

Please Don't Go

5-Day Devotional - 3.22.26

Day 1

The Presence That Makes Us Different

Reading: Exodus 33:12-16

Devotional:

Moses asked God a profound question: "How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us?" He understood that God's presence was what distinguished Israel from every other nation. Today, in a world filled with success strategies and self-help formulas, what truly sets believers apart is not our achievements but God's presence in our lives. Two people can have similar talents, similar opportunities, even similar faith practices—but the one who cultivates God's presence carries something different, something transformative. This week, ask yourself: Am I pursuing God's blessings or God Himself? The presence of God is what makes you unmistakably different in a world that desperately needs to see Him.

Reflection:

What would change in my life if I prioritized God's presence over His provisions?

Day 2

Hunger That Attracts His Presence

Reading: Psalm 42:1-8

Devotional:

"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God." Moses didn't casually request God's presence—he pressed in with desperate hunger. He pitched a tent outside the camp, separated himself from distractions, and pursued intimacy over convenience. God's presence is not forced; it's invited. You don't stumble into His presence—you seek your way into it. This requires intentionality: preparing your heart, creating space in your schedule, coming with expectation. Consider how you approach your time with God. Do you come prepared with a notebook, ready to receive? Do you eliminate distractions? Hunger for God attracts the presence of God. When you seek Him with your whole heart, you will find Him.

Reflection:

What distractions do I need to remove to create space for deeper intimacy with God?

Day 3

The Reverence That Invites Glory

Reading: Exodus 32:1-14; 33:1-6

Devotional:

Israel lost God's manifest presence when they lost reverence for Him. They treated the Almighty casually, replacing Him with a golden idol shaped by their own hands. Where reverence is absent, presence is diminished. Today, we may not craft golden calves, but we create idols from our careers, relationships, entertainment, and even ministry work. We want God's blessings while keeping Him at arm's length. But Moses honored God, revered Him, took Him seriously—and God responded. The fear of the Lord is connected to experiencing His presence. This isn't terror but awe-filled reverence that recognizes who God is and who we are in comparison. When we approach God with holy reverence, we position ourselves to experience His glory.

Reflection:

What "idols" have I allowed to replace my reverence for God?

Day 4

Rest in His Presence, Not Just Results

Reading: Matthew 11:28-30

Devotional:

God promised Moses, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Not just victory. Not just provision. Rest. You can win and still be exhausted. You can succeed and still be empty. Many believers today are "war slap out"—worn completely down—because they're pursuing results without resting in His presence. There's peace available in the pressure, calm available in the chaos, and strength available in weakness—but only when God's presence is with you. His presence doesn't just change your situation; it changes your state of being. Stop striving in your own strength. The work is important, but working from a place of rest in God's presence is transformative. When you abide in Him, the fruit comes naturally.

Reflection:

Am I exhausted from working for God instead of resting in God while I work?

Day 5

When You Taste His Presence, You Want More

Reading: Exodus 33:17-23

Devotional:

After God promised His presence would go with Moses, Moses made a bold request: "Now show me your glory." He wasn't satisfied with just having God's presence—he wanted to experience God more deeply. That's what happens when you truly encounter God: nothing else satisfies, and you hunger for more. Like a child who loses their parents in a theme park, suddenly all the rides and attractions mean nothing—only the presence of mom and dad matters. We can have the job, the home, the opportunities, even the ministry, but if we're operating without His presence, something essential is missing. Today, God asks you: Do you want what I can give you, or do you want Me? Choose His presence above all else, and everything else finds its proper place.

Reflection:

Have I been settling for God's gifts instead of pursuing God Himself?