



A DWELLING PLACE FOR GOD

Presence • Evidence • Desire

KNOW — Ephesians Growth Journey

Read: Ephesians 2:19–22

1. GOD DESIRES A DWELLING

Paul ends Ephesians 2 with a remarkable picture of the Church:

“...being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

God is not merely building an organization.

- He is forming a **people**.
- People who belong.
- People being joined together.
- People still growing.
- People aligned around Christ, the Cornerstone.
- And people among whom God dwells by His Spirit.

Remember

The Church isn't merely a place where we come looking for God's presence. We are a people God is forming to carry His presence.

2. HIS PRESENCE LEAVES EVIDENCE

Throughout Scripture, encounters with God leave evidence.

Moses came down from the mountain after being with God, and something had changed.

Peter and John encountered opposition, yet people **“recognized that they had been with Jesus.”**

Mary poured perfume upon Jesus, and the fragrance filled the house.

And Galatians reminds us that the Holy Spirit produces fruit:

Love. Joy. Peace. Patience. Kindness. Goodness. Faithfulness. Gentleness. Self-control.

The evidence of God's presence isn't only what happens **to us during worship**.

It's what begins happening **through us afterward**.

Reflect

What is becoming more evident in my life because I belong to Christ?

3. WHAT LINGERS?

Have you ever hugged someone wearing perfume or cologne and walked away carrying some of their fragrance?

You didn't put it on.

But:

PROXIMITY LEFT EVIDENCE.

Our lives leave something behind too.

After people encounter us, what lingers?

- Peace?

- Grace?
- Encouragement?
- Love?
- Hope?
- Or tension?
- Negativity?
- Bitterness?
- Division?

Ask Yourself

What do people tend to carry away after spending time with me?

4. FROM PRESENCE TO DESIRE

If God desires to dwell among His people, what should His people desire?

Ultimately:

GOD HIMSELF.

Prayer is more than asking God for things.

Prayer is:

- **Communion — God, I want You.**
- **Dependence — God, I need You.**
- **Alignment — God, shape my will around Yours.**
- **Intercession — God, I bring others before You.**
- **Surrender — God, search and change me.**

Jesus teaches us to begin:

“Our Father...”

Before the requests comes:

relationship.

5. WHAT DO I REALLY WANT FROM GOD?

It is easy for prayer to become a list:

- God, fix this.
- Give me this.
- Change that.
- Open this door.
- Remove this problem.

And God invites us to bring our needs to Him.

But spiritual growth also asks a deeper question:

Do I desire God—or only what I want God to do?

Psalm 42 says:

“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for You, O God.”

That's desire.

Not merely:

I need something from You.

But:

I WANT YOU.

6. PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR PRAYER

As Wake Chapel prepares to gather intentionally for corporate prayer, we're not trying to convince an absent God to come near.

God has already promised to dwell among His people by His Spirit.

We gather because we want to become increasingly:

- **Aware of His presence.**
- **Aligned with His will.**
- **Dependent upon His power.**
- **Responsive to His Spirit.**
- **Transformed into Christ's image.**

Our prayer becomes:

God, deepen our desire for You and make Your presence increasingly evident among us.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a few quiet moments.

- 1. Where do I see evidence that God's presence is changing me?**
- 2. What tends to linger after my interactions with others?**
- 3. What do my prayers reveal that I desire most from God?**
- 4. Where do I need greater alignment with Christ?**

THIS WEEK

Don't add another complicated spiritual assignment.

Simply practice this prayer each day:

“God, deepen my desire for You.”

Then remain attentive.

What does He bring to mind?

What needs alignment?

Where is He producing fruit?

Who needs your prayers?

Where can Christ become more evident through you?

PRAYER

Father, thank You for choosing to dwell among Your people by Your Spirit.

Make Your presence increasingly evident in my life. Let my words, relationships, choices, and character leave evidence that I belong to You.

Deepen my desire for You. Keep me from wanting only Your blessings while neglecting relationship with You. Align my heart with Your will, teach me to depend upon You, and help me carry others faithfully in prayer.

As You build us together, make Wake Chapel a people through whom the presence and character of Christ become increasingly visible.

God, deepen our desire for You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOLD ON TO THIS

God's presence should leave evidence—and His presence should awaken desire.

Ephesians 2:22

“...being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”