



The Presence of God: "The Face of His Presence" *Pastor Miles McPherson / June 10, 2018*

Opening Prayer:

Father God, we pray that You will visit us, and make Your presence known in our lives and in our city. Give us the faith to believe that You can change this city through prayer and through acts of love and compassion. Let Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. Help us to cultivate Your presence in our walk and by Your work. Amen.

Icebreaker:

Every day, and all day long the world, the devil and his "advocates" in addition to the desires of our own flesh enter into our minds through our own eyes, ears, and thoughts. These attacks are unavoidable. Even Jesus was not exempt from them. As His followers we can win this daily battle. Form two teams with one identifying the ways we are attacked, tempted, or even defeated. Have the other team identify in what ways each of these attacks can be avoided, prevented, or defeated.

Encouragement:

In 2 Corinthians 1:19-20 " **For all the promises of God in Him (Jesus) are Yes and in Him Amen.**" Can we imagine God the Father ever saying "No" to God the Son? God the Father will always say "**Yes**" to the Son and will always affirm what the Son says. In these verses Paul shows why his own life is YES to the Corinthians: Why? Because God has already spoken his final decisive YES to them in Christ.

There are many promises of God in Scripture. These are not flippant, casual promises such as we often make; these promises are rock-solid, unequivocal commitments made by God Himself. The recipients of God's promises can have full assurance that what God has pledged will indeed be realized ([Numbers 23:19](#)). The many promises of God find their ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ, "the radiance of God's glory" ([Hebrews 1:3](#)). "No matter how many promises God has made, they are all 'Yes' in Christ."

Scriptures:

God's Word contains literally thousands of Bible promises waiting to be claimed in faith. Below we've listed just a few. Match the following promises with their corresponding verses below.

- God promised salvation to all who believe in His Son.
- God promised comfort in our trials.
- God promised peace when we pray.
- Jesus promised rest.
- Jesus promised His disciples' power from on high.
- Philippians 4:6-7
- Acts 1:8
- Romans 1:16
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
- Matthew 11:28-30

Declare these verses in our times and others times of distress, temptation, regret and uncertainty.

Prayer:

The faces we see in the mirror are in the image or likeness of God's own. The image of God (Latin: *imago dei*) refers to the immaterial part of humanity. It sets human beings apart from the animal world, and fits them for the dominion God intended us to have over the earth ([Genesis 1:28](#)), and enables us to commune with our Maker. Our material features symbolically reflect God's abilities as to "sight, hearing, speech and thoughts".

Take a moment to acknowledge, praise and thank God not only for what He has given us below, but even more so for how magnificent is He who is the giver of everything good and holy. Whereas we can only see visible light. God sees the material and immaterial. Inside and outside of time. What is and what could be. We can only hear air moving. God can hear all physical and nonphysical spectrums. He can hear unspoken prayers. He can hear stones cry out to Him. We can only communicate after years of learning and only to other people who also have learned the same language. God communicates to us from within and outside of ourselves. His words are able to create something out of nothing. Even His creation communicates His nature, abilities and personality to us. On a good day our brain processes everything our body needs on autopilot. Our mind though fallen is free to consider, choose and engage in all matters of creation, seen and unseen. The mind of God is incorruptible. He has never made even a microscopic mistake. He knows the thoughts of every other mind. He knew every changing dimension and the positions of every atom throughout all of time in creation. That's 10^{86} one-hundred thousand quadrillion vigintillion atoms spanning an (observable) 93 billion light years. God knew all this from before the day He created them.

Next Steps:

If all you have been doing is going to church your next step is. Go to <https://www.sdrock.com/lifeclass/>
Sign up and attend the 4 LIFE classes on Sundays.

If you have completed the LIFE classes your next step is to find a place to serve here. <https://www.sdrock.com/ministries/>

ADDITIONALLY:

- We need your help to transform your campus lobbies into movie sets! If you'd like to be involved, there is a role for everyone to play! **AT THE MOVIES SERIES** begins July 1! Builds for the lobby transformations will take place in June. Text one of the codes above for more information on your local campus. <https://www.sdrock.com/events/19902/>
- Our 18th Annual **Women's Retreat** will be held on **August 10-12th** at Murrieta Hot Springs Christian Conference Center. Join us for a Spirit filled weekend including worship, sessions led by special guest speakers from each campus, a Saturday night concert, break out classes, socializing in the coffee house and more. <https://sdrock.com/events/18442>

- **Men's Groups** that address real life issues. By introducing Men to a Real and Person relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior they become filled with Him and the overflow begins to touch others.
<https://www.sdrock.com/ministries/mens/disciplespath>
- **rGroups** are weekly small **groups** bible studies where you can grow in your faith, make friends, and find spiritual accountability
<https://sdrca.org/infellowship.com/GroupSearch/Index>

Closing Prayer:

Father God, remove the distractions in our life that keep us from Your presence We repent of any pride or personal idols that have taken us away from having You in first place and being completely Yours. Take away any luke-warmness in our hearts and set us on fire for You and our Lord, in whose name we ask and pray. Amen.

Notes:
