

# A PLACE WITH GOD

By Mark Beaird

**Text: Exodus 33:12-23**

Sometimes life seems to press in hard upon us. We may feel as if we would want God to stop the world and let us off. But in every situation, in every condition, in every circumstance, when life becomes too much, there is a place with God that we can go. The place is in the presence of the Lord!

David said in Psalms 139:5-10, *“You hem me in--behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. 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, <sup>n</sup> you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. You hem me in--behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.”*

We have blessed assurance that no matter what may come our way we can retreat into the presence of God. Let's look at what the presence of God offers.

## **I. IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD WE WILL FIND A PLACE OF COMFORT.**

**Exodus 33: 13 & 17**, "Now, therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You...So the Lord said to Moses, I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in my sight; and I know you by name."

### **A. God knows those who are His.**

Isaiah 43:1, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by your name; You are mine."

### **B. God knows how to keep those who are His.**

Isaiah 43:2, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you."

**II. IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD WE WILL FIND A PLACE OF COMMUNION.**

**A. There is a place that few seek.**

**B. God will only reveal Himself to those who seek Him.**

**III. IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD WE WILL FIND A PLACE OF ACCEPTANCE.**

**A. God will never reject us because of our failures and imperfections.**

**B. God looks past our imperfections and sees our need.**

**IV. IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD, WE WILL FIND A PLACE OF SAFETY.**

**A. God has promised to be a hiding place from the storms of life.**

■ Isaiah 32:2, "A man will be as a hiding place from the wind, and a cover from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land."

**B. You can know the keeping power of His presence.**

■ Psalms 17:8, "Keep me as the apple of Your eye; Hide me under the shadow of Your wings."

■ Zech. 2:8, "For he who touches you touches the apple of His eye." The apple of the eye is the most tender part.

**V. IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD, WE WILL FIND A PLACE OF REWARD.**

**A. If we seek His presence now, we will know it in the future.**

■ Revelation 3:21, "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."

B. The great desire of God is to dwell with us in fellowship.

## CONCLUSION

THERE IS A PLACE WITH GOD! This place is in His presence. We will find it and Him when we seek Him with all our hearts. We need to seek *Higher Ground* as the song says:

"I'm pressing on the upward way, New heights I'm gaining every day;  
Still praying as I'm onward bound, Lord plant my feet on higher ground.  
My heart has no desire to stay, Where doubts arise and fears dismay;  
Tho' some may dwell where these abound, My prayer, my aim is higher ground."

## OPTIONAL

■ An elderly gentleman was out walking with his young grandson. "How far are we from home?" he asked the grandson. The boy answered, "Grandpa, I don't know." The grandfather asked, "Well, where are you?" Again the boy answered, "I don't know." Then the grandfather said good-naturedly, "Sounds to me as if you are lost." The young boy looked up at his grandfather and said, "Nope, I can't be lost. I'm with you." Ultimately, that is the answer to our lostness, too. We can't be lost if He is with us.

(King Duncan)