

CITYWEST CHURCH

31.08.2025 - 10 AM

PRESENCE PEOPLE #4 - EMPOWERED BY HIS PRESENCE.

Then the cloud covered the Tabernacle, and the glory of the LORD filled the Tabernacle. **35** Moses could no longer enter the Tabernacle because the cloud had settled down over it, and the glory of the LORD filled the Tabernacle.

36 Now whenever the cloud lifted from the Tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out on their journey, following it. **37** But if the cloud did not rise, they remained where they were until it lifted. **38** The cloud of the LORD hovered over the Tabernacle during the day, and at night fire glowed inside the cloud so the whole family of Israel could see it. This continued throughout all their journeys.

Exodus 40:34-38 (NLT)

Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. 5 John baptized with [b] water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

6 So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”

7 He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:4-8 (NLT)

Ok Citywest, here we are into the final week of our presence people series.

Keeping in mind our theme for the year which is Here I am send me from the book of Isaiah.

I pray that this series has help you know that God's presence is everywhere you go and at all times and that it has helped you consider ways in which you can live more aware of his presence in our everyday life and not just in our "spiritual" moments.

I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence!**8** If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave,^[a] you are there. **9** If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans,**10** even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me.

11 I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night—

12 but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you.

Psalm 139:7-12 (NLT)

Ok so following the Exodus journey we have been on, it has very much centered around Moses and his journey with God and in his presence. In today's passage, we see the completion of the tabernacle and God's presence comes and resides there. This goes beyond Moses, it spreads to the people of Israel.

Lets look at a few points on what this means and the New Testament parallel that is there for us to anchor on today.

1. THE GLORY COMES DOWN.

Then the cloud covered the Tabernacle, and the glory of the LORD filled the Tabernacle. **35** Moses could no longer enter the Tabernacle because the cloud had settled down over it, and the glory of the LORD filled the Tabernacle.

Exodus 40:34-35 (NLT)

The whole chapter of Exodus 40 has God instructing the people through Moses on how to build the Tabernacle, and if you know the story, he is, like always, very specific.

Moses obeys God down to the smallest detail.

Moses proceeded to do everything just as the LORD had commanded him.

Exodus 40:16 (NLT)

You can read this and be like, oh ok, so if I work hard and do all the right stuff God's presence will be on my life.

And some people take it to mean that, so obedience is just another word for works, if I work hard God's presence will come into my life.

The truth is the people of Israel already had the cloud by day and fire by night, they had seen the presence, this was about a place for the presence of God to dwell in a way that it wouldn't just lead the people but his presence would be among the people.

God was pleased with the obedience, not because he insecure or like a human in leadership in anyway shape or form, but because of the encounters with the presence and the commands the obedience is an expression of love and trust in God and his way.

If you want God's results, you need to do things God's way

Moses and Israel didn't earn God's presence through obedience; they welcomed it by obedience.

This is an enduring principle. We don't earn our rescue, and God doesn't love us more when we obey. Yet, undeniably, when we walk in God's light and truth, there is blessing.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.⁶
Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

2. FROM TABERNACLE TO TEMPLE TO YOU.

In Exodus 40, God's presence filled the tabernacle.

In 1 Kings 8:10-11, the presence filled the temple

In Acts 2:1-2, the presence fills the people who are temples.

The presence of God is not just around you, but in you.

The same presence that filled the Tabernacle now fills believers. The presence that once led Israel through the wilderness now empowers us to carry the gospel to the world.

*His presence doesn't just make us distinct — it makes us **effective**. You are empowered to live as His witness at work, at school, in your neighbourhood.*

Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in 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)

3. THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS WITNESS AND EQUIPS LIVING.

The whole point of Acts 1 and 2 is not just for personal encounter, but for mission.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 (NLT)

Acts 1-7 is Jerusalem

Acts 8-12 Judea and Samaria

Acts 13-28 is to the ends of the earth.

Significant objections from the 1st century Jewish mind but:

- **Jerusalem** was where Jesus was executed at the word of an angry mob.
- **Judea** rejected His ministry.
- **Samaria** was regarded as a wasteland of impure half-breeds.
- In the **uttermost parts of the earth**, the Gentiles were seen by some Jews of that day as nothing better than fuel for the fires of Hell.

Yet God wanted a witness sent to all of these places, and the Holy Spirit would empower them to do this work.

Think of Peter, who went from denouncing Jesus to preaching with boldness and seeing 3000 saved.

The circumstances haven't changed, but he was empowered by the spirit and it gave him a boldness.

This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. **7** For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

2 Tim 1:6-7 (NLT)

In a world that is pursuing a world without God and tries to silence Christians, we don't have a spirit of fear in Jesus' name.

Daily life.

God's presence, not just for the big moments like Peter, but for every moment.

The Holy Spirit produces fruit in our lives; that doesn't happen sometimes. The idea of fruit-producing is an ongoing, daily, hourly process that takes time but yields the fruit that the Holy Spirit produces.

The good thing is you just need to live aware of the Spirit and live in this world, and the HS will have so many opportunities for that to be produced in your life.

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Gal 5:22-23 (NLT)

Moses prayed: if your presence doesn't come with us, we will not leave this place

Jesus said: I am with you always, even to the very end of the age.

Go this week, but know it's not alone, but aware of his presence led by his presence marked by his presence, and empowered by his presence.

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS:

Jesus told His followers not to move until they received the Holy Spirit. What does that teach us about the importance of God's power compared to our own effort?

The Holy Spirit gave the disciples boldness to share the good news in places that seemed unlikely or even hostile. Where might God be calling us to be bold in our witness today?

The Spirit's role was not just for a personal encounter but to empower the disciples for mission. How does this challenge the way we think about the Holy Spirit in our own lives?