

MARKED

How the Presence of God Sets You Apart

PASTOR VLAD • HUNGRY GENERATION CHURCH

Sunday, June 7, 2026

PREACHING TEXT

1 Kings 8:10–11 — “And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.”

1 Prayer Invites His Presence

Matthew 21:13 — “My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves.”

1 Kings 8:6 — “Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim.”

- Prayer makes this His house.
- Prayerlessness invites the plunderer. If we don't bring the ark, Satan will send the thieves.
- The ark is our prayer life — our passion for the presence of God, our pursuit through prayer and fasting.
- When the presence of God lands, it brings **encounters** and **interventions**.

ENCOUNTERS & INTERVENTIONS

- **Vietnam — Tin, 37:** Son of a police officer, final-stage colon cancer. He heard the gospel, was prayed for, and healed. Doctors found no cancer. He was baptized and began evangelizing his family.
- **Spokane campus:** A woman 90% deaf in one ear came for prayer. She had an encounter with the Healer. His interfering power touched her and her ear opened.
- **Everett campus — Pastor Iia:** On a prolonged fast, led the congregation to intercede for finances on Friday nights. Members began receiving emails: medical debts cancelled, loans forgiven.

2 His Presence Leaves a Mark

Exodus 33:15–16 — “If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth.”

A. HIS PRESENCE MAKES HEARING HIS VOICE EASY

- God called Moses from the burning bush. (*Exodus 3:4*)
- Moses heard His voice from above the mercy seat. (*Numbers 7:89*)
- The LORD talked with Moses at the tabernacle. (*Exodus 33:9*)
- **My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.** (*John 10:27*)
- Hearing God is not a technique. It is a nearness. Get near Him.

B. HIS PRESENCE IS WHAT CHANGES US

Exodus 34:29 — “Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him.”

2 Corinthians 3:18 — “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

- Prayer doesn't change you. The presence of God does.
- You can pray and stay the same. You cannot encounter His presence and stay the same.
- Stop trying to change yourself. Get in His presence — He will change you.

C. HIS PRESENCE GUIDES AND GUARDS

Exodus 40:36–37 — “Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up.”

Exodus 14:24 — “The LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians.”

Isaiah 54:17 — “No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD.”

- The Israelites were not led by the law — the law shaped their lifestyle. His presence directed their steps.
- We don't have a cloud. We have the Holy Spirit living inside us.
- The same presence that guided them troubled the chariots of their enemies.

3 His Presence Stays Where He Is Honored

John 1:32 — “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him.”

“Either the dove will adjust his behavior to us, or if we really want to make sure we never lose him, we will have to adjust our behavior to the dove.”

If we want to carry His presence, we adjust to Him. He doesn't adjust to us.

THREE WAYS TO KEEP THE DOVE FROM FLYING OFF

A. Stay Poor in Spirit

Matthew 5:3 — *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

Revelation 3:16–17 — *“Because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing — and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.”*

- The hunger is already there. It is just buried under self.
- You don't manufacture hunger — you uncover it. Clear what is covering it.
- To be rich in God, we must be poor in self. Pull the weeds: pride, self-reliance, anything that crowds Him out.

B. Don't Do What Hurts His Heart

Ephesians 4:30 — *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”*

- You cannot stay tender to the Spirit while you tolerate sin.
- Sensitivity is what guards your holiness.
- Grieving is about His heart. Ignore the conviction and you wound Him.

C. Don't Do What Puts Out His Fire

1 Thessalonians 5:19 — *“Do not quench the Spirit.”*

Jonah 1:3 — *“But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.”*

- Quenching is about His fire. Refuse the call and you put Him out.
- Jonah ran from the presence of the LORD — and paid a fare to go the wrong direction.
- Holding back your gifts and your ministry limits the Spirit of God.

TAKING IT HOME

Matthew 28:19–20 — *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

Three ways to keep the dove from flying off on Monday:

- **Pray First** — make room for His presence by prioritizing prayer.
 - **Obey Fast** — stay sensitive to the conviction the Holy Spirit gives you.
 - **Flow Freely** — allow the Spirit to flow through you.
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CLOSING

Holy Spirit stays where He is honored. You can come to Him the way you are today — but nobody stays in His presence the same. If in the last 30 days you have not made time to meet with God, say this: *“God, I miss You. I want Your presence. I don't want to go another season without You.”*