“Living in the Presence of God”
Isaiah 6

Objective: Encourage, illustrate how experiencing the Presence of God should result in life change.

Introduction:
1. There are times when we would behave differently if we were aware that someone was present.
2. Might you be less irritable towards your children or spouse if you could see God present? He is.
3. Would you talk like that if God was here? He is.
4. Are there things you would or would NOT do if God was right here? He is.

We need conduct our lives in the very presence of God. (HOW?)

As we read Isaiah’s experience in Isaiah 6, we can see what impact, what effect standing in the very presence of Almighty God ought to have on person’s life.

It is not so much that we need to encounter God’s presence; He is always here, always present, always working. We need to become genuinely and fully aware of it. We need to …

I. Comprehend God’s Presence.

A. This has a life changing effect.
1. Until Isaiah saw God and felt what it was to stand in the very presence of God, Isaiah was pretty much an ordinary person.
   a. Certainly religious, church-goer. Probably recognized by people as a good person.
   c. About like you and me. ?
2. After he saw the presence and glory of God, he was noticeably different.
3. He lived and spent time around the Temple, but when He saw God seated on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple, with smoke filling the Temple and heavenly beings declaring His holiness, Isaiah was filled with reverent fear.
4. Have you gone through that kind of a change?! Have you felt your own heart beat with that recognition?
5. There IS a God. Creator of all things. One Who created me! To Whom all things stand accountable and responsible. He is absolutely powerful and glorious and absolutely holy.
6. Is God real enough to you to change your life?

B. Have you ever been suddenly impacted by a realization?.
1. When you realize you have been driving too fast to stop on ice, heart beats faster, you say, “OH NO”, and it probably changes the way you drive afterwards. (For a little bit anyway.)
2. I’m not talking about needing “visions” etc., but about comprehending God’s reality, power.
   a. “Whoa, this stuff is real”! Not Santa Clause, Easter Bunny stuff. SERIOUS!
   b. There really IS a God who REALLY knows my thoughts, feeling, every action.
   c. There really is a God who REALLY cares about such things.
   d. There really is a heaven and hell. They are not just fables. I need to pay attention to things!
3. What needs to happen for it all to become vividly real to you? Let me suggest …

C. Put yourself in a position to comprehend God. It should GRAB you.
1. He could just come to you and surprise you. Could slap you with a bolt of lightning like in Sergeant York movie. Could come through some desperate need or even a vision or dream, but we are told to seek God and ought to realize there ARE things we can do to increase our awareness of God – His nature and His Presence. Let me suggest…
2. Pray that the eyes of your heart would be enlightened. (Ephesians 1:18)
3. Study to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord. Spend time reading, hearing and meditating on the Scriptures because faith comes from hearing the Word. (Romans 10:17).
4. Talk and associate with others who know the Lord – because faith is strengthened by people sharing their faith one with another. (Romans 1:12).
6. **Take time** out to ponder, seek and appreciate. Discipline yourself away from life’s distractions – problems and fun – to simply rest in and feel the Presence of God.

*Being impacted by the reality of God - His holiness and power and majesty is really only the starting point here. It proceeds to affect the soul. A real awareness of God enables one to ...*

**II. Become fully aware of guilt.**

A. **What will you look / feel like standing in presence of Holiness?**
   1. You will one day, in Judgement – better to experience it here and now in case there are changes that need to be made.
   2. Isaiah’s immediate response was, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.” (Isaiah 6:5).
   3. I guarantee it will to be a heart-felt “Woe is me” for you if you really sense His presence.
   4. Like wearing a **clean but old** “white” T-shirt, stepping into a crowd of folks wearing new ones.
      a. He will be so much whiter, cleaner. “...(Like we read about on the Mount of Transfiguration: Christ’s at Transfiguration) **His garments became radiant and exceedingly white, as no launderer on earth can whiten them.**” (Mark 9:3) The word “resplendent” might fit?
      b. Like brushing your teeth, feeling proud, then rinsing with red dye. Clean? No, gross!

B. **See your guilt now - before it is too late.**
   1. You want an awareness before you get to Judgment.
   2. David says in Psalm 139:23-24, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.”
   3. Can you earnestly and honestly say such a prayer? Can you open your heart and soul in such a way for God to examine and show you? Will you listen to His findings?
   4. Lord search me and show me my sin. Impact me with the reality of it. Let me really see and feel the horror of it. Open my eyes. Reveal it to me.
   5. If I have stains on my bridal gown, I need to know it before I stand up for the wedding.
   6. If I have debts unpaid, I need to know before I stand in court for final examination.
   7. I do know. Somewhat at least. I am in trouble. I am unworthy to stand in God’s Presence ...

C. **Lord, fix me. Cleanse me!**
   1. When Isaiah realized his own dirty condition God provided cleansing. God sent a seraphim with a burning coal to touch his lips and cleanse him. (vs. 6-7)
   2. If you have ever sinned .... One little lie. Cuss word. Angry outburst. Lustful thought ....
      a. **You are not fit to stand in God’s presence in filthy condition!!!!!**
      b. Realize the need for your sins to be washed.
   3. Launder ME also, Lord, as no launderer on earth can do. Not just my lips, but all of me. God can do this for you and me:
      a. The Apostle tells Christians in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, “... but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.” Cleansing comes through Christ and His Spirit.
      b. Requires resisting temptations and turning to the power of God in order to “overcome”. Revelation 3:5, **’He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.’** Carries a confidence and assurance as well, because it is Christ clothing us.
   4. The way to cleansing, to healing, enabling us to stand in God’s presence **is Christ Jesus!**
      a. Galatians 3:26-27, “**For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.**”

Comprehending the Holy majesty of Almighty God, appreciating the cleansing that is available in Christ, moves one who realizes what it is to stand in God’s presence to respond with a...

**III. Resultant desire to serve.** READ vs. 8-13
A. Here am I, send me!!!!!!!
1. Are you so moved? Do you have such appreciation for God’s holiness?, His worthiness?
2. Do you have such an awareness of lost and unacceptable status of those around you?
3. You tell when they leave their headlights on. You tell them when there is a speed trap; Tell them they are in God’s presence.
4. You tell them when their fly is open and they might get embarrassed. You tell these things to people you don’t even know!
5. Tell them about God and His holiness, about His Presence. He is watching. He cares!
6. I remember the eagerness of volunteering to clean erasers. Messy job but a privilege.
   a. Sally has moved in with fiancée. Who will go and tell her ....?
   b. Big Bad Bob is having outbursts of anger. Who will go....?

B. God say’s “Go and tell them!”.
1. He tells those who know Him the same thing today!
   a. Romans 10:13-14, “WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.” How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard?”
   b. Matthew 28:18-20, “And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
2. If you are aware that you stand in the presence of Almighty God, you need to be telling it.
3. Preaching, teaching, talking, serving, modeling influencing! Letting them see God in you.
4. Helping them become aware they also stand in God’s presence.

C. Your efforts may seem to you to be ineffective, but they are not.
1. God’s will is being accomplished. So keep on telling....
2. “How long?” I have spoken with everyone and no one responds ... Discouraged!
3. Vision is of all this “wonderful” forest, but if you look closely, it is full of heart-rot, disease.
   Loggers come in with skidders and “devastate” it. Nothing left but a stump standing like a tombstone. Dead, gone, lost. NO. From that one stump comes one tender sprout....
4. It is Christ. It is Christ in you. It yields what God is looking for.

So What?
Can you continue as you are or as you have been? Coarse and vulgar language? Maintain impure thoughts? NOT IN HIS PRESENCE! If you realize what it is to stand in God’s presence, you cannot remain the same.

Have you come into the presence of Almighty God and become aware of His reality, His glory, His pure holiness? Have you come to him in obedient response to Christ Jesus and been washed of your sins in the waters of baptism? Have you given yourself to God totally , with every breath as a living sacrifice?

Are you living in the presence of God?

Closing Prayer:
We need conduct our lives in the very presence of God. What impact the very presence of God ought to have on a person’s life.

I. Comprehend God’s Presence.
   A. This has a life changing effect.

   B. Have you ever been suddenly impacted by a realization?

   C. Put yourself in a position to comprehend God. It should GRAB you.

II. Become fully aware of guilt.
   A. What will you look / feel like standing in presence of Holiness?
      Isaiah 6:5

   B. See your guilt now - before it is too late.
      Psalm 139:23-24

   C. Lord, fix me. Cleanse me!
      1 Corinthians 6:9-11   Revelation 3:5   Galatians 3:26-27

III. Resultant desire to serve.
   A. Here am I, send me!!!!!!!

   B. God say’s “Go and tell them!”
      Romans 10:13-14   Matthew 28:18-20

   C. Your efforts may seem to you to be ineffective, but they are not.

So What?
   Are you living in the presence of God?