

CITYWEST CHURCH

PRESENCE PEOPLE #3 -

MARKED BY HIS PRESENCE.

One day Moses said to the LORD, “You have been telling me, ‘Take these people up to the Promised Land.’ But you haven’t told me whom you will send with me. You have told me, ‘I know you by name, and I look favorably on you.’ 13 If it is true that you look favorably on me, let me know your ways so I may understand you more fully and continue to enjoy your favor. And remember that this nation is your very own people.”

14 The LORD replied, “I will personally go with you, Moses, and I will give you rest—everything will be fine for you.”

15 Then Moses said, “***If you don’t personally go with us, don’t make us leave this place. 16 How will anyone know that you look favorably on me—on me and on your people—if you don’t go with us? For your presence among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth.***”

17 The LORD replied to Moses, “I will indeed do what you have asked, for I look favorably on you, and I know you by name.”

18 Moses responded, “Then show me your glorious presence.”

19 The LORD replied, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will call out my name, Yahweh,[c] before you. For I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose. 20 But you may not look directly at my face, for no one may see me and live.” 21 The LORD continued, “Look, stand near me on this rock. 22 As my glorious presence passes by, I will hide you in the crevice of the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. 23 Then I will remove my hand and let you see me from behind. But my face will not be seen.”

Exodus 33:12-23 (NLT)

Ok so far we have looked at being carried and led by his presence and if you live like that you will find yourself being marked by his presence, it will become a distinction of your life.

*Imagine being offered everything you've ever dreamed of — success, safety, security — but without God.
Would you take it?*

This is the choice Moses faced. God told him:

"Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people." (Exodus 33:3)

*God offered the **Promised Land without His presence**. For many, that would sound like a dream deal — blessing without obedience, land without the wilderness. But Moses wasn't satisfied.*

***Moses' cry:** "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here." (Exodus 33:15)*

*Moses knew what we need to remember: **Without God's presence, we're just another group of people.***

1. GOD'S PRESENCE IS OUR DISTINCTIVE.

How will anyone know that you look favorably on me—on me and on your people—if you don't go with us? For your presence among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth."

Exodus 33:16 (NLT)

Israel didn't stand out because of military strength, cultural achievements, or moral superiority.

They were distinguished because God was with them.

Our world is full of strategies, branding, self-help, and success stories — but the church isn't just another human organization. What marks us is the presence of God.

***A.W. Tozer once said:** "If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. But if the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference."*

Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in[c] you? **17** God will destroy anyone who destroys this temple. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (NLT)

What makes your life distinct isn't your talent, career, or achievements — it's the presence of God resting on you.

If God's presence lifted from my life, would anyone notice the difference?

2. GOD'S PRESENCE TRUMPS GOD'S GIFTS.

The LORD said to Moses, "Get going, you and the people you brought up from the land of Egypt. Go up to the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I told them, 'I will give this land to your descendants.' **2** And I will send an angel before you to drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. **3** Go up to this land that flows with milk and honey. But I will not travel among you, for you are a stubborn and rebellious people. If I did, I would surely destroy you along the way."

Exodus 33:1-3 (NLT)

God offered Israel the Promised Land, blessing, abundance, security.

But Moses knew: The land isn't enough without the Lord.

In other words: We don't just want what God can do for us — we want God Himself.

*Think of a child who only talks to their parent when they want money or gifts. That relationship becomes shallow, transactional. Moses shows us a deeper way: to long for God's **presence over provision**.*

St. Augustine said:

"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You."

Are we chasing blessings or intimacy?

3. GOD'S PRESENCE LEADS TO INTIMACY AND TRANSFORMATION.

Inside the Tent of Meeting, the LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Afterward Moses would return to the camp, but the young man who assisted him, Joshua son of Nun, would remain behind in the Tent of Meeting.

Exodus 33:11 (NLT)

The LORD replied, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will call out my name, Yahweh,[c] before you. For I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose.

Exodus 33:19 (NLT)

The presence of God wasn't just about direction; it was about relationship.

*Moses didn't just want to be led by God, he wanted to **know God**.*

*God revealed His **goodness** and His **glory** — His very character.*

*Prioritise time in God's presence — prayer, worship, scripture — not as duty but as **relationship**. Intimacy with God is where real transformation happens.*

But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. **17** For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. **18** So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (NLT)

What makes us different isn't our style, strategies, or strengths — it's the presence of God.

Moses' cry must become ours: "Lord, we don't just want the land — we want You."

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS:

Presence Over Provision

How does this challenge the way we sometimes approach God — seeking His blessings more than His presence?

What should it look like today for the presence of God to be the defining mark of our lives?

(Do you have a testimony to share?)

Moses longed not just for direction but to “*see God’s glorious presence*” (Exodus 33:18–19).

What does this reveal about his relationship with God?