

Scripture Reference: Matthew 28:20

Date: August 10, 2014

Title: "Never Alone"

Focus: Hearing God accompanies His indwelling presence.  
Hearing God Series (3 of 11)

Mankind is a creature intended for social interaction. He has been created in such a manner that he finds his full potential in relationship with others. This is why the family unit, marriage, friendship, etc. are so vital.

However, we also recognize there exists a limit to the intimacy possible among humanity. Orson Wells is known for saying, "*We're born alone, we live alone, we die alone. Only through our love and friendship can we create the illusion for the moment that we're not alone.*"

Jesus contradicts this by saying He would be with us, "always, [even] to the end of the age." This has profound implication for one in a relationship with God.

## **The Limitation of the Human Condition**

The most intimate of human relating is found in a healthy marriage. This relationship experiences a depth of familiarity that is enhanced by the sexual experience. Society's casual disrespect of the act of marriage degrades this.

However, even this intimacy has its limitation. As people, while we can sympathize (understand), we are unable to truly empathize (to have the same feeling as another). We are unable to connect with their heart, mind, and senses on a matter.

No matter how much we love a person, there are things in life they will go alone because we are incapable of totally connecting with another in their depths or, ultimately, in their death.

This is heart of Orson Wells' comment. That is why even in a crowd, among friends, surrounded by people, another can be disconnected, unengaged, and alone.

Because this is our reality with one another, we assume it applies to God was well.

## **The Limitlessness of the Divine Condition**

*Romans 8:38-39; "I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Paul asserts there to be no condition that is able to separate the disciple from God. Some might say Paul is talking about the "love of God." Keep in mind, God very person is love (1 John 4:8). Therefore, if nothing can separate the child from God's love, which is who He is, then nothing can separate the disciple from God.

Because God comes to dwell in and with His people, there is no barrier to intimacy with Him.

Nothing in all of creation impedes the child of God from experiencing His presence, of hearing and responding to God, nothing!

### **“Blind Faith” - Deut. 31:6/Heb. 13:5**

Heb. 13:5; *"Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, 'I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.'"*

Given what God has declared, regardless of how a person feels, what the circumstances are, or whether it seems rationale, God is present.

This is the most minimal way of God being with His child. However, blind faith is valid. The disciple can rest in the assurance of God's presence because God has said, "I will never forsake you."

### **Sensing God's Presence - Ps. 16:11**

Ps. 16:11; *"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."*

There are occasions in life when there is an undeniable sense, feeling or impression of God's presence.

This tends to be what people seek when they refer to communing with God.

But keep in mind; emotions cannot be relied upon as one's *sole* indicator of an experience with God. Why, they are prone to change on a whim and can be influenced by any number of factors. Yet, when in the right context, they can provide an awareness of God's presence and leading.

There is an aspect to every relationship that is non-physical. Those who seek after God can expect to have an awareness of His presence that exceeds the natural senses. If it happens to people when they enter a room and "feel" someone there or looking at them, why not with God.

## **Experiencing God's Actions - Ex. 14:21-22**

*Ex 14:21-22; "Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord swept the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided. The sons of Israel went through the midst of the sea on the dry land, and the waters were like a wall to them on their right hand and on their left."*

Sometimes an event takes place that can be explained in no other fashion than that God accomplished a mighty act.

In these times the outcome exceeds the potential of those involved. There is no *earthly explanation* for what happened.

We should not think of these times as God sending a miracle. But, the testimony of the Bible is that in His presence, God performs a miracle.

We see this is the deliverance of the Israelites, the conception of Samuel, John, Jesus, and in the very act of salvation and sanctifying work of the disciple (Romans 8:11).

## **Is This All that can be Expected?**

Are disciples to merely believe by blind faith, feeling, or circumstance that God is present, talking to them, and willing to converse with them?

No. Though there are times when we are unaware of God's presence and must trust in blind faith and other times when we catch a fleeting sense of His nearness, or witness His mighty hand at work, God has promised to be *intimate* with us.

His intent is to make Himself known to us personally. This happens through a life-on-life relationship with God. One in which we learn to recognize His voice and not merely look for signs and wonders.

John 5:19-20; *“Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.”*

Disciples must not attempt to discern for themselves what God wants, nor to look for fleeting signs that may indicate God's will. But to live life in concert with God, knowing Him, in the process learning His will and wishes.

This was the example of Jesus. The example He gave for those who would have a relationship with God.

## **The Last 18 Inches**

Those seeking a relationship with God need to rethink what it is they are looking for. If they are looking for a feeling or for God to continually manifest Himself, they will be frustrated.

Instead, like with any relationship, experiencing God transpires on many levels. Sometimes, feel it or not, we trust that God is there. Other times, there are events that particularly move and inspire. However, through it all, it is the presence of the person that is sought.