



PART 1: Connecting with God

CHAPTER 3

Always Everywhere

Omnipresence defines God; it's an essential attribute with exclusive distinction. God alone inhabits eternity. Whether He manifests Himself or not, God neither comes nor goes. Whether we notice His influence or not He always abides everywhere.

God is spirit; He lives without the constraint of time and space.¹ Relegating Him to an obscure heaven imposes an unwarranted barrier between us. The distance that separates God from us does not change as we think of change—only our perception changes. Any separation that we feel from time to time or from place to place does not come from reality; it comes from blind spots in our sensitivity.

Nonetheless, if we take attendance, God usually seems to be missing. Normally we cannot see, hear, touch, taste, or smell God. Jesus told His disciples, "*The poor you will always have with you, but **you will not always have me.***"² Yet before ascending into heaven, Jesus reassured His disciples saying:

*go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And **surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.***" (Matthew 28:19-20 NIV)

¹ John 4:24 NAS, ESV, NIV

² Matthew 26:11 NIV

Rather than settling for remote access, Jesus promised to maintain His presence among us and more importantly within us by His Spirit.

Feelings of separation are distressing. They cause us to languish behind bunkers of fear and barricades of abandonment. Sometimes we are too isolated to take the initiative to pray or to ask for prayer. At other times, we are too disillusioned to pursue counseling or overly defeated to receive comfort. Everyone needs to connect with God's Spirit for words that convey supernatural favor and grace. We all need messages loaded with God's love, power, and compassion.

As we develop an accurate awareness of Christ's presence, barriers that once isolated us fall apart. Emotional gag orders, which stifle communion and complicate communication, disintegrate. Intellectual chains that tongue-tie prayers and impose moratoriums on prophecy snap in pieces.

Isaiah advocates a proactive approach for breaking these chains. He challenges us to awaken from our complacent slumber, connect with God for strength, and remove the chains. In principle, this ancient prophecy applies today.

Awake, awake, O Zion, clothe yourself with strength. Put on your garments of splendor, O Jerusalem, the holy city. The uncircumcised and defiled will not enter you again. Shake off your dust; rise up, sit enthroned, O Jerusalem. Free yourself from the chains on your neck, O captive Daughter of Zion. (Isa 52:1-2 NIV)

Travesty of Confusion

When adversarial spirits assault our mind, they unleash mental anxiety, distress, and confusion. Without accurate information dispensed in love, lies separate us from family, friends, and from ourselves. These lies attempt to reinvent who we are as they undermine relationships.

The risk of estrangement increases as conversations with God diminish. Instead of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit, anxiety, guilt, and sorrow dominate our disposition. Without continual access to

God's strength, courage, and comfort, we grow disoriented from His family and disconnected from His community. Talking with God strengthens our relationship with others, especially when we allow His love to lead and His strength to guide us.³

In the beginning, Adam and Eve were strong. They were as strong as God wanted them to be because their spirit, soul, and body operated as one. After Satan's divide-and-conquer attack, we now experience conflicted disparity. Mixed signals from our mind dictate opposing commands to our emotions. As rival thoughts clash with frayed feelings, physical symptoms complicate our mood. We are navigating a confusing mind-field set with hostile crosscurrents.

Knowing the truth about God liberates us from renegade opinions. His word terminates the tug-of-war between spirit, soul, and body. It resolves the incoherent psychobabble that rages against the somababble from our body. Rising above this chorus of uncertainty, the Holy Spirit injects powerful words infused with faith, hope, and love. Connecting with the truth delivers us from Satan's travesty of confusion; it exposes his charade of deception.

When the Holy Spirit speaks today, our broken pieces integrate back together with renewed harmony. Spirit, soul, and body begin to operate in sync with God and His will. Connecting with Jesus entitles us to special benefits. We *"live [zao] by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God"*.⁴ The Greek word *zao* means, to live and enjoy life with active, blessed, endless, and vital power.⁵ God's word generates strength so we can live an effective, efficient, and powerful life. Hearing what the Holy Spirit has to say renews our strength and restores our courage.

³ Exodus 15:13

⁴ Matthew 3:3 NAS

⁵ <http://bible.crosswalk.com/Lexicons> (accessed 3-10-06).

As the author of life, Jesus communicates spiritual words filled with abundant life. He said, *“The words that I speak to you, they are spirit and they are life.”*⁶

Tearing Down Blockades

Shining the light of human reason into a dense spiritual fog is hopelessly ineffective. We need stellar insight to burn away the fog. Walls of separation come riddled with pretense. If we want to connect with Jesus in real-time, spiritual barriers must come down. God did not design us to grovel behind walls of separation. Rather than ignoring communication barriers, we should realize how repulsive and insidious they are.

As if hypnotized by a culture of denial, we often ignore strength-depriving obstacles as if they do not exist. God has something important to say and He wants us to hear every word. Restoring two-way communication requires more than a state of the art sound system to amplify our organized religion.

Tear down the blockades. Don't compromise your pursuit for God just to avoid a theological confrontation. Don't negotiate with Satan using human reason. Don't decorate spiritual speech impediments with elegant sounding excuses. Don't appease illegitimate limitations with idealistic explanations. Identify the barriers that interfere with our communication and tear them down. Be bold and creative—pray with confidence and prophesy with conviction.

Conceived in love, prophecy offers a wide-range of creative expression, some of which exert epic force. Epic means extending beyond the usual or ordinary dimensions especially in scope or size.⁷ Music, art, drama, dance, mime, oratory, writing, and cinema have the potential to express God's sentiments with penetrating power and passionate affection.

⁶ John 6:63 NIV

⁷ Merriam-Webster Online <http://www.m-w.com/dictionary/epic> (accessed 23-1-06)

Satan's blockades are fallible gates of Hell posing as indomitable strongholds. These demonic barriers trespass on holy ground. They intrude with unacceptable trickery. Beset by false assumptions, these illegitimate obstacles are intolerable. They lack sufficient authority to separate us from God, from one another, and from ourselves—unless, we permit them to govern our progress.

Every barrier that prevents us from receiving God's best must crumble at the feet of Jesus. Embrace the truth and tear them down!

Every Word from God Comes Packed with Meaning

Sometimes the Holy Spirit inspires life-giving messages reinforced with a warning.

*See that you do not refuse **him who is speaking**. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him **who warns from heaven**. (Hebrews 12:25 ESV)*

The book of Revelation contains various warnings for the human race. Written as an apocalyptic narrative, tribulation permeates its plot, not to taunt our mind but to stir our core passions. Mystery shadows the characters while supernatural intrigue complicates their events. For all hearing impaired God-seekers, the Holy Spirit resorts to graphic sign language throughout this book.

God did not reveal "The Revelation" years ago to perplex us today. Despite obscure metaphors and complex symbolism, this prophecy details a vivid "*revelation of Jesus Christ*".⁸ It reveals His divine attributes along with His supernatural activities and eternal promises. Rather than scaring the wits out of us, this message highlights facts relevant to our future so we can embrace God today for all He's worth. "The Revelation" features priorities that demand paramount importance. It moti-

⁸ Revelation 1:1 NIV

vates us to fortify our connection with Jesus so we will prevail when cataclysmic events propel us toward the end of this age.

Connecting with the truth enables us to heed prophetic warnings and embrace eternal promises. With fascinating imagery and resourceful insight, “The Revelation” inspires us to connect with Jesus beyond superficial formalities. The capstone warnings in this book prompt us to discover the truth without tolerating much margin for error. Eventually, God’s voice will shake everything that can be shaken.

*At that time **his voice shook the earth**, but now he has promised, “Yet **once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.**” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. (Hebrews 12:26-27 ESV)*

