when we stop our contact with the most excellent of spirits God the Holy Spirit. And Daniel retained it all his life through a prayer life that is strong in God. And he distinguished himself in that manner. It can only be sustained and it will stand you well in the sight of God.

We have been looking and practicing the presence of God. So lets look at the book of I Thessalonians 5:16 onwards Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. We have been talking about the practicing the presence of God. And the principles of practicing the presence of God are different from the principles that we would learn in the closet.

The first of the principle we talked about is hunger for God. And that is involved in praying unceasingly. Having a hunger for God all the time being drawn onto Him. And wherever we are and in any place all we have to do is to cry out to God and pray continually to Him and pour our hearts to Him. That is one of the keys for His presence in our lives.

The second principle is giving thanks. We talked about 4 areas in giving thanks. And all we have to do to get the presence of God in any situation is to give thanks to God. Whenever we are not giving thanks the presence of God starts diminishing. And it’s not something you do once in a while. It’s something that you practice doing all the time. Whenever you look at people in your heart and in your mind you are saying, “Thank you Lord for this person.” And it will give you a different attitude when you deal with people. Or when you go and deal with some hard people. Lets

say you are filling up some forms and the person handling it is very rude. The first thing you are thinking about is complaining and grumbling. No matter how rude a person, when you come to that person and understand the second area of giving thanks in you heart and in your mind you say, “Lord I thank you for this person.” You say thank God for what. At least thank God for this person for without that person your patience would not be tested. You will never be angry if you learn to give thanks all the time. In my thoughts I am giving thanks for people. Some of you in the ministry will understand that in the ministry it’s very easy to get hurt and never come back again. I am sure every one of us may have met people who at some time were serving God and then they gave up the ministry. They don’t want to be in the ministry again because they were hurt. And one of the things that preserve you in the ministry is no matter what happens you give thanks. And no matter how horrible the people are you give thanks. That’s the secret of loving people. Surprisingly when you give thanks you will find something good in that person.

Let’s look at Ephesians 5. And we want to talk about the third principle on practicing the presence of God. And I am sharing from my life about the practice of the presence of God. No mater how busy you are if you were to practice these principles you will always sense the presence of God on your life. And that’s something precious money cannot buy. It is more precious than silver and gold. It is more precious than rubies and diamonds. Whatever you do, you want the presence of God to be there.

In Eph. 5:18-20 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, will all your heart, always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.

This morning I want to talk about making melody in our heart. That is the third principle of giving thanks the ability to retain the melodies of God in your life. All of us have a song in life. We may not be good singers. We may not have a good voice. We may not be musically gifted. But all of us have some sort of inward filling of the Spirit. When He has worked in our life and there is a musical rhythm in that which we are working and doing. Have you notice that if you want to do something well you have to add music to it. When I talk about music I am not talking about psalms, hymns

and spiritual songs. Everything that you do you do better where there is what I call musical rhythm or melody.

Take for example praying in tongues for long hours. Of course if you pray in tongues for 5 minutes its different. Nowadays in the Charismatic movement we can't quite call it the spending quiet time with God. In the Evangelical churches when I was a Baptist we always used to emphasize, "Have you spent your quiet time with God yet?" Nowadays I find that in the Charismatic movement your quiet time is not really quiet. It's more the noisy time with God. If you are praying for 5 minutes you don't realize the need for rhythm. If you pray for one hour some time someone who have a strong will can push it. But if you want to pray for 6 to 8 hours in tongues you need rhythm. If you don't have rhythm you can't last long. To last long you flow into a rhythm. When a rhythm is involved it has the ability to continue without getting tired. I used to go for a walk some times an hour some times two. Usually halfway I would run one round the field. Some people get tired when they run. But there is a secret to run without getting tired. The secret is in your rhythm. When you just run you get tired very fast. But when you run in rhythm you won't feel tired. Have you seen the soldiers marching? Somebody either in front or behind will say one, two, one, and two. Why are they saying one two. Why not, one, two, three, four etc? Because when you get rhythm you don't feel tired. The secret is in the rhythm. If you could hear the rhythm on your inside and you operate based on that rhythm you can excel in physical athletes.

We know that there are some things that can be controlled with our conscious mind but the whole lot cannot be controlled. It is at a lower level. Let me make a natural fact first. The whole world is trying to tap on the power of the sub-conscious mind. We are tapping not only the power of the sub-conscious mind but we are tapping much deeper, the power of the Holy Spirit. Let me explain something. You must understand that the inner power works on the whole different principles of rhythms and music. The greater the inner power that you want to tap, the greater the music and rhythm you must flow with. There is music in everything that God has created. And to tap upon that we need to understand that music is involved in every aspect of what we do. Even if a person walks. If there is rhythm in the way you walk it looks more graceful. Everything in life has

music. If you are doing some intellectual work like doing a deep mathematical problem, if you put on a classical music or something, you find that its helps you go probe deeper. See everything has its rhythm and music.

We know that Elisha tapped on that principle in II Kings chapter 3 when there was a need and they looked for a prophet and they found him. The first thing Elisha said was, “Bring me a minstrel.” When the music was played we know that the Spirit of God came on Elisha. What actually happened? How did Elisha have the ability to move in? There is a rhythm that you move into. There is music in everything that we do. And if you don’t want to get exhausted there needs an understanding of the deep current of music that God does. I have been running one round and I don’t feel tired. The difference is not in running. The difference is running in rhythm. Your heart beats in rhythm. There is music in your heartbeat. There is music in everything that we do. To achieve excellence, to achieve the highest point of physical achievement, mental achievement, spiritual achievement is to hit into a rhythmic chord with the Holy Spirit that is working at that realm. The bible says that the whole earth praise the Lord. The trees praise the Lord. The mountains praise the Lord. In everything there is music flowing all the time.

How does that tie back to the presence of God? The presence of God comes into our lives in perfection. And where there is perfection there is musical harmony. If you learn how to flow with that presence and the rhythm that God says. It didn’t say God give some. It says, “Be filled with the Holy Spirit speaking in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs making melody in your heart to the Lord.” That is the verse for every believer, whether you are in the music ministry or not. Every one of us has a rhythm flowing in our lives.

Let me us another natural fact. Some time back about it was discovered many years ago but only the last 2 or 3 years they have been able to use magnetism in order to scan people. Today if you are expecting a baby the doctors will give you a sound scan. Long ago they used x-ray. Now they have developed sound scan. In other words they can see through the reflection of sound waves. As the computer picks it up they can draw the picture inside the womb. They also have magnetic scanners. Where there are magnetic lines of force flowing and if they put a body into that

magnetic machine, then they draw a computerized image of the magnetic flowing through the body and detect things. They fond that, that machine can detect cancer, sick parts in your body where x-ray find it difficult, since x-ray are only good at bones and certain tissues. Where the tissues are too soft its just invisible to the x-ray. So they need more sophisticated type of scanners. So when the whole body has in a sense magnetized, every cell in your body has a north pole and a south pole. Our body has an electrical circuit that flows through our nerves cells. Lets rest on this simple fact that our body has a natural magnetism. There is a north pole and a south pole in your body. When you put a small little magnet before a big magnet what happens. All the North Pole will point to one direction and the South Pole point to another direction. What happens when they put the body in that machine? The cells in the body began to line up north and south correctly except the parts of the body that are sick. And so it will show up in the magnetic scanner. They can see the spots that are not lined up north south. It will be lined up in some other direction. Cancer cells can be seen, cancer tissues, things that are wrong in the body showed up. It seems that when the physical body is in health every cell in your body function perfectly. But when the cells are sick they cannot synchronize with magnetic line of force.

There is a rhythm in our physical spirit man and in our spirit man and in our physical body. Between the spirit, soul and body there is a rhythm. And when every time you get out of synchrony you began to feel tired. You began to feel spiritually dry. And you began to detect problems. Spiritual sicknesses indicate a lack of tapping on to the rhythm that God has given.

So as we look at that verse in Eph. 5:19 making melody in our heart to the Lord, I'd like to emphasize on that phrase making melody in your heart. We know that music has three components rhythm, melody and harmony. But we realize that there are spiritual components within us. This word here melody does not mean just one aspect of music that is the tune. The word melody here is from the Greek word psallo. Psallo is a word, which is normally translated as psalms. But the translation actually means to sing onto God with a stringed instrument. Of course some of us may not be playing musical instrument. So we look at how do we fulfill that word psallo. Well your voice is an instrument. Your diaphragm is an

instrument to God. But it's talking about some sort of worship coming forth. Let me point to the fact that the word psallo is music in its fullness. And it involves 3 main areas that have to be harmonized. It involves rhythm, it involves melody, and it involves the words, the meaning. And all these combine in harmony to be psallo.

A psalm has a rhythm it has a tune and it has words. And the bible says singing and making melody in our heart. There is rhythm that we tune to any time in your life. If you want to practice the presence of God keep hearing the inner music. Nowadays the human race is trying to get the music of nature. They go to the ocean and take the ocean sound. And today we could imitate that by electronic sound even though it may not sound musical to some people. But you put it on it is very soothing. The sound of the waves has a rhythm of the waves coming and hitting the shore. There is a rhythm and music flowing in our heart all the time. If we were to learn to hear the music that God placed in our spirit and have our mind and our physical body harmonized to that it will be tremendous. You become a very athletic person. I mean the difference between a good athlete and a clumsy one is the rhythm. And you become intellectually and emotionally strong with a strong will. Your soul gets ministered to and your mind is in rhythm. Your mind has a certain rhythm. They could put a E.E.G on your mind and they could see your thought life in an electrical pattern. And today when a person sleep they have alpha sleep and beta sleep etc different levels of sleep where the electrical circuit flows in a rhythm. When our mind loses its rhythm you lose your creativity. Confusion is like musical mental noise. Confusion is noise in its mental form. We know that music has its form and it has its rhythm and it should sound nice and in harmony.

Creativity and the spirit of excellence has its rhythm in our mind. When you lose it, it becomes confusion which is mental noise. We need to understand that the most important control is not just in the physical body, it's not just in the mind or in the sub-conscious its in the spirit of man. That's where the source is that's where the pace maker is. It's in our spirit. And that's where the presence of God is. The presence of God is in your spirit.

In the book I Cor. 16 it says here in verse 23. Now the last wish and the last blessing to the people who were reading his epistles was a blessing

on the presence of God on their life. May the Lord be with thee. God be with thee. I Cor.16: 23-24 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus, Amen. Now II Cor. The last chapter and the last few verses. Chapter 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Now chapter 6 of Galatians verse 18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. (this sentence is actually found in Phil. 4:23 and not Gal. 6:18)

The moment you are born again Christ Jesus, Immanuel God with us, revealed in us, His name is Immanuel. Jesus has come to give us His presence constantly and His presence is in our spirit. Once you are born again His presence is in your spirit. Even though you don't feel it some times. Even though you know it some times. But His presence His grace is with your spirit. And we need to listen to the human spirit within us 24 hours. No matter how busy keep contact with your human spirit on your inside. He that has been born again, his human spirit contains the presence of God. Now we know it in principle, we know it theologically and this is where our teaching is. We need to know it experientially and we are talking about what it is like experientially. The spirit of man within us is like a rhythmic strum on your inside. It's not something you comprehend with your head alone or our emotion. But it's a life force within you. And we need to tap into this life force on our inside all the time. And one of the easiest ways is to hear the music that comes from your spirit man.

And that music will come in 3 ways and the 3 will harmonized. No. 1 the rhythm. Some times your spirit gets excited and you know that you are going in the right direction. Listen to that rhythm. But as you hit the wrong direction it goes out of rhythm then you know it's the wrong direction. The rhythm flows on your inside. Now these 3 components of our spirit man in making melody can be sensed differently. First is rhythm, rhythm is linked up to the conquest of the enemy. It is even in our soul. Turn with me to the book of Exodus chapter 15. Understand that the music in our spirit change according to what we face and what we need to do. Some times the rhythm slows down you need to slow down. Follow your spirit. Your spirit some times want to go slow and some times he wants to speed up. You flow according to the rhythm. We can control the rhythm of our body.

We can control to a certain extend our mental rhythm. But you can never control the rhythm of your human spirit. Because your human spirit feeds on God's Word, which has its own rhythm and your human spirit is inspired and tied up to the Holy Spirit who is the one giving the rhythm. Although it says making melody in our heart, be filled with the Spirt, it is that Spirit coming forth through your life. And you have to obey the Spirit of God. Some times when you need more physical rest your spirit on your inside will sound a soothing tune. And some times you need to move fast and do something you got to hear on your inside and flow along with the pace of your spirit man. He is setting the pace for you. It's so easy for us to get into disharmony with Him because we can create our own rhythm without paying attention to Him.

Exod. 15:1 Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord saying, "I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. And in verse 20 Then Miriam, the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and dancing. Now you notice something here the whole chapter focuses on rhythm. When you are playing the tambourine it's a rhythm. When you are playing the drum it's a rhythm. You can't dance without a rhythm. When it comes to dancing you need rhythm. And there is a rhythm in our heart that we need to pay attention to. It has to do with the overcoming of the chariots of Pharaoh. When you are doing spiritual battle or when you are praying, and when you tap on a certain rhythm you could just utter forth the Word of God and its so powerful that your enemies are scattered. You tap on a certain rhythm on your inside.

The second area is what I call the words that God gives. Now all of us hear our human spirit talking to us. Those are words. The Holy Spirit can speak one word some times several words. Turn with me to the book of Deuteronomy, as Moses was about to let the Israelites go on their own with Joshua leading them. Chapter 31 God gave Moses a song. It didn't say he sang this song. He probably spoke this song. When a song is spoken it becomes poetry. Poetry is a speaking forth of that music in our heart. So some of us may not be musical in a sense but you receive words that are poetic. There has a certain rhythm on your inside instructions from the Lord. Chapter 31:30 Then Moses spoke the words

of this song until they were finished, in the ears of all the assembly of Israel. Now the words that God gives are important. Some times when you hear a song it's not just the tune. Most of us when we hear a song we enjoy the rhythm and the melody. But beyond that you look for what I call the way certain things are phrased. Lets say like Scott Wesley Brown's song. The way he phrases his song is very beautiful. If He carried the weight of the whole world, my brother He can carry you too. The way he phrases it, the way the words come out stay in your heart and in your mind. Now some times God just gives little words coming out from your inside. And those little words bring a different area into your life. The rhythm gives you victory over the enemy. Rhythm is tied up to deliverance and setting people free. Words that come forth have to do with revelation and stability. The reason Moses gave that song is he says to them when you forget the Lord this song will remind you about the Lord. When you turn away from the Lord and the future generations look at this song they will remember that the Lord has said these things. And that will inspire them to turn back. Its gives stability, it gives direction. Revelation and stability is where the word comes forth.

Third area is in the melody part, the tune. Now that's a different area altogether. Turn with me in the book of I Samuel and there is one person who is very good at that and that is David chapter 16. Verse 23 And whenever the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand; so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him. Now David was playing here on a harp. Look at verse 18 again "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence; and the Lord is with him.

Here I am just showing David in a melody style. I want you to know that David had all 3 components including harmony. That is how he reached greatness in his life. If you want good eyesight, your eyes have to see in a certain rhythm. If you want to have a good voice you got to have a certain rhythmic breathing in your diaphragm. You can't be gasping for air all the time. You whole physical body function best when there is a rhythmic music flowing through your whole being.

And it important for us to understand that here David in the book of I Sam. 16 it tells us here that he has this ability to play this music. And not

only that he says he is prudent in speech, he is a mighty man of valor, a man of war and most of all the Lord is with David. We know that Samuel anointed him, a lot of people get anointed, even Saul was anointed, but the Lord doesn't seem to be with him. It is because he learns to tap on that music that is on his inside. And I asked myself how did he become a mighty man of war, a mighty man of valor and prudent speech. It's because of rhythm and music in his life. He has yielded to that and it had produced certain things in his life. David was good at composition he gets a melody. It was just the music flowing softly on the heart; melody that flows that was soothing.

If in the first area rhythm has to do with the battlefield and with deliverance. And in Moses time the words and the meaning give revelation and stability. In David's time the melody part is a part that brings healing. The melody causes your spirit, soul and body to get into synchrony. That is why all human beings like melody. We know a good tune when we hear it. You feels good, you sub-consciously like to hum it. When a tune is catchy you like it. It brings forth harmony with spirit, soul and body, it brings forth healing. And that are the 3 areas that we see working in our lives. And when they began working we get finally what I call the presence of God in us every day.

Let me turn to the book of II Samuel to see how David when his ministry grew, he began to organize the people of God and the musicians of God into different groups. Looking at I Chronicles 25 and interestingly they were divided into 3 groups. Verse 2 Of the sons of Asaph; Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah, and Asahreiah, sons of Asaph, under the direction of Asaph, who prophesied under the direction of the king. I am sure all 3 groups are very musical. But Asaph specialized in the words part. When David wrote a new song, he passed the words on to Asaph, Asaph prophesized. They were involved in the words part the uttering forth.

Then you have Jeduthun in verse three. Of Jeduthun the sons of Jeduthun; Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiah, Shimel, Hashabiah,and Mattithiah, six, under the direction of their father Jeduthun, who prophesized with the lyre in thanksgiving and praise to the Lord. So these people were giving forth the strings side. They were under the strings instrument.

Then you have the horns in verse 4 and 5. Then in verse 5 All these were the sons of Heman the king's seer, according to the promise of God to

exalt his horns. Verse 6 They were all under the direction of their father in the music in the house of God. And they were harmonizing all together. I would put Heman and Jeduthun together consisting of the melody group and the rhythm group. And all these 3 groupings together make praise to the Lord. And what did they do when they came together? They brought the presence of God into the temple. And when they continually take turns to worship the Lord and give thanks to the Lord, the presence of God comes down. Do you notice that the presence of God is tied to giving thanks again? Not just for what He has done but all the time just thanking Him. Whenever you start giving thanks the presence of God will always be there. When you complain the presence of God runs out. In order to move in a certain direction further, we need to sense the music that comes forth from our lives in the same 3 groupings. And be able to let it flow out of our lives. Rhythm, words and the melody coming out together in a harmonies pattern and it directs the presence of God in our lives.

Now turn to the New Testament to see the same word psallo used by the apostle Paul in I Cor. 14:14-15 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. What am I to do? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also. I will psallo with the spirit and I will psallo with the understanding. Now look at the pattern that Paul gives. He starts with the spirit first. Then he moves into the understanding. Therefore when we want the presence of God, we start off in the spirit first. So when you pray it's the spirit of prayer that starts first. That is why God wants to baptize you in the Holy Spirit. And those of you who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, you have an important key to the presence of God in your life. You start off with tongues and you pray with understanding. Then he says, "I will." Look at that in verse 15 he didn't say, "The Lord will." He said, "I will." He chooses to allow it to come forth out of his life. And so we start off with singing in the Spirit. And so in the Spirit you began to hear a tune on your inside. Some times it is by faith. It is just like speaking in tongues. You don't hear a tongue and then speak out. As you speak out it keeps flowing. It is just like the tap and the water. You can't see the water. And you look at the tap its so small. But when you turn on the tap it will keep giving more water than the tap can contain.

So turn on the tap with tongues. We need to learn to sing in tongues not

only in church but also in our private life. It's so easy for every one of us to tap whatever rhythm is in your life right now. Whenever you tongues enter into any sort of rhythm that is the melody that is coming upon your life. Whatever pattern it takes, whatever rhythm it takes, if you begin to allow it to flow, it can overwhelm your whole being. Sometimes it could be like a militant expression. I mean we also have singing in tongues in a warlike way. But it's important to let it go. Paul says I will psallo in the Spirit first. We let it out in our spirit. At first you pray in tongues then you go to singing in the Spirit. You cannot do it for a few seconds. You got to do it for a few minutes to catch it on and you began to feel the presence of God on your inside rising up from within you. Once you learn to do it in your own way you could hear it on your inside. Sometimes what you hear is a song that you already know. Right now as I sing in the Spirit I could hear another song and it's a song that I know. Now I didn't have a song 5 minutes earlier. But the moment I begin to sing in the Spirit and instead of giving a new song, which sometime He does He brings to your memory a song.

Now that song is supposed to be the song for your life in your situation. And sometimes what you need to do is let that song out with your understanding and sing along with that song that the Spirit of God gives you. Sometimes you wake up in the morning God gives you a new song sing it out. Sometime you wake up God gives you a song that you have sang long ago and you have never sang it for the last 10 years it comes to you. Why do you think He gives you that song? That is the song not just to make you happy. No, every morning you wake up He doesn't gives you that same song. Have you notice something common in all of us.

Any song can be nice but if you sing it very often it gets stale. That is why out there in the world you got the top ten hits. And the top ten keeps changing. Do you know that in the kingdom of God there is a top ten hit too? Think about God sitting on the throne and He has been having people singing Amazing Grace for the last hundred years. Do you know that in every move of God there is a special rhythm and melody that goes? In John Wesley's time hymns were the big things. In Martin Luther's time hymns were also still big and among his favorite hymns were O Mighty Fortress Is Our God. He needed that song because the whole world was against him. In John Wesley's time his brother was a

composer. If you study the hymns they change a bit in John Wesley's time. They became more songs that emphasize holiness and sanctification. In Martin Luther's time it emphasize protection. In those days of the first and second great awakening was when most of the hymns were written. Amazing Grace how sweet that sound that saved a wretch like me. These are all evangelist songs in the period of great evangelism. When the Pentecostal movement came its different. Fire, fire, Holy Ghost, fire fall on me. We became different and the songs we sing are different. The rhythm is different; the melody is different. Fire breathing preaching not fire breathing dragons. They sang the songs and they became like that. Then came the Charismatic movement and it too is different. And it touches a different group of people, doctors, the lawyers, the judges, the top businessman, people whom the Pentecostal could not touch. Suddenly it reaches a whole different group of people. Look at society the songs that the society singing is so different.

It started long ago in country and western folk's songs. Then came the Beatles, then pop and today something that you don't know. Then from light metal became heavy metal and, I think, before long radioactive metal. And you become like that song. It changes them. When they began singing a lot of these kind of heavy metal songs, they became people who couldn't care. They live for the now. It produces that kind of society. You know that between the great intellectuals, Noble prizewinners and all the top thinkers, you know something in common that they have? They all loved classical music. Classical music produces a different realm, an intellectual realm. Do you notice that the classical period coincided with the renaissance or human enlightenment or scientific discoveries and science became crown it produces different things.

What about spiritual music? It is in our time that God began to give songs in the Spirit. Long ago there may have a few pockets of those kind. Nowadays we have different types of songs in the Spirit. We have what we call warfare singing. You never heard of that 15 or 20 years ago. It's a whole different thing. I know some people may go against these things but be opened to all these things. As long as it doesn't contradict God's word its fine. It's a different realm. Have you noticed that the church of Jesus Christ is gaining a militant sound? It's like a roll call coming forth.

And never before in any generations for the past 2000 years of church history has the church has more of a militant tune than it has today.

Something that is coming that is changing on this planet earth. And the way it is in our individual life when you began to hear the Lord you sing in the Spirit. If right now in hour heart you don't have any tune. I challenge you. You just sing in the spirit for a while you will straight away get something in your spirit on your inside. Something that is relevant to your life. You don't need a prophet to come and prophesize to you. And there are different phases in our life. Sometimes in certain phase you need more energetic things than other times. Other times you may need more quiet manifestation. God knows all the patterns that we go through in our life. All you need to do is to hear that song on your inside and you know what you need to tap in to get into.

Just now when I was singing in the Spirit, I got the song, It is God who trains my hands for war. To me that's the spirit that God wants me to walk in, a militant spirit in God. To conquer and to do what God ask me to achieve at this point in my life. Now that tune may change in time to come. I got to be sensitive to it. And in order to flow with it what must I do? I got to let go and let my body become more militant. When He says dance I dance. One thing I am glad it changes me for the better. Understand this fact. The first fact is you must get into the Spirit, by praying in the Spirit or singing in the Spirit you get the melody. Sometimes you get it in your devotional life and it keeps you for the rest of the day. And it will be the song that keeps you the whole day and the presence of God the whole day. That's why all of us need a time with God. You sing in the Spirit first and then you get the understanding part. And when the understanding part comes you flow with it. Sometimes it's a new song and sometimes it's an old song that you know and you keep singing.

The second fact is that we must allow our physical body and our emotions and our will and our mind to yield to that same rhythm. That is why God deals with my life about one and a half years ago. God said dancing once in a blue moon is not enough. I want you to dance every time you worship Me. When I worship differently my preaching changed. What happen if I preach timidly and say I am a shy person? Probably God will send an angel and ask, "Do you want to be like that for the rest

of your life? So be it. I will go for another one." Second point we must yield our body and our spirit.

Kathryn Khulman has a militant spirit and she needs that because she has an evangelistic call. Without that militant call she would have been steam-rolled years ago. I have seen people spit at her whenever she went onstage. People spat at her for what she witnesses for and yet she went on. There is something that goes on her inside; it doesn't die down with one spit. If all you do is preach softly and all you have heard of Jesus and a person spits at you, you don't know how to react. But if you go and sing boldly, "Its God who trains my hands for war," and that person spits at you, you say thanks. It's different sometimes you need that.

Sometimes when you are having a militant spirit God may say, "I want you to balanced on the other side," and He puts a slow song inside us. There is a song for the church at a particular generation and time. Individually there are songs that relates to our life and God dealing with us. And if in point two we don't yield to it you will be in the wilderness for the rest of your life. We will be what Paul called, put on the shelf. There are different songs that come into our life that we must yield to. Which is why I like balance. Those who never hear classical music, I encourage you to hear a bit of that. Those who are always on the classical hear a little bit of this side. And you can find the different things that produce on your life. And as you yield your spirit to it you would be dancing to the music that is coming from your spirit man. If you ask anyone of them who has danced to the Lord how blessed they are, how changed they become, you won't be looking at them being spectators. You would be envying them wishing you could be like them.

I will conclude looking at the book of Revelation that every time when God wants to do some thing He puts a new song in the people of God. In chapter 5:8-9 And when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and with golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints; and they sang a new song. And when they sang a new song onto the Lord something new began.

Chapter 6:1 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say, as with a voice of

thunder, “Come!” And something new began. It is always that way when something is happening in heaven. In heaven there are a lot of new things happening all the time and sometimes our spirit man pick it up and flow with it. Its important for us to sense that flowing even in the heavenly places and let it flow into our lives.

Lets say if you want harmonies you look for melodies. And there are songs that create a harmony in your spirit, soul and body where there is no other way possible. If you are having a hard time in your life, many mountains that come your way and many demons are come against your life, for deliverance to come what kind of things do you need? You may need to hear rhythmic sound from the Lord. You may need to take hold of rhythmic songs that people of God had composed. You may have to put yourself on a one-month therapy of Christian militant songs. Put yourself through for one month in that and we open the cage and let you out. You will come out frightening the devil. All the time the devil looks at you and roars at you, and then you go meow. But suddenly when you open the door of the cage and out you came after one month of Christian militant music therapy, the devil thinks he still can try his tactics but you shout back at him. The devil will say, “Where did he come from?” But that’s what we need in our life.

Have you noticed that those who overcome and those who had succeeded in life, they fought and struggled, they believe, they held to their dream and come out victorious. Do you notice there is a militant nature about them? I challenge you this is the truth. And you look at all those who had struggled and fought the fight of faith, and they come out victorious, there is something militant about them. They are people who had come out of the war. You will find very few Christians who had overcome the spirit of poverty, who had overcome the spirit of sickness, you will find very few of them who are singing the little sweet things. Now we need tossing the little sweet things too. But if all they do is just sing is, “In the sweet bye and bye,” very few of them will rise up into the highways and the byways of life. But on the other hand if we don’t learn the sweet and soft a lot of us would not know the depths of the visions of God. And those who go very deep whose life have the fragrance of the sweetness of Christ. Some people are very militant all the time. They need the opposite; they need a little bit of sweetness in their life. They

probably have been listening to all the fast music and never any slow ones. They need the sweetness of the music in the body of Christ to turn their soul until they are a more peaceful character.

You can have a hundred things thrown against your life you can still be still. You need the other stillness that meekness that needs to come. It only comes from those type of people who sing, “What a friend we have in Jesus.” The thing we are talking about is we need to be balanced.

Here in the book of Revelation when God does something new there is a new song that comes. Turn over to the book of Revelation 14:1-3 Then I looked, and lo, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with Him a hundred and forty-four thousand who had His name and His Father’s name written on the foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of may waters and like the sound of loud thunder; the voice I heard was like the sound of harpers playing on their harps, and they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders.

It’s a new realm that they were entering into. God begins His work in His Spirit. And His Spirit begins the works of God on the earth in your spirit. That is why in our time do you noticed there are a lot of people getting laughter in the Spirit. It is because there is something different coming out. There is a joy that is coming out to them and it bursts out in laughter. That is a whole different Spirit coming forth in God’s people. And we need to learn how to flow and change it. My challenge to some of you today is change the way you worship God and you will change the way you fight the devil. Change the way that you are used to and move into something new in God. Let it be from your inside. If you hear it from your inside flow along with it. Some of us have been hearing the music on our spirit for so long that we are not been obeying it and we are so used to it. But as you begin to yield to that which God has placed in your heart everything in your life will change. I find things began to change when I begin to yield to what God is doing in my life. I began to sing that kind of song that God wants me to sing. Began to listen to that kind of music that God wants me to listen to. Began to worship God in a way God wants me to worship Him. Began to yield to God in new ways that He wants me to yield to Him. And there will be new things that keep coming that we need to yield to God. Maybe He is giving you a new song and new thing in your heart and you got to yield to it.