Being Present in the Presence of God

Isaiah 55:8-9

God's Invitation vs. The World's Message

In a world that urges us to "have it your way" and "follow your heart," we rarely pause to consider that we might not get our way at all. But God's invitation stands in beautiful contrast. He doesn't offer customization, He offers communion. He says, "Trust Me when everything falls apart. Trust Me when the foundations collapse. Trust Me, because the Kingdom of Heaven doesn't bend to personal preference. It thrives on divine presence."

What does this mean? The kingdom of God doesn't operate on personal preference; it thrives on divine presence. God can only rule when we acknowledge and recognize His presence. God rules in our lives when we acknowledge Him and trust Him.

When God calls, He does not open with questions regarding our desires. He does not ask what we want. He calls. And the only faithful answer is trust.

God's call is never from a distance, because God is never distant. His call is not a transmission we wait to receive. It is a presence we learn to recognize. To hear God is to become aware of what has always been near. And that awareness deepens as we remove the objects we've placed in front of Him. Desire, distraction, and self-direction dim the light of recognition.

We do not miss God's call because He is silent. We miss it because we are preoccupied. But when we grow in awareness, His presence becomes undeniable, and His call unmistakable. Because they are not separate. **God's presence *is* His call.**

When God is recognized, neutrality dissolves. We cannot remain unchanged in the presence of holiness. To recognize God is to be confronted by reality itself, not as an idea, but as a Person. And when that reality is no longer ignored, we must either surrender or resist. There is no third option. Because recognition is not awareness alone. It is the moment awareness becomes encounter.

That is why Moses removed his sandals, not as a ritual gesture, but as a surrender. God did not ask him to be ready. He asked him to be present. To be conscious of where he was. To be mindful of whom he stood before. Trust was not a strategy. It was a disposition. He took

off his shoes. He became vulnerable. Barefoot on holy ground, Moses stood exposed, not just physically, but spiritually. God, and his awareness of God, stripped him of excuse. It stripped him of comfort. Of certainty. The mystery of God remained. It was transcended by intimacy that bred trust in the unknown.

Isaiah felt it too. When the heavenly throne room opened before him, he did not respond with theological insight or eloquent defense. He cried out:

"Woe is me. I am a man of unclean lips."

Not in shame, but in surrender. He didn't say this because he feared judgment. He said it because he became unraveled. He recognized the truth of who he was in the blazing light of who God is. Trust born out of revelation, truth born of the light. When the presence of God undoes you, trust is the only response left.

God's presence doesn't negotiate. It does not flatter. It does not bargain. It reveals. It unmasks. It brings to the surface what we have hidden under performance and survival. It undoes us, but only so it can remake us according to His will.

And so, when our lives begin to unravel, the frequency we've followed starts to fade, and we no longer hear ourselves clearly; this is not failure. This is an invitation.

When meaning slips through our fingers and the path ahead dissolves into mist, trust is not the absence of fear. It is the courage to say, "I don't understand this ground. But I know it is holy." And to keep walking barefoot.

Trusting in His Higher Ways

I know it because His ways are above my ways. His thoughts are above my thoughts. If we trust in God, we no longer have to be concerned about having our way because our way is now trusting in the One who makes the way.

Blessings,

Pastor Gool