

# Sermon Notes

## Worship: The Presence of God

“Worship is the strategy by which we interrupt our preoccupation with ourselves and attend to the presence of God.” – Eugene Peterson

### Psalm 89:115-17

#### God is Omnipresent

- God's whole being is present at every point and place
- Psalm 139:7-8 “Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.”

#### God's Manifest Presence

- When God displays, makes known and demonstrates His presence.
- Exodus 40:34-35 “Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.”
- Exodus 33:14-16 “The LORD replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” Then Moses said to him, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. 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?”
- “The Presence and the manifestation of the Presence are not the same. There can be the one without the other. God is here when we are wholly unaware of it. He is manifest only when and as we are aware of His Presence. On our part there must be surrender to the Spirit of God, for His work is to show us the Father and the Son. If we co-operate with Him in loving obedience God will manifest Himself to us, and that manifestation will be the difference between a nominal Christian life and a life radiant with the light of His face.”

-A.W. Tozer (The Pursuit of God)

## The Presence of God and Worship

- “Nothing brings glory down in the church as quickly and as powerfully as when God’s people unashamedly adore God’s great Son, Jesus Christ. Not just a few enthusiasts in the front row when the service starts but a room packed to the walls with fired up Christians.”

James Macdonald

- **2 Chronicles 20:1-23**

- “Send your Christian Musicians to sing on the front lines with us! We need them more than weapons or tanks!”

Kurdish military leader

- **2 Chronicles 5:13-14** “The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: “He is good his love endures forever.” Then the temple of the LORD was filled with the cloud, <sup>14</sup>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 7:1-3** “When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>The priests could not enter the temple of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled it. <sup>3</sup>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.”
- **Psalms 57:6-11** “ They spread a net for my feet—  
I was bowed down in distress.  
They dug a pit in my path—  
but they have fallen into it themselves.  
<sup>7</sup>My heart, O God, is steadfast,  
my heart is steadfast;  
I will sing and make music.  
<sup>8</sup>Awake, my soul!  
Awake, harp and lyre!  
I will awaken the dawn.  
<sup>9</sup>I will praise you, Lord, among the nations;  
I will sing of you among the peoples.  
<sup>10</sup>For great is your love, reaching to the heavens;  
your faithfulness reaches to the skies.  
<sup>11</sup>Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;  
let your glory be over all the earth.