The Lost Presence of God

Where Is The Shekinah Glory?
Exodus 33:8-23

[7] Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away,
calling it the "tent of meeting." Anyone inquiring of the LORD would go to the tent of
meeting outside the camp. [8] And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose
and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he entered the tent. [9] As
Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance,
while the LORD spoke with Moses. [10] Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud
standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to
their tent. [11] The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then
Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the
tent.

[12] Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have
not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and
you have found favor with me.' [13] If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I
may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your
people." [14] The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

[15] Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from
here. [16] How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless
you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people
on the face of the earth?"

[17] And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am
pleased with you and I know you by name." [18] Then Moses said, "Now show me your
glory."

Introduction:

Lost things – Lost Gold Mines – my book, my aspiration – find lost gold mine!!!
Lost things – Top 10 Lost Treasures of the World – (ie) King John Crown Jewels
Lost things – Cell phones (200,000 lost in LA)
Lost things – lost $42 for clutch plate, lost check book, lost front teeth, diamond ring

Lost Spiritual Treasures – our inheritance, willing to live like paupers.

- Lost Presence of God – Ichabod, Glory of God is departed

1. God's Manifest Presence – Shekinah Glory

General Presence – omnispresence – "whither shall I go from your presence?"
Promised Presence – Hebrews 13:5 "I will never leave you nor forsake you." / Josh 1:5
Corporate Presence – Matthew 18 – "if any two or three of you in my name there am I"
Manifest Presence – Ex 33 – Moses longing after God

- A W Tozer - longing after God in the *Pursuit of God*, p. 20
- Paschal – longing after God, "there is a god shaped vacuum in the heart of every man that nothing else can fill but God alone.
- Augustine – longing after God, "our hearts are restless til they rest in thee

The Church Today
The church today has either lost or never experienced the manifest presence of the Lord. So we don't know what we are missing. We have a form of godliness but denying the power thereof. Like Samson, we "*wist not that the Spirit has left us.*" Like Eli's grandson at the taking of the Ark of God, the name Ichabod (glory departed) is written upon our doors**. Like Gideon , "*Where are all the miracles our fathers told us about.*" Jdg 6:13**

Jesus has left the building and no one even noticed!
If *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever"* then where is he?

Where Is the Demonstration of His Presence?

"If I be lifted up I will draw all men to me."- lost presence, lost anointing, lost attraction

We do church. We artificially fabricate, imitate his presence with cheap plastic tricks. Toys of entertainment, music, gadgets & gizmos, colored lights, videos, - even smoke. We have become the "Madison Avenue Church of the Open Sepulcher" – we are lukewarm, cold, dead, twice dead, plucked up by the roots. We are fakes, frauds, charlatans, promising much and delivering little.

1. The <u>Demonstration</u> of God's Manifest Presence

There is ample evidence throughout Scripture of deep encounters with God. One of the wonders of Genesis to Revelation is that God even took thought of man, much less dained to walk with him. The truth is God longs to walk and talk with us in uninterrupted intimacy of deep friendship. That great old hymn of the faith by C Austin Miles, In <u>*The Garde*</u>n describes that resurrection intimacy.

"And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own. And the joy we share
as we tarry there, none other had ever known."

Great men of the Bible knew this Shekinah glory as the all-surpassing glory of the presence of the Lord.

MANIFEST PRESENCE OF GOD

Exodus 33:12-23 (14, 16, 22) – If you presence does not go, don't send us up.
Exodus 34:5-10 (5, 10) – Cloud came down…the people will see the awesome work
Exodus 40:32-35 (34-35) – Cloud filled the tent of meeting
2 Chronicles 5:11-14 (13,14) – Could not minister
2 Chronicles 7:1-4, 12, 15 (1-2, 15) – Could not minister
Ezekiel 43:5 & 44:4 – the glory of the Lord filled the house
Isaiah 6:1 – temple was will with his glory

When Jesus Christ is Exalted Above All – all heaven breaks loose!
Singing and Praise – *not about music, about voices*
The Elders All Fall Down and Declare Jesus Is LORD of ALL!!!

Revelation 1:17 17 when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead.
Revelation 4:3-11 (10) The twenty-four elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy,
Revelation 5:6-14 (8, 14) elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of saints. 9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy
Revelation 7:9-12 (11) the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God
Revelation 11:16 the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,
Revelation 15:3-8 (8) And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple,
Revelation 19:1-4 (4) the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

2. Experiencing God's Manifest Presence

Real Life Results of God's Presence

- ❑ Jesus is Lifted Up – Exalted! Glorified!
- ❑ Worship is Glorious – as in heaven!
- ❑ Deep Longing after God – hunger! conviction!
- ❑ Visitors Feel & Weep at His Presence
- ❑ People Get Saved – lot's of them!
- ❑ The Altar is Restored – a place of blessing!
- ❑ Healings Are Normal, and spontaneous!
- ❑ Miracles Happen – heaven comes down!
- ❑ Demons Are Bound, stopped, and cast out
- ❑ Miraculous Gifts are Evident – people of prayer
- ❑ Marriages Restored, Addicts are Delivered

Questions to Ask Yourself and Your Church

(ie) Grove City candidating – "What is God doing in your church that no one else can take credit for?" Silence – we are thinking. Conclusion: Nothing that we know of.

- Does God show up on Sunday morning?
- Do people, even visitors note His presence?
- Are people being saved regularly through the services?
- Are people weeping and broken before God at the altar?
- Are there miracles?
- Are there healings?
- Are demons being cast out?
- Are miraculous gifts evident?
- Is there a tremendous longing after God?
- Are marriages being restored by God's intervention?
- Are people being delivered from sin, addictions, fears, bondages?
- Are you hungry for God's presence (not his presents)?

3. Preparing for His Manifest Presence

What are you looking for?
"You only get what you pray (long) for." You get what you pursue with all your heart.
"It won't happen publicly until it happens privately."
"That my passion becomes NOT my pleasure, BUT His Presence."
"Until we pastors and elders fall down on our faces pleading for His presence."

God doesn't want Ichabod – *"The glory of the Lord is departed."*1 Samuel 4:21
God wants to be wanted. *"Seek and He will be found."* Jeremiah 29:13
God wants to be found. *"Draw near and He will draw near to you."* James 4:8
God wants to be experienced. *"Taste and see the Lord is good."* Psalm 34:8
God want to be near. *"The Lord is near to all who call upon him."* Ps 145:18
God feeds the hungry. *"My soul pants after You."* Psalm 42:1

Are You Thirsty?

"As the deer pants for the water brooks so my soul pants after you O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" – Psalm 42:1-3

Are You Seeking?

"And you shall seek me and find me when you have searched for me with all your heart." – Jeremiah 29:13

Closing Song

This is Your House

Chorus
This is Your house,
Father come and dwell
This is Your house,
a holy house of prayer
Where the lost and the lonely,
bring their burdens and their cares
This is Your house,
this is Your house come and dwell
(repeat)

Verse 1
We dedicate this temple to You Lord
Let Your glory fill this sanctuary
Be enthroned on the praises
of Your people
Lord we agree, in unity.

Verse 2
Holy Spirit overflow this place
Decorate our walls
with grace and mercy
And healing and redemption,
find searching souls
Lord have Your way,
we humbly pray.

Raise chorus
This is Your house,
Father come and dwell
This is Your house,
a holy house of prayer
Where the lost and the lonely,
bring their burdens and their cares
This is Your house,
this is Your house come and dwell

SCRIPTURE PRESENCE OF GOD

Exodus 33:12-23 (14, 16, 22) – If you presence does not go, don't send us up.
he LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."
15 Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. 16 How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

Exodus 34:5-10 (5, 10) – Cloud came down…the people will see the awesome work
5 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. 6

Exodus 40:32-35 (34-35) – Cloud filled the tent of meeting
Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 35 Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

2 Chronicles 5:11-14 (13,14) – Could not minister
Then the temple of the LORD was filled with the cloud, 14 and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God.

2 Chronicles 7:1-4, 12, 15 (1-2, 15) – Could not minister
When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the LORD above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, "He is good; his love endures forever."

Isaiah 6:1 – temple was will with his glory
I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another: At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. 5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

Ezekiel 43:5
Then the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

Ezekiel 44:4 – the glory of the Lord filled the house
Then the man brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple. I looked and saw the glory of the LORD filling the temple of the LORD, and I fell facedown.

Revelation 1:10-18
10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, 11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. 12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; 13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; 15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. 16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. 17 **And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead.** And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: 18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Revelations 4:8-11
8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. 9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, 10 **The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 Thou art worthy,** O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Revelations 5:8-14
8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and **four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. 9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy** to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. 11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. 13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. 14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

Revelation 7:9-12
9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; 10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. 11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about **the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,** 12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 11:15-17
15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. 16 And **the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,** 17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

Revelation 15:5-8
5 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: 6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. 7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. 8 **And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God**, and from his power; and **no man was able to enter into the temple**, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

Revelation 19:1-4
1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: 2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. 3 And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. 4 And the **four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God** that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.