

Living In His Presence



Living In His Presence

Without a doubt, we are living in the days of the fulfillment of Isaiah 60

Isaiah 60:1-2 *Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.*

2 *For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.*

The deep darkness that is now covering the earth is a clear indication that the time for the saints of God to arise and shine is here. Walking in the glory of God is not optional. We *must* arise until His glory is seen upon us!

The "glory" of God is His manifested presence, love and power in and upon believers who are walking in **Galatians 2:20**.

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

We must understand two things:

1. The glory of God is not only available as our inheritance in Christ, it is imperative that we walk in it so that God's kingdom, through us, will triumph over darkness.
2. We must learn how to enter and abide in His glory/presence.

We have been chosen for salvation that we might obtain His glory. *"But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, **14** to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."* **2 Thes. 2:13-14**

God chose you for salvation from the beginning (before you were born) so that you would obtain the glory of the Lord Jesus.

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Our salvation is comprised of three parts:

1. Justification
2. Sanctification
3. Glorification (Service)

Justification

When we trust Jesus Christ as our Savior, we are justified by faith. We are delivered from the penalty of sin. Through the gift of imputed righteousness, God declares us "justified". This is only the first step in our salvation. Sadly many believers never move very far past this. That is never God's will.

Sanctification

The second part of our salvation is "sanctification". This is an ongoing process whereby our souls (mind, will & emotions) become purified and transformed into the image of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is God's great purpose for all believers (**Romans 8:28-29**). Jesus commanded His disciples "Follow Me and I will make you". Sanctification involves obediently following, by faith, in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. We do the following and He makes us; He transforms us into His image.

"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps." **1 Peter 2:21**

"And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him" **Hebrews 5:9**

Let's read 2 Thes. 2:13b-14 again:

*"God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, **14** to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Sanctification means that we are set apart exclusively for the will of God. To the degree that we yield to the sanctification process, to that degree the manifested glory/presence of God increases in our lives.

*"but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **16** because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." **1 Peter 1:15-16***

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Glorification

Those that follow Jesus, as true disciples, and keep His Word are the Bride and Jesus is glorified in them:

John 3, 22: After these things came Jesus and HIS DISCIPLES into the land of Judaea; and there HE TARRED WITH THEM, and baptized.

John 3, 27: John answered and said, A man can RECEIVE nothing, except it be given him FROM HEAVEN.

John 3, 29: HE that HATH THE BRIDE is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

John 3, 34: FOR HE WHOM GOD HATH SENT SPEAKETH THE WORDS OF GOD: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

John 17, 6: I have manifested thy name UNTO THE MEN WHICH THOU GAVEST ME OUT OF THE WORLD: thine they were, and THOU GAVEST THEM TO ME; and THEY HAVE KEPT THY WORD. **7:** Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. **8:** For I HAVE GIVEN UNTO THEM THE WORDS WHICH THOU GAVEST ME; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. **9:** I PRAY FOR THEM: I pray NOT FOR THE WORLD, BUT FOR THEM WHICH THOU HAST GIVEN ME; for they are thine. **10:** And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I AM GLORIFIED IN THEM!

Glorification comes with the acts of service. Believers go through salvation, sanctification and then service.

God is glorified in our willing obedience to the wisdom of His commandments. To believe in God is to trust His Word, and to trust His Word is to obey and follow it. Otherwise, we are putting ourselves above God, judging Him, and insisting that we can do better with our lives.

The breaking of the bread is a great example of serving. The bread is blessed, broken and shared to others just as we go through salvation, the brokenness of the process of sanctification and then blessing others in our service to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 22:19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

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Matthew 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

Furthermore, we all have the same calling: to glorify God in everything we do. This is why we are here. Scripture says God created us for His glory (**Isa. 43:7**) and instructs us to "do everything for the glory of God" (**1 Cor. 10:31**).

But how? How can we give glory to "the King of glory" (**Ps. 24:8**)? Glory belongs to God (**John 17:5; Acts 7:55**). God reveals His glory (**Ex 24:17; 40:34; Ps. 19:1**). We can observe His glory (**John 1:14**).

But how do we give Him glory?

To glorify God is not to bestow glory on God or add to His glory, but to recognize and acknowledge His glory.

The basic meaning of the word glory is "heavy in weight." It is the "weighty importance and shining majesty that accompany God's presence."* The verb glorify means "to give weight to" or "to honor."

Thus, to glorify God is to recognize God for who He really is and to respond appropriately.



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Holiness defined in Scripture:

*And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, **13** so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints. **1 Thes. 3:12-13***

*Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. **Romans 13:10***

Holiness can be defined as abounding in pure love for God and for all men. Holiness does not mean that we never make an error in judgment. We would have to be omniscient to do that and only God is has all knowledge. Holiness is when every motion of our heart springs from love. We can and must pursue this. We can obtain this because God's love is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5) and causes us to become harmless and blameless (1 Thes. 5:23-24). This results in God's abiding glory to increase in our lives.

Sanctifying the tongue

One of the essential keys to moving into this abiding glory realm is the sanctification of our tongues.

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit. **Proverbs 18:21***

Years ago I heard the testimony of an esteemed prophet of God who often ministered in powerful healing and prophetic gifts. I was blessed to meet him a few times, to be in some of his meetings and to watch God use him mightily. He told of a time when he was in the green room with a few other ministers immediately after he had just finished ministering under a strong anointing. Hardly anyone in the sanctuary was left standing after being ministered to as they were overcome by the power of the Holy Spirit. Gifts of the Spirit, healings and miracles flowed.

After the meeting, while in the green room, another minister spoke to the prophet who had just ministered. He said something like: "That was powerful how God just used you, and just think, pastor so-and-so has been saying that you are a false prophet".

When the prophet heard the negative words that had been spoken about him by another minister, he replied by saying "His ministry isn't going anywhere". This prophet later said that as soon as those words left his mouth, the word of the Lord came to him saying "By speaking those words against your brother, you just released My power to destroy his ministry. Now you shall be on a sickbed one month for each word. If you ever speak a negative word about a brother or sister again, I will take you home early". The man of God immediately became ill and bedfast for the next five months. Despite all the prayers that were offered for his healing, he remained on the sickbed. After five months he was healed and was never known to speak anything negative with his tongue for the remaining years of his life. God's glory and power only seemed to increase upon and through him until he finished his race.

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God will not anoint us with His power if our tongues are not yielded to Him because whatever we say will come to pass. If He allowed the power of His Spirit to rest upon us mightily, and our tongue was not sanctified, we would cause much harm to His people and God would have to judge us.

God absolutely DOES want to fill us with His Spirit and anoint us mightily. He wants us to be anointed with His power more than we want it because He longs to reach those who are in darkness. He yearns to save, heal and deliver many people through us, but He cannot do it until we become safe with our tongues.

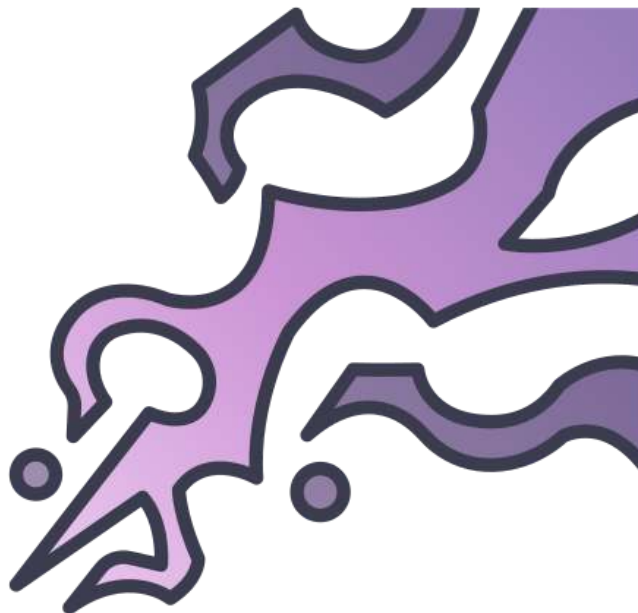
God wants us to be filled with His Spirit and power so that what we speak, according to His Word, comes to pass. He wants a people who can say "Be healed" and the healing immediately manifests. He wants a people who can say "come out" and the person in front of us is immediately delivered and transformed.

We must not waste any time. Darkness is covering the earth. Deep darkness is covering the people. We must NOW give ourselves wholeheartedly and without reservation to the Lord, allowing Him to sanctify us completely so that He can release His love and power through us.

The power of our tongue

*Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. **5** Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. **James 3:4-5***

Our tongue is like a small rudder that turns a very large ship. How our tongue goes determines how our life goes. If we do well in several areas of our life, but our tongue is not sanctified, our whole life is adversely affected.



The following Scriptures reveal that when our tongue is under the control of Holy Spirit, our whole body comes under control. When our tongue is unbridled, it nullifies the rest of our religion.

"For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body." **James 3:2**

"If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless." **James 1:26**

The Greek word for "religion" in this verse is also translated as "worship". Our worship is useless if we don't bridle our tongue.

*Scripture tells us in **James 3:6**, that if our tongue is not surrendered to the Lord, it "is set on fire by hell". What are our words?*

A Prophetic Word

A prophet, Sadhu Sundar Selvaraj, was ministering at Lancaster, California. Toward the end of his message, an angel of the Lord appeared and spoke a prophetic word to him which he then relayed to the congregation. The word was:

"You must Guard your mouth. Speak words of Life and God will anoint you with healing power. Creative miracles and resurrections will happen."

This truth of this prophetic word is not only confirmed by Scriptures but by the witness of numerous men and women of God who have consistently walked in His power. Our mouths must be sanctified if we are to be vessels of honor that He will use powerfully.

Following are some of the ways we sin with our tongue. Later we will look at the positive things that we should be speaking.

Ways we sin with our tongue... Repeating Things

"He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends." **Proverbs 17:9**

God hates when we sow discord among the brethren (Prov. 6:14). One of the primary ways we do this is by "repeating" things that are no one's business. It is wrong. It only fosters gossip and strife.

"A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter." **Proverbs 11:13**

Criticism

A fault-finding spirit is an offense to God. It is the opposite of what we are supposed to be doing. When we are abounding in love we look for and "affirm what is excellent" **Philippians 1:9**

Criticism and fault-finding block our prayers from being answered.

"Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.'"

His presence will manifest... *"If you take away the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness"* **Isaiah 58:9**

Passing judgment

When we draw a conclusion about "why someone acted the way they did" we are judging. In pride, we are taking the place of God. When we are in pride, God is obligated to resist us. When we judge others, we bring judgment upon ourselves.

"For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you." **Matthew 7:2**

We are not to pass judgement on others, but are to judge ourselves.

"For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged." **1 Cor. 11:31**

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*"Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." **Matthew 7:5***

Opinion

It is not always a sin to give our opinion, but it is one of the ways that we most often sin with our tongues. Do we really need to "chime in" and give our opinion? Most of the time, the answer is "no". Often, as soon as we start to give our opinion, we begin sinning with ungodly criticisms and/or judgments. The less we say, the less we sin.

*"In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise." **Proverbs 10:19***

Debate

Debate is another way that we get ourselves out of the Spirit.

*"But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless." **Titus 3:9***

DGS Dhinakaran from India walked with God like Enoch. Because of his close walk with the Lord, all the gifts of the Holy Spirit flowed through him mightily. Whenever he held an outdoor meeting, the average attendance was between 300,000 and 500,000 people. Entire cities would be shaken by the power of God as he ministered.

DGS Dhinakaran said that he had resolved to never debate or dispute with anyone, but rather to abide in the peace of God. He said "If someone comes to me and tells me that the donkey that Jesus rode on had three legs, I will just smile, nod my head and agree. I am not going to argue." This is wisdom. There are conversations that we do not need to get involved in. We don't need to give our opinion. It is better to be quiet, to stay in the Spirit and to walk in the peace of God.

Gossip

Gossip is when two or more people are talking (not in a positive way) about a person who is not there and can't defend themselves. It is when the brethren are together in unity that God commands the blessing (Psalm 133). Gossip destroys the unity of the Spirit. Professing Christians who gossip are probably the number one tool that satan uses to keep the body of Christ in a place of disunity and powerlessness.

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Slander

This is to maliciously malign a brother or sister, even with knowingly false statements. It is a grievous offense and brings God's judgment.

*"Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, Him I will destroy; The one who has a haughty look and a proud heart, Him I will not endure." **Psalm 101:5***

*"Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it" **James 4:11***

Complaining

The Bible has much to say about the sin of complaining. Complaining is not a little sin. It is an affront to God. It reveals a self-centered and ungrateful heart. Because of complaining the Israelites wandered aimlessly for many years and eventually died in the wilderness. While "thanksgiving" bring us into His Presence (**Psalm 100**) complaining keeps us out. Complaining will prevent us from inheriting His promises.

*"Do all things without complaining and disputing, **15** that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world." **Philippians 2:14-15***

We should all learn to talk less...

Proverbs 10:19 In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips *is* wise.

*Every time we put a halt to that critical thought we were about to utter, and we repent and replace it with grace, kindness and love, we bring our body under control.

*Every time we do not speak that negative word, we make our heart a more suitable place for the Holy Spirit to abide.

*Every time we do not complain, but rather give thanks, we are ushered into the presence of God **Psalm 100:4**

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"Every time we do not pass on gossip to others, we purify our own heart. We make room for the Holy Spirit. We also prevent others from sinning by listening to and passing on corrupt and harmful words.

Guarding our hearts and lips

"Whoever guards his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul from trouble." **Proverbs 21:23**

Guarding our lips starts with guarding our heart and thought life.

"From the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" **Luke 6:45**

"Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life." **Proverbs 4:23**

What should we do?

1. We must repent! Let's confess and forsake all sins of the tongue.
2. Let's make a plan to sanctify our lips by regularly meditating on His Word.

"Sanctify them by the truth; Your Word is truth." **John 17:17**

3. Pray.

"Let the words of my mouth and meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer" **Psalms 19:14**

"Set a guard, Oh Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips" **Psalms 141:3**

4. Begin to cultivate positive and life-giving speech.

*"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, **19** speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, **20** giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"* **Ephesians 5:18-20**

"I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise will continually be in my mouth" **Psalms 34:1**

"Rejoice always, **17** pray without ceasing, **18** in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." **1 Thes. 5:16-18**

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Ask God for words of encouragement

"The Lord God has given me the tongue of the learned,

*That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning,
He awakens My ear To hear as the learned." **Isaiah 50:4***

Pray to have God's love that sees what is excellent in others

*"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, **10** that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, **11** being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."*

Philippians 1:9-11

As our tongues become more and more yielded to the Lord, His Spirit will begin to rest on us with power. The time is now here. Let us arise and shine in the Name of Jesus!

