

CITYWEST CHURCH

10.08.25 - 10 AM

PRESENCE PEOPLE #1

CARRIED BY HIS PRESENCE.

One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro,^[a] the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai,^[b] the mountain of God. **2** There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. **3** "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it."

4 When the LORD saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

"Here I am!" Moses replied.

5 "Do not come any closer," the LORD warned. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. **6** I am the God of your father^[c]—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

7 Then the LORD told him, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. **8** So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live. **9** Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. **10** Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."

11 But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?"

12 God answered, "I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain."

Exodus 3:1-12 (NLT)

Ok church, here we go a new series on the presence of God. The rest of this month I want to talk about the presence of God and its role in our lives, how we become more aware of God's presence.

Book	God	The People
Genesis	Creates	Prepared
Exodus	Delivers	Redeemed
Leviticus	Sanctifies	Taught
Numbers	Sustains	Tested
Deuteronomy	Rewards	Re-taught

So a couple of quick things to set us up for this series.

- *God is omnipresent - he is everywhere. Wherever you go, God is there. This doesn't always make sense in our minds, but it gives rest to our souls.*
- *There are times when God's presence is obvious. The manifest or obvious presence of God. In our modern church world, we normally think of this happening in a Sunday service, but in the Bible, the obvious presence most mostly felt or obvious when people are at work. (Think shepherds in the Christmas story)*
- *God's word gives us the opportunity to know a personal felt presence, when we have a rhythm of reading the Holy Spirit makes a verse or passage come alive and real and relevant to our lives .*

I do want to talk about today is not just the truth of us knowing God is everywhere.

I do think all of us as believers can do better at being aware of the presence of God but in this message and through this series, I want us to go deeper and not just know he is there, but know that we are carried by the presence of God.

With that all said, let's jump into it:

Moses is not on a platform or at a revival. He's in the wilderness. A shepherd. Hiding from his past. Forty years deep into regret and obscurity.

*And it's there — in the **backside of the desert** — that the presence of God meets him.*

"There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush." (v.2)

*God doesn't wait for Moses to get his act together.
He comes to **where he is** — not where he should be.*

1. GOD'S PRESENCE CALLS US

When the LORD saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

"Here I am!" Moses replied.

Exodus 3:4 (NLT)

*Moses isn't looking for a burning bush — he's just doing his job.
But God is looking for Moses.*

- *Moses had messed up big-time (remember, he killed someone and ran).*
- *He probably thought he was disqualified from ever being used by God.*
- *But God's call wasn't based on Moses' past — it was based on God's presence and God's purpose.*

"God is looking for people through whom He can do the impossible — what a pity we plan only the things we can do by ourselves."

AW Tozer.

Some of you feel like your past has put you on the sidelines — but God still calls your name. He's not finished. He knows your mess and still chooses you.

Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful.

1 Cor 1:27 (NLT)

2. GOD'S PRESENCE QUALIFIES US

But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?"

Exodus 3:11 (NLT)

*Moses asks the question we all do when we feel the weight of a calling:
"Who am I?"*

- *He's full of doubt.*
- *He's aware of his inability.*
- *But God doesn't answer his question with a pep talk.*

God answered, "I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain."

Exodus 3:12 (NLT)

God doesn't give Moses a plan.

He gives him a presence.

When God calls you to something hard — leading, forgiving, stepping out — don't rely on your confidence. Rely on communion.

The presence of God is your qualification.

It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God.

2 Corinthians 3:5 (NLT)

3. GOD'S PRESENCE GOES WITH US

God answered, "I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain."

Exodus 3:12 (NLT)

Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matt 28:20 (NLT)

The great commission is not just a command but a promise of his presence.

- *Moses wouldn't be alone before Pharaoh.*
- *You won't be alone in that hard conversation.*
- *You won't be alone in the call to step out, speak up, or surrender something.*

God's mission always comes with God's presence.

We don't just need a "God-moment" — we need a God-awareness. A practiced presence. A daily reality of "God is with me."

And maybe today, you're not on the mountaintop. Maybe you're in the middle of the desert. But that's where God comes.

Not with a plan. Not with a spreadsheet.

But with fire.

With His voice.

*With His **presence**.*

Connect Group Questions:

- 1. Moses asked, “Who am I?” when God called him. How do you usually respond when God asks you to step into something challenging?**
- 2. What’s one practical way you can grow in daily awareness of God’s presence this week?**
- 3. How does His presence change your perspective or situation?**