

Christ Is Born: Emmanuel God Is With Us

Pastor John Carmichael

[Mat 1:23 NASB95] 23 "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

- What does it mean that God is with us? There are 3 aspects of the presence of God or having God with you.
 - Transcendent. God is everywhere. Omnipresent. Outside of time and space.
 - Immanent. God is here. Inside time and space generally.
 - Manifest. God is present. Showing Himself in this moment and place specifically. 2 Chronicles 7. Acts 2.
- Moses sheds some light. [Exo 33:12-23 NASB95] 12 Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people!' But You Yourself have not let me know whom You will send with me. Moreover, You have said, 'I have known you by name, and you have also found favor in My sight.' 13 "Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways that I may know You, so that I may find favor in Your sight. Consider too, that this nation is Your people." 14 And He said, "My presence shall go [with you,] and I will give you rest." 15 Then he said to Him, "If Your presence does not go [with us,] do not lead us up from here. 16 "For how then can it be known that I have found favor in Your sight, I and Your people? Is it not by Your going with us, so that we, I and Your people, may be distinguished from all the [other] people who are upon the face of the earth?" 17 The LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing of which you have spoken; for you have found favor in My sight and I have known you by name." 18 Then Moses said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!" 19 And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion." 20 But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!" 21 Then the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand [there] on the rock; 22 and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. 23 "Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen."

What do we need to know about the manifest presence of God?

Here are three questions about the manifest presence of God that will help us experience Him more.

- I. **What keeps us from the manifest presence of God?**
 - a. Sin or defilement.
 - b. [Psa 51:11 NASB95] 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
 - c. David had sinned. How would God cast him away? Transcendent presence? Immanent presence? Manifest present.
- II. **What keeps us in the manifest presence of God?**
 - a. We seek His presence.
 - b. God told Moses that He would be with him. V. 14. Yet, Moses still asked for what God had already promised. V. 15.
 - c. Specifically: prayer, worship. Not going through the motions.
 - d. We must seek the manifest presence of God.
- III. **What does the tangible manifest of God mean for us?**

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- a. Blessing. The ark carried the presence of God. Norvel Hayes told me that the reason people do not prosper is that they do not worship. [1Ch 13:12-14 NASB95] 12 David was afraid of God that day, saying, "How can I bring the ark of God [home] to me?" 13 So David did not take the ark with him to the city of David, but took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. 14 Thus the ark of God remained with the family of Obed-edom in his house three months; and the LORD blessed the family of Obed-edom with all that he had.
 - b. Healing. [Luk 5:17 NASB95] 17 One day He was teaching; and there were [some] Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting [there,] who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and [from] Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was [present] for Him to perform healing.
 - c. Joy. [Psa 16:11 NASB95] 11 You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.
- **To hunger for the manifest presence of God is to get cleansed of all defilement and seek after His presence so we can walk in blessing, healing, and joy.**