

*Into
His Presence*

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How do we stay connected to the Lord during the day?

How can we be helped to **PRACTICE THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD THROUGHOUT OUR BUSY DAY.**

Ps. 119:164. "Seven times a day do I praise you."

Here the Psalmist says that praise is going on all day and not just in the morning. While there are strong reasons to start our day "looking up," our goal is to stay connected throughout the day.

Ps. 55:17 Evening and morning and noon will I pray to Thee and cry aloud.

Peter and John were going to their "hour of prayer" when they healed a man.

Daniel, the Word says, prayed three times a day looking toward Jerusalem.

There is a principle in the word of God that may be very helpful to us.

In Exodus 29:38,39,42,45,46 we see a particular sacrifice that was continually offered by God's people called, the "*Lamb of devotion*" or the "*Lamb of Consecration.*" It was the burnt offering.

The Word reads like this: "*And this is what thou shall offer upon the altar—two lambs of the first year, day by day continually. The one lamb you shall offer in the morning; and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight. It shall be a continual burnt-offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the tent of meeting before Jehovah, where **I will meet with you, to speak with you there.** And **I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel, and will be their God.** And they shall know that I am the Lord their God who brought them out of Egypt, **to dwell in their midst: I am Jehovah their God.**"*

The sacrifice of the burnt offering was not for sin. It was an act of pure devotion on the part of the worshipper. God expressed His desire to dwell with His people then, God desires to dwell with His people now, and God desires to dwell with you today. Psalm 66:13-15.

The lamb that burned, burned slowly, it burned all day and all night. This sacrifice was the basis of their worship. With the offering of this gift a man gave God the best of what he had, recognizing God's pre-eminent place in his life. The sacrifice laid out before the

Lord on the brazen altar represented the life of the worshipper. It was his/her life displayed on the altar before the Lord, day and night.

Today as believers we are “*living sacrifices*” Paul tells us in Romans 12:1. “*I beseech you brethren by the mercies of God to offer yourself a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable before the Lord, your reasonable service of worship.*” This is the willing sacrifice of my life to the Lord, this is the basis of my worship.

The heart’s cry of a true worshipper in any age is to “...*behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple.*” (Ps. 27:4). Today we are His temples, individually and corporately. We desire to draw near to Him. He has paid the ultimate price to bring us to Himself. Under the Old Covenant it was only the High Priest once a year who was able to come into His Presence. However, under the New Covenant, upon the death of the Savior, the veil that hid His Presence was torn in two. Today I am invited not to visit, but to live in His Blessed Presence.

Hebrews. 10:19-22 reads, “*Therefore brethren, having boldness to enter the holy of holies by the blood of Jesus, by this new and living way which he has dedicated for us through the veil, that is, his flesh, and having a great high priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, sprinkled from a wicked conscience and washed as to our body with pure water.*”

God’s desire is that we live in His presence and that we hear His voice.

With this truth as a foundation, how may I enter His Presence each day with my worship? What if my morning time can only be 15, 20 or 30 minutes? How might it be a living and meaningful time? Remember this is not a time to study the Bible, it a time to “draw near,” it is a time to “gather manna.” Which we shall speak of shortly.

Let us begin our day by giving Him our worship. He is worthy. We offer our lives a living sacrifice. **We ourselves are the burnt offering!** As we offer ourselves afresh to Him, we proclaim:

“Lord this day belongs to You, I belong to You. You are my God, I am one of Your people.”

(Spend a few minutes giving Him Yourself, all you are, all you have. Worship Him with words of honor, thanksgiving and adoration. Perhaps there is a song on your heart. Leave all your cares with Him as well for He cares for you.)

It is a purposeful moment as you look into His face and renew your love and commitment to Him. “Lord, I belong to You, in this day whatever I do, wherever I go, I am yours.” His mercies are new every morning. Your worship will be a sweet fragrance before your Lord. Linger in His Presence. Tell Him of your love and gratitude to Him in few words. Pause often and be silent before Him.

We have access into His presence. Our hearts are sprinkled by the precious blood. The blood of the lamb has opened the way.

“Lord still my heart in Your Presence, still my soul’s chatter and still its demands. Draw me close to You. Is there anything I need this morning to confess before You and put under Your blood?”

Now that we have touched Him with our worship, we need food for the day. How can I receive my daily portion? Exodus 16:13 details the original story of how God gave His people manna. He had redeemed them out of the bondage of Egypt, they were in the wilderness and in need of food. A form of bread was found on the ground in the morning. Every morning they were to gather what they would eat for the day.

Manna is a principle for us as well. Deuteronomy 8:3 explains the lesson to the children of Israel of the giving of the manna. *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”* The Master Himself is clear in John 6 that HE is the bread that comes down from heaven, He is that manna. He feeds us Himself as He feeds us His Word. (Bible study can be at another time, this is our daily bread. We can read four chapters in the Bible in the morning and feel like we have accomplished our religious duty for the day and yet never touch Him or receive food for our souls.)

How much Word do you need for the day? A few portions (meals) for the day to chew on. Not a whole study. One or two verses. Maybe a phrase or two. But, where do I go for my manna? Devotional books can be good but they can cause you to lose your chewing ability if you read them before you chew the food yourself speaking to the Lord about it. You could take the day’s verse from the book but try hiding the text. Take it, eat it, ask the Holy Spirit through the day to speak to you about it. Later in the day review the text and then read the commentary.

Your manna may be a verse or two that has been coming up again and again in your mind and you might want to consider it now. That is your manna for the day.

But what about the days you don’t know where to go or where to read? Use the New Testament letters. They are directed to us in our age, easier to meditate on than most Old

Testament passages. Just start any book. Read a verse or two at a time. You may feel like nothing is there for you, that it doesn't speak to you. But as believers, just reading the Word brings a washing, a cleansing and a refreshing. Consider it, talk to the Lord about it. Write it down for easy access during your day. Just as we need meals throughout the day, we can pause a few times to reread our morning's manna.

If you prefer, your style may be to read the Scriptures until a particular verse or phrase jumps out at you. Remember, only a verse or two at the most. Let that be your day's manna.

Throughout the day we may "look up" and remind Him that the sacrifice is still on the altar. As we go about our business in just the amount of time it takes to descend a staircase, or walk from our car, we can quiet our hearts, "see" the morning offering on the altar. We give thanks we are safe, we are free, we belong to Him. We quiet our hearts again as we glance out a window, *"Thank you Holy Spirit, I love You. I lift my heart to You, get it for Yourself. Lead me today, rule over me today."* We "Behold the Lord" throughout the day.

At the end of the day our bodies are tired, our minds may be racing. We may take a few minutes before we retire, quiet our hearts, offer the evening sacrifice. Once more I affirm my life is consecrated to Him. Once more I pause in His Presence and feed on the day's manna. I may take a few minutes to lift up my heart and be silent before Him.

Looking back over my day together with Him, I may ask these questions, *"Lord what do you want to say to me about this day?" "Where was I living for myself and where did I miss You?"*

I sleep while the evening sacrifice burns on the altar in heaven. I am His, He is mine. And the house (where Mary anointed Him with her oil and her tears) was filled with the fragrance of the costly perfume. May the sacrifice of my life this day be a fragrant aroma before Him, He is worthy!