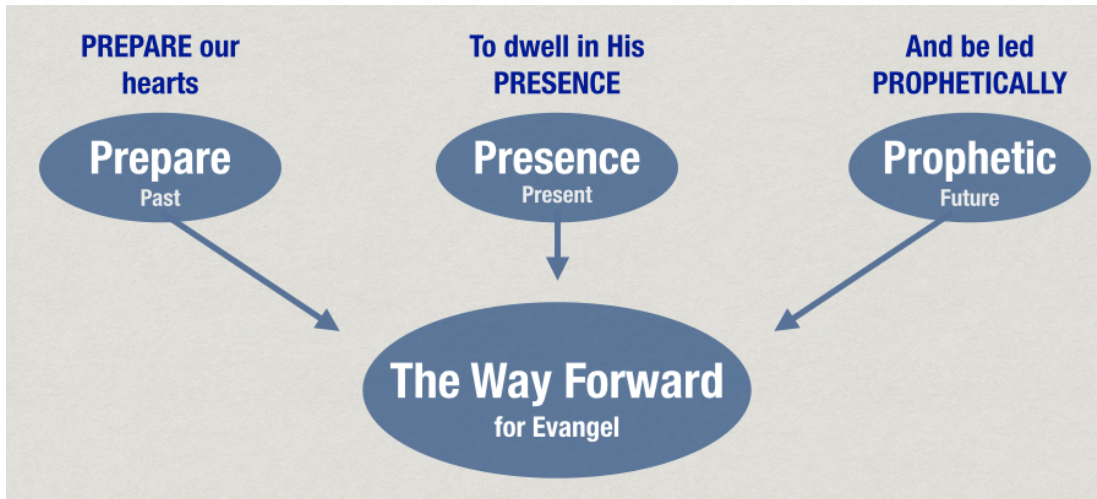


The Way Forward for Evangel - Part 2

“Prepare our hearts to dwell in His Presence and be led prophetically.”



- Review: The Way Forward for Evangel

- **GOD IS PREPARING OUR HEARTS, NOT FOR AN ASSIGNMENT, BUT FOR HIMSELF...** No amount of physical preparation will make us ready for what is coming. The preparation that needs to happen is in our hearts! The evidence of a prepared heart is confidence in God!
- **JESUS IS THOROUGHLY COMMITTED TO ESTABLISHING A SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIP WITH US...** I will give them one heart and one purpose: to worship me forever, for their own good and for the good of all their descendants. And I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good for them. I will put a desire in their hearts to worship me, and they will never leave me. (Jer 32:39–40 NLT-SE)
- **OUR HOPE COMES FROM OUR TRUST IN WHO HE IS...** We put our hope in the LORD. He is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. Let your unfailing love surround us, LORD, for our hope is in you alone. (Psa 33:20–22 NLT-SE)
- **TRUSTING BRINGS CONFIDENCE...** It permits us to see God in his true character. It causes us to realize the greatness and tenderness of his love. It gives us a consciousness of his might, and through it we are sheltered under his wings. By it our enemies lose their power; our dangers, their terrors. We have a consciousness of safety, and that brings rest.

- Tonight: What does it mean to “dwell in His Presence?”

1. Pay Attention...to His Presence.

- **JESUS IS TRAINING US TO BE AWARE OF HIM AT ALL TIMES...** It's in His Presence that His love and light shines brightest; a light that illuminates everything and trains you to notice the details of life in the Spirit.

- And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and ***the Lamb is its light***. (Rev 21:23 NLT-SE)
 - **WE ARE CREATED WITH A HUGE CAPACITY TO KNOW AND ENJOY HIS PRESENCE...** It is counterproductive to think we have to “work” at experiencing and dwelling in His Presence. We are created beings, crafted by God to dwell in and thoroughly enjoy His Presence. The importance of this understanding is reflected in the first question of The Shorter Catechism...
 - Question #1: What is the chief end of man?
 - Answer #1: To glorify God and enjoy Him forever!
 - O LORD, you have examined my heart and ***know everything about me***. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I’m far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD. (Psa 139:1–4 NLT-SE)
 - **HIS PRESENCE CANNOT BE EXPLAINED, ONLY EXPERIENCED...** We will never really know how wide and long and high and deep God’s love really is outside of consistently experiencing His Presence.
 - I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ***Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong.*** And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. (Eph 3:16–18 NLT-SE)
 - Song: “You are the air I breathe...Your holy Presence, living in me. You are my Daily Bread, Your very Word, spoken to me.” ***Breathe***, by Marie Barnett
2. **Listening...**for His Voice. (“Listen” - 505 times in OT, 87 in NT)
- **OUR PART IS TO BE ATTENTIVE TO WHAT GOD IS SAYING...** It is in His Presence that we find out just how much God has to say. There is no limit to the number of ways He can communicate with us. We simply need to be attentive to His messages, no matter what form they come.
 - “Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink— even if you have no money! Come, take your choice of wine or milk— it’s all free! Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength? Why pay for food that does you no good? ***Listen to me, and you will eat what is good. You will enjoy the finest food. “Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, and you will find life.*** I will make an everlasting covenant with you. I will give you all the unfailing love I promised to David. (Is 55:1–3 NLT-SE)
 - I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. ***They will listen to my voice***, and there will be one flock with one shepherd...My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. (John 10:16, 27 NLT-SE)
 - **THE PEACE WE EXPERIENCE IN HIS PRESENCE IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE NORM, NOT THE EXCEPTION...** Jesus is with us all the time, encouraging and supporting our spirits from within. The peace that exists in His Presence is meant to be experienced and enjoyed continually. It’s only the distractions of life that pull us away. Slow down, pay attention, and listen!
 - I listen carefully to what God the LORD is saying, for ***he speaks peace*** to his faithful people. (Psa 85:8 NLT-SE)

- But ***all who listen to me will live in peace***, untroubled by fear of harm.” (Prov 1:33 NLT-SE)
- **HIS PRESENCE IS AN ENVIRONMENT RIFE FOR HEALING, RESTORATION, AND TRANSFORMATION...** When we come into the light of His Presence our hidden fears are utterly destroyed! This process requires time alone with Him, soaking in His amazing light-filled Presence. This is where we experience what the bible calls “perfect love.”
 - Perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that ***we have not fully experienced his perfect love***. (1 John 4:18 NLT-SE)
 - In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but ***you have given me an open ear***. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. (Psa 40:6 ESV)

3. Respond... to what we hear.

- **SEEK HIM WITH THOUGHTS, DESIRES, WORDS AND ACTIONS...** We are to seek His Presence, not just in the morning quietness, but throughout the day. There is nothing we can't bring to Him, lay it before Him, and confidently watch Him move.
 - “There is not in the world a kind of life more sweet and delightful, than that of a continual conversation with God; those only can comprehend it who practice and experience it.” — Brother Lawrence
 - You don't have what you want because ***you don't ask God for it***. (James 4:2 NLT-SE)
- **WHEN EVERYTHING IS GOING WRONG, STOP AND AFFIRM YOUR TRUST IN HIM...** Things go wrong. People let you down and you let them down. When things seem to be falling apart, stop what you're doing and affirm your trust in Him. Then, just move forward with Him, never leaving His loving Presence.
 - I have ***calmed and quieted myself***, like a weaned child who no longer cries for its mother's milk. Yes, like a weaned child is my soul within me. (Psa 131:2 NLT-SE)
 - I can never escape from your Spirit! ***I can never get away from your presence!*** If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. (Psa 139:7–10 NLT-SE)

4. Re-envision...now that you know what you know, GO!

- **DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE NEXT STEP, JUST FOCUS, AND REMAIN IN HIS PRESENCE...** Staying focused seems like a lot of work, mostly because we want to stay in control most of the details of our lives. As we focus our thoughts on Him and commit to stay in His presence, He truly guides us along His Path. Staying focused is mostly about walking in step with Him every hour of every day.
 - Now may the God of peace— who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with his blood— ***may he equip you with all you need for doing his will***. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, ***every good thing that is pleasing to him***. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen. (Heb 13:20–21 NLT-SE)
- **THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO RESIST EVIL IS TO DRAW NEAR TO GOD...** He is faithful and will guide us supernaturally by His Spirit and His Word. Working hard at being holy through performance only dissipates our energy. Spending time in His Presence enables us to do less but accomplish more. The good news: The enemy is defeated when our lives are pleasing to God.

- I will sing to the LORD as long as I live. I will praise my God to my last breath! ***May all my thoughts be pleasing to him***, for I rejoice in the LORD. (Psa 104:33–34 NLT-SE)
- **YOU CAN TRUST ME, NOT WITH YOUR LIFE, BUT WITH THOSE YOU LOVE AS WELL...** It's not as difficult as you think to release your loved ones into God's hands. As we pray for people and entrust them to His care, God's Presence will go with them wherever they go. Amazing things can happen when let go and simply trust God with the lives of those we love.

Demonstrate your trust in Me by sitting quietly in My Presence.

Put aside all that is waiting to be done, and refuse to worry about anything. This sacred time together strengthens you and prepares you to face whatever the day will bring. By waiting with Me before you begin the day's activities, you proclaim the reality of My living Presence. This act of faith— waiting before working— is noted in the spirit world, where your demonstration of trust weakens principalities and powers of darkness. The most effective way to resist evil is to draw near Me. When you need to take action, I will guide you clearly through My Spirit and My Word. The world is so complex and overstimulating that you can easily lose your sense of direction. Doing countless unnecessary activities will dissipate your energy. When you spend time with Me,
I restore your sense of direction.

Young, Sarah (2012-10-09). ***Jesus Calling***: Enjoy Peace in His Presence (p. 252 - **August 29**). Young, Sarah (2012-10-09). *Jesus Calling: Enjoy Peace in His Presence*
