

someone. That sense of God's overwhelming presence where He seems SO real, is what I am talking about in this article.

I believe that this is meant to be the normal everyday experience for all of us of the Spirit of God. Moses was able to talk to God as to a friend, and His face shone in these encounters. If we are part of a covenant that is better than Moses' covenant our intimacy with God should be everyday and "normal" just as Jesus and the early disciples experienced.

The easiest way to learn how to enter the presence of God at any time is to simply observe what happens inside us when the presence of God comes upon us. If you can, take your mind back to the most powerful worship experience you have had. What happened in your mind, your body, your heart, your spirit at that time? Recall the experience as closely as possible. Now move into the same internal state that occurred back then. Ask God to draw you into His presence, and to overcome the mental/emotional blocks that might be there. If there are spiritual issues such as unconfessed sin, deal with them first.

If this doesn't work first up, don't give up. Use worship music and tongues to take you into God's presence. As you do so, try and observe what is happening inside you and take note for next time.

Linking certain places, actions, postures etc. to those holy moments also allows us to quickly enter into the awareness of God's presence. My church building is one such place for me, because I have experienced God's presence there so often. Because I now have the expectation of meeting God in that place then just entering the door is often enough to "click in" that awareness.

Prostrating myself in prayer has a similar effect. There is also a movement that I do with my hands that activates my spirit to touch into God. I think that I must have done this action so often when interceding in tongues that the action now links back in my spirit so that it activates me to pray in the spirit. The actual movement is not important, but what is important is learning to link the physical and the spiritual in helpful ways so that we can train ourselves to link into the Holy Spirit at any time or place.

The ideal goal of this all of course is to be in intimate fellowship with the Father all day every day, allowing the supernatural presence of God to pervade all the natural realms of daily living. Jesus said, "I only do what I see the Father doing." May this become true of each of us.



## *NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP*

### *PRESSING INTO GOD*

God is looking for people who will walk in fellowship with Him constantly. This is a new way of understanding our relationship with God... and yet it has always been God's heart to have His people knowing Him intimately.

Some people talk about "being in the River of God." Others talk of "listening prayer" or of "pressing into God." God wants this and more. He wants us to know His presence every second of every day. When I was first baptised in the Holy Spirit I was surprised to notice that even when I was in classes, there was a part of me in the background of my thoughts where I was speaking in my prayer language. I was not conscious of it because I was concentrating on other things, but if I directed my attention inwards I would find this happening constantly.

In his book "Healing to the Nations" John Loren Sandford discusses interceding in prayer for humanity. He describes what he calls the Councils of Heaven in which he and other christian leaders have been taken up to heaven for a dialogue with God about current events. He says that we can get to a place where we are so drawn into the presence of God that our prayers always reflect God's will rather than ours and at that point God can trust us to share in His plans for world events.

I don't believe that all this stuff us meant for the "elite" leaders- it is God's will for all of us if we will commit to serving Him on His terms.

#### **Four Keys**

##### 1. The Word

It is in the Word that we meet God for who He is. The Scriptures are God's self-revelation to us. The Bible is the unchanging, authentic self-description by God of who He is and who He wants us to be. Any dream, vision, prophecy or knowledge that we have must be made to conform to the bible and not the other way around.

Sometimes God meets us in powerful, mysterious ways as we read and

meditate on the Word. The Holy Spirit illuminates a word or a sentence or uses a passage to hit home to us about His grace. These encounters with the living Word of God are sometimes called “rhema” words; that is words which strike us with particular force at a special time.

### 1. Prayer

A fundamental part of walking in fellowship with God is communing with Him. In prayer we share with Him what is on our hearts, and we listen to Him tell us about what is on His heart. A relationship in which one person does all the talking is very one-dimensional, yet often this is what we have made prayer into. Praying in both our prayer language and our native language is an important part of pressing deeper into God.

Each of us needs to learn to listen to God. Some people find journaling an excellent help in this process. In journaling, we write down our prayers and also the response that we hear God making to our prayers. This means that we are writing down a conversation and developing our ability to listen to God.

### 3. Obedience

To say Jesus is Lord is not a religious slogan, but a declaration that He is in control of our lives. When God tells us to do something, it is not a request but an order. Obedience is not an option. Yet many Christians find it hard to obey God in the small things as well as the big decisions of life. Part of the problem is that we may not have handed over control of every part of our lives to God. We must settle in our hearts that we are here to obey God without question or discussion.

### 4. Servant heart

Jesus set Himself up as the servant of all. We must do likewise. A servant sees the needs of others and leaps to meet the needs, placing others' needs and wants above their own. Too many people look for a church where their needs are met rather than seeking the place where the Lord wants them to serve.

Once we have these 4 key values in place in our hearts we are ready to start the journey of pressing into fellowship with our Lord.

## Steps in Entering into the Spirit

### 1. Music

Many people in the Pentecostal/charismatic parts of the church equate music with worship. But music is merely one entry point into the presence of God. It is a powerful one because music has the capability of bypassing our mental filters and goes straight to the heart or the spirit, if it is anointed worship music.

For many Christians, however, the focus can be too much on the music or on the words, or on the act of singing. In this case, what we believe is the presence of God is actually just an emotional response to the music.

To enter into the presence of God in music, we must focus our mind, heart and spirit on Jesus. Allow worship music to become a time of prayer in which the words of the song or the music draw you towards Jesus. Don't sing the song, pray it. In the breaks, pray the words which the Holy Spirit places into your mind. Tell Jesus out loud you love Him.

### 2. Tongues

Your prayer language is the vehicle which God has provided for your spirit to commune directly with His Spirit. The mind is by-passed which means we don't have to worry about finding the right words to intercede or to express praise. Because it is our spirit which engages with God, it is a deeper form of prayer than when we frame words with our minds in our native language.

Tongues can and should be a means of entering into the presence of God and allowing the Holy Spirit to immerse us. Yet, tongues can become just another religious ritual, done out of habit. God forbid that we should let that happen!

Tongues works at its best when we allow our conscious mind to agree with our spirit about what we are praying about. I find that I can switch between prayer language and English rapidly so that my mind and spirit are agreeing together as I pray. As I do this I become aware of the power of the presence of God.

### 3. Entering at any time

Most Christians have had experiences where it has seemed that God has “turned up” and overwhelmed them with His presence. It may be at a conference or alone in our own prayer time, or when ministering to