

19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AMEN CONFERENCE

IN HIS  
*Presence*

SABBATH SCHOOL  
LESSON AND EVENING REFLECTION

DISCUSSION LEADERS:

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Adventist Medical  
Evangelism Network





# IN HIS *Presence*

SURRENDER. HEALING. POWER.

*"You will show me the path of life; surrender  
In Your presence is fullness of joy; healing  
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore." power*

**PSALM 16:11**

*Jesus lived in the presence of God. Surrendered to the Father's will, He was a healing presence filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.*

As healthcare workers we are constantly on the go, running from place to place to help care for those who seek us out for help. Where can we go to receive the strength to carry on? Into Christ's loving presence. There, as we sit at His feet in complete surrender, ready to give up whatever He asks, He will show us "the path of life."

Have you ever witnessed the joy of a healed patient?

If you had the same sickness as that healed patient, wouldn't you eagerly sign the informed consent and surrender yourself to the same treatment?

God as the Master Physician offers us a Bible's-worth of informed consent showing us the risks, benefits, and alternatives to his proven cure for sin, and He waits patiently for each of us to surrender to His treatment.

His presence pervades the darkness. As His rays seep into our lives, we find the path to surrender, which then leads into His healing arms of joy and sends us forth with great power.

God called Moses to lead the children of Israel with the promise, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Likewise, Christ calls us to go and minister with the promise of His presence. God's presence is as exceedingly broad as are His commands and His character. It is "In His Presence" that we find rest, peace, hope, healing, grace, power and so much more! As we take hold of God's promise and abide "In His Presence," we will fully experience the Surrender, the Healing, and the Power to truly minister as Jesus did.

# FULLNESS OF JOY

COMMENTARY BY  
ELLEN G. WHITE

## First Things First

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. PSALM 16:11.

The religion of Jesus is joy, peace, and happiness. TESTIMONIES FOR THE CHURCH, VOL 5, P. 579.

All Heaven is interested in the happiness of man. Our heavenly Father does not close the avenues of joy to any of His creatures. The divine requirements call upon us to shun those indulgences that would bring suffering and disappointment, that would close to us the door of happiness and heaven.... He [the world's Redeemer] requires us to perform only those duties that will lead our steps to heights of bliss to which the disobedient can never attain. The true, joyous life of the soul is to have Christ formed within, the hope of glory. STEPS TO CHRIST, P. 46, 47.

Those who abide in Jesus will be happy, cheerful, and joyful in God. A subdued gentleness will mark the voice, reverence for spiritual and eternal things will be expressed in the actions, and music, joyful music, will echo from the lips, for it is wafted from the throne of God. This is the mystery of godliness, not easily explained, but nonetheless felt and enjoyed.

TESTIMONIES FOR THE CHURCH VOL 4, P.626.

Words cannot describe the peace and joy possessed by him who takes God at His word. Trials do not disturb him, slights do not vex him. Self is crucified. Day by day his duties may become more taxing, his temptations stronger, his trials more severe; but he does not falter; for he receives strength equal to his need. MESSAGES TO YOUNG PEOPLE, P. 98.

In those who possess it, the religion of Christ will reveal itself as a vitalizing, pervading principle, a living, working, spiritual energy. There will be manifest the freshness and power and joyousness of perpetual youth. The heart that receives the Word of God is not as a pool that evaporates, not like a broken cistern that loses its treasure. It is like the mountain stream fed by unfailling springs, whose cool, sparkling waters leap from rock to rock, refreshing the weary, the thirsty, the heavy laden. CHRIST'S OBJECT LESSONS, P. 130.

# IN HIS *Presence*

EXPERIENCING SURRENDER, HEALING AND POWER

## SABBATH SCHOOL

MARK A. FINLEY

### *Jesus lived in the presence of God.*

Surrendered to the Father's will, He was a healing presence filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. The gospel of Luke focuses on the prayer life of Jesus more than any other book in the Bible. Luke was a Gentile physician, committed to Christ, who longed to share the eternal truths of salvation with both Jew and Gentile. The gospel of Luke was written around AD 60 to a growing Christian community. It particularly emphasizes our relationship with God and one another. It is significant that it is addressed to Theophilus which means "lover of God" or "a friend of God." The purpose of Luke is to lead each reader to live in the presence of God as one of "God's friends."

It is also fascinating to note that the gospel highlights Jesus' prayer life in at least ten separate instances. The Greeks believed that the gods were separate—and quite distant—from humanity. They had no concept of human beings developing a relationship with the gods. In his gospel, Luke presents a revolutionary concept: Jesus, the divine Son of God dwelt in human flesh, and as a human, developed an intimate relationship with God in prayer. Jesus exemplified how we as humans can daily live in the presence of God.



## EXPERIENCING HIS PRESENCE

1. As a busy medical professional, Luke knew the importance of time spent alone with God; so, he highlighted this in Christ's life. This medical missionary physician gives us a picture of the importance that Jesus placed on experiencing God's presence. Time alone with God gives us a new perspective on life. It helps us to sort through life's clutter. It enables us to be free from the strain of life's intense activity and enables us to listen to His still small voice speaking to our hearts.

Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness of Judea meeting Satan's temptations and mightily experiencing God's presence in the solitude of prayer. These times of solitude in God's presence characterized the Savior's earthly ministry. Read the following passages and describe the effect of a life bathed in God's presence. (LUKE 4: 1,14; LUKE 5:15,16; LUKE 6:12,13)

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2. Read the following quote by Ellen White together aloud and analyze the advantages she gives for spending time alone in the presence of God. How might this specifically apply to medical professionals?

"All who are under the training of God need the quiet hour for communion with their own hearts, with nature, and with God. In them is to be revealed a life that is not in harmony with the world, its customs, or its practices; and they need to have a personal experience in obtaining a knowledge of the will of God. We must individually hear Him speaking to the heart. When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God. He bids us, "Be still, and know that I am God."

Psalm 46:10. This is the effectual preparation for all labor for God. Amidst the hurrying throng, and the strain of life's intense activities, he who is thus refreshed will be surrounded with an atmosphere of light and peace. He will receive a new endowment of both physical and mental strength. His life will breathe out a fragrance, and will reveal a divine power that will reach men's hearts. – ELLEN WHITE, THE DESIRE OF

AGES, P. 59

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3. We experience God's presence through the ministry of the Holy Spirit as we spend time in prayer and the study of His Word. Read Luke 11:9-13. What is the relationship between prayer, the presence of God, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit?

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The Holy Spirit strengthens, sustains, and supports us. The Holy Spirit encourages, enlightens, and empowers us. The Holy Spirit instructs, informs, and impresses us. The Holy Spirit convicts, corrects and converts us. "Only to those who wait humbly upon God, who watch for His guidance and grace, is the Spirit given. The promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train. It is given according to the riches of the grace of Christ, and He is ready to supply every soul according to the capacity to receive."

– IBID., AMAZING GRACE, P. 212

4. Compare Luke 22:39-44 with Matthew 26:36-46. What do these passages teach about surrender? Was Jesus looking forward to the cross? How would you define surrender in the light of the above passages? SEE ALSO JOHN 8:29 AND HEBREWS 10:7.

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These Biblical passages help us understand surrender more clearly. Stated succinctly, surrender is simply deciding to seek God's will in everything we do and desiring to please Him rather than living self-centered lives.

5. Discuss the two statements below from Steps to Christ. What do they mean to you personally?

"The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God, requires a struggle; but the soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in holiness..."

"Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in your life. By yielding up your will to Christ, you ally yourself with the power that is above all principalities and powers. You will have strength from above to hold you steadfast, and thus through constant surrender to God you will be enabled to live the new life, even the life of faith." –

IBID., STEPS TO CHRIST, P. 43, 48.

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The problem that solves all other spiritual problems is the matter of the surrender of the will—seeking God's will in every decision of life.

George Muller, that great man of faith whose homes in England fed thousands of orphans, described surrender in these words, "There was a day when I died; died to self, my opinions, preferences, tastes and will; died to the world, its approval or censure; died to the approval or blame even of my brethren or friends; and since then I have studied only to show myself approved unto God."



## THE JOY OF HIS PRESENCE

6. Read John 15:11-17. How has Christ established an eternal friendship with us? How do friends establish lasting relationships? What does it mean to you to be a friend of God?

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Friends trust one another, take one another at their word, enjoy one another's presence, and are there for one another.

Ellen White's comments reveal the peace and joy of fellowship with God in His Word: "Words cannot describe the peace and joy possessed by him who takes God at His word. Trials do not disturb him, slights do not vex him. Self is crucified. Day by day his duties may become more taxing, his temptations stronger, his trials more severe; but he does not falter; for he receives strength equal to his need." - *IBID., THE FAITH I LIVE BY*, P. 226.

7. Read Psalm 16: 5-11 aloud in your group. List the different expressions David uses to describe the joy of living in God's presence in verses 5-10. What three expressions does David use in verse 11 to highlight the results of His relationship with God?

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8. Read Psalm 43:5. How does David describe His experience at the altar of God in His presence?

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The Psalms reveal David's overwhelming joy in the presence of God. For David, God was His rock, strong tower, refuge, defender, shepherd, guide, Savior, Lord, and King. Worshiping God, living in His presence, is the greatest joy for the Psalmist. Both personal and corporate worship bring us into the presence of God and are a joyful expression of gratitude to God for all of His goodness, kindness, faithfulness and love.

9. What assurance and joy do the following verses give us? Read Exodus 33:14, Deuteronomy 31:6, Zephaniah 3:17, Matthew 28:20, and Hebrews 13:5?

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## HEALING AND POWER IN HIS PRESENCE

Our time in Christ's presence will also give us the strength to serve others and extend His healing touch to them. At His right hand we will find the power and strength to minister to others.

10. Read John 7:37-39 in harmony with the statement below as a basis for your discussion.

### Discuss this thought:

The joy of service comes in the context of living in the presence of the One that came not to be served but to serve.

"The heart that receives the Word of God is not as a pool that evaporates, not like a broken cistern that loses its treasure. It is like the mountain stream fed by unfailing springs, whose cool, sparkling waters leap from rock to rock, refreshing the weary, the thirsty, the heavy laden." – IBID., THE FAITH I LIVE BY, P. 226.

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11. Read Luke 22:31,32, Luke 23:34, Ephesians 1:15,16, Philippians 1:3-7, Colossians 1:3-6. What do these passages reveal about the prayer life of both Jesus and the apostle Paul? What practical lessons do they have for medical professionals?

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In the conflict between good and evil, prayer is a mighty weapon to defeat the enemy. Medical professionals who from the richness of their own experience in the presence of God pray for their patients will have a lasting impact on their lives.

Developing a prayer list and praying for your patients by name will make an enormous difference in your practice.

"The Saviour's life on earth was a life of communion with nature and with God. In this communion He revealed for us the secret of a life of power." – IBID., THE DESIRE OF AGES, P. 51.

12. Quietly read the two paragraphs below (from Christ's Object Lessons pp. 130, 131).

### Discuss this thought:

Reflect on the practical results of a meaningful devotional life of living in God's presence.

"Our life is to be bound up with the life of Christ; we are to draw constantly from Him, partaking of Him, the living Bread that came down from heaven, drawing from a fountain ever fresh, ever giving forth its abundant treasures. If we keep the Lord ever before us, allowing our hearts to go out in thanksgiving and praise to Him, we shall have a continual freshness in our religious life. Our prayers will take the form

of a conversation with God as we would talk with a friend. He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Often there will come to us a sweet joyful sense of the presence of Jesus. Often our hearts will burn within us as He draws nigh to commune with us as He did with Enoch. When this is in truth the experience of the Christian, there is seen in his life a simplicity, a humility, meekness, and lowliness of heart, that show to all with whom he associates that he has been with Jesus and learned of Him."

"In those who possess it, the religion of Christ will reveal itself as a vitalizing, pervading principle, a living, working, spiritual energy. There will be manifest the freshness and power and joyousness of perpetual youth. The heart that receives the word of God is not as a pool that evaporates, not like a broken cistern that loses its treasure. It is like the mountain stream fed by unfailing springs, whose cool, sparkling waters leap from rock to rock, refreshing the weary, the thirsty, the heavy laden."

What are the practical results of a meaningful devotional life spent living in God's presence?

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## LIVING IN HIS PRESENCE

*Applying the Principles of Surrender, Healing and Power  
Medical Professionals Sharing Together*

### **The Goal:**

1. When you look at Jesus' life, what could spending time in God's presence look like for you on a day-to-day basis?

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2. What have you found to be meaningful in your own devotional life?

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### **The Obstacles:**

3. What habits, circumstances, or events stand in your way of spending time with God?

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**The Strategies:**

4. What are some habits or methods that will help you overcome these obstacles?

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5. How do you keep focused on prayer?

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6. Are there specific devotional books you have found helpful?

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**The Motivators:**

7. What will motivate you to persevere in overcoming these obstacles and remaining in God's presence?

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**The Implementation:**

8. How have you integrated your personal relationship with Christ into your medical practice?

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9. What have you found to be some of the most effective ways to share Christ with your patients, colleagues, and staff?

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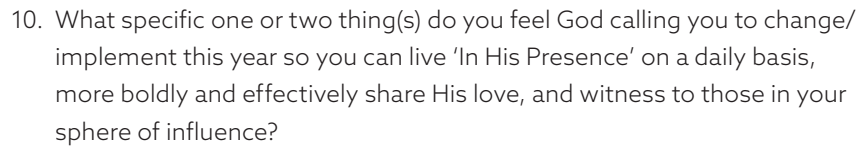
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### The Support:

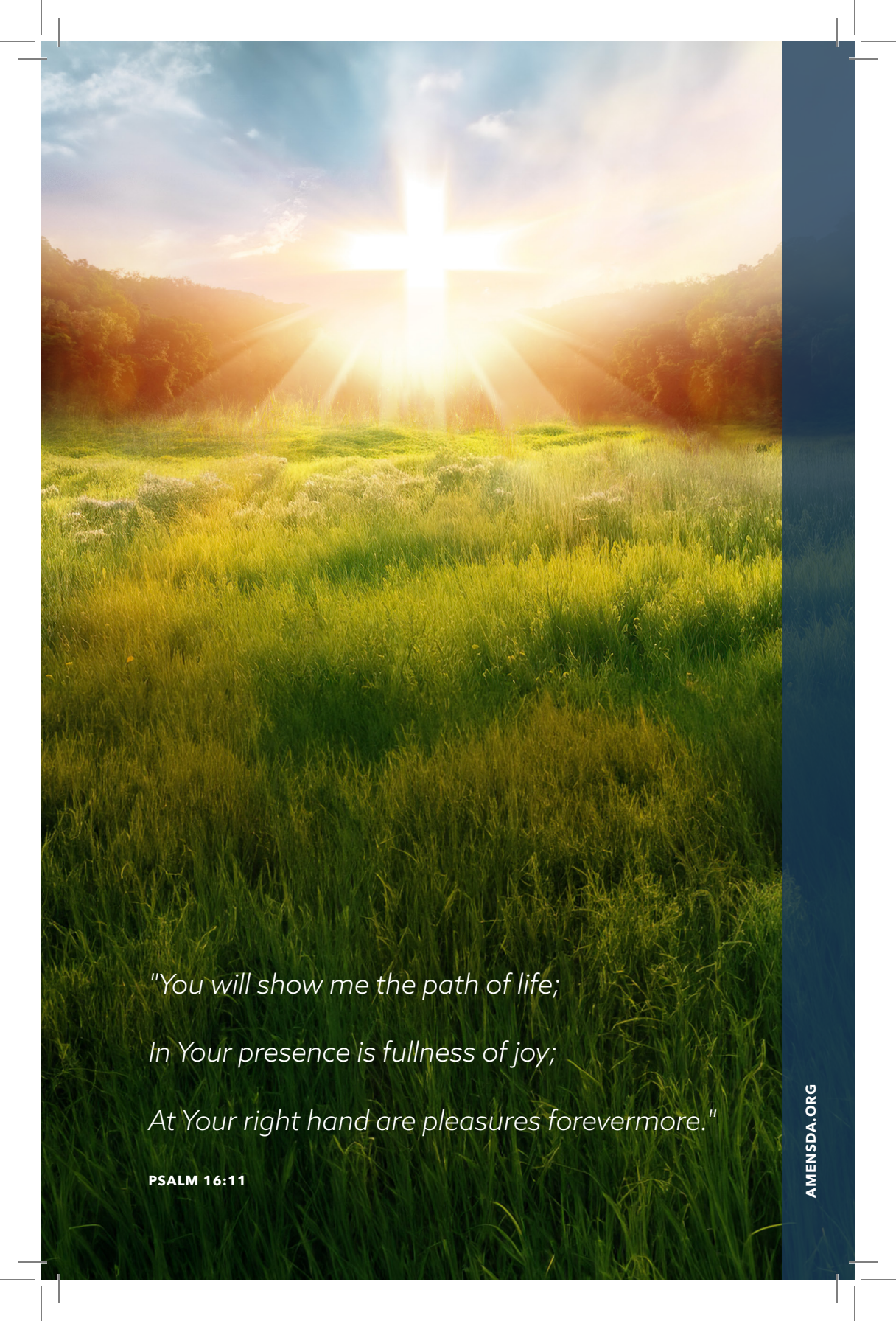
11. Who or what will support and encourage you to implement these changes?

12. How can AMEN support you throughout the year as you implement these changes?

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**NOTES:**

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*"You will show me the path of life;  
In Your presence is fullness of joy;  
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."*

PSALM 16:11