

God's Presence is your greatest resource!

Jer. 1:4-10

What are you Living For? What Drives you? What Energizes you?

Are we living for God's Kingdom Agenda or Our Agenda?

We will either live to make a name for ourselves, or we will live to praise the one whose name forever shall be praised.

“While the nations rage, trusting idols vain. Our God stands alone in the heavens, Robe in majesty, hail the highest King. The name of the Lord shall be praised” Not to Us, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Matt Redman

When we are living for God, people around us don't have to ask or wonder who we are living for. Jeremiah left no doubt that his life was about living for God and walking in obedience. When you know that your sole purpose is to Know God, it keeps you focused on the Mission that God has called you to do and it keeps you from compromising the Message that God has called you to deliver. Jeremiah stayed Focused on the Mission and He never compromised his message to the people of Judah. He knew the presence of God was with him and working inside of him.

Jeremiah talks about the power that God's presence has. Having His presence working inside of us is the difference maker. Let's read about that in Jeremiah 1: 4-10

Stand with me in honor of God's word as we read Jeremiah 1: 4-10, CSB

Context

Jeremiah was known as the weeping prophet,

Jeremiah came bearing a word from God for the stubborn people of Judah.

It's a sad book because the people of God in Judah had moved away from God to worship other things. They were worshipping a counterfeit version of God shaped by preferences, opinions, and culture.

They were putting their confidence in the wrong people.

They were killing their children by fire on Friday and then going to the temple to worship their Creator and Giver of life on Saturday.

They were putting their confidence in idols and God just became another god to them

They had exchanged their Glory for useless idols. Jer. 2:11, many people that call themselves Christians today are worshipping a moldable God. You shape and create Him to be what you want Him to be.

They had abandoned me, the fountain of living water, to be satisfied with other things.

The idols they fashioned and worshiped could do nothing, yet the people chose to worship them rather than the true and living God who was their King.

They were acting in ways that were contrary to the nature of their faith.

God is judging them for being unfaithful

But yet with everything they had done, Jeremiah said “Repent and turn back to God”

The good news of Jeremiah is that despite our sin, God offers us restoration if we will repent and return to him.

This was the message of Jeremiah, Repent and turn back to God!!

Jeremiah’s message was not a popular message to the people in Judah, but he was obedient in the face of opposition, when he was tortured and abused because he knew the Presence of God was with him!

NIV, Worship Bible

“Almighty God, How great and holy You are. How foolishly Your people turned their eyes from You to lesser objects of worship. They exchanged Your truth for a lie and worshiped created things rather than You, the Creator Lord, keep us from false gods. Help us to let go of the worthless idols that cause us to forfeit the fullness of Your grace.”

1) His presence will Energize us for our work, Jer. 1: 4-8

Chosen

Called

Commissioned

When we try to do things in our power it never goes well. We live in a culture where we rely on ourselves to show people how powerful we are. If we want to see a movement of God we must rely on His presence and power.

Ex. Greg Laurie, Harvest Crusade in Anaheim, Ca. 45,000 in Attendance, 200,000 online viewers, 6,500 Professions of faith.

Ex. In 1972, the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, Tx hosted a Jesus Movement event put on by Campus Crusade for Christ, (CRU) 75,000 people attended

God’s presence is what made the difference in the events. We can do everything in our power, but without His presence it’s dead. When we are walking in sin there will be no power pouring through us. Jeremiah 7: 12-15

Jeremiah 10:6 “Lord, there is no one like you. You are great; your name is great in power.”

His presence is what Energizes us to live a life of holiness, to lead out in a culture that values everything but God and to live a life of obedience. Is God’s presence enough to satisfy our thirst?

2) His presence will give us Encouragement (Confidence) to do what He as called us to do

Jer. 1:9

God's thoughts are best delivered in God's words; and the more of scripture there is in our message, the more true, the more divine, and the more powerful it will be.

Jeremiah spoke with authority, power, confidence because he spoke with the words that God had filled his mouth with. Jeremiah 1:9 and Jeremiah 15:16, Jer. 17:7-8, Ps. 1, Joshua 1:9

Our words have no power, but God's words have all power. If we want to have the confidence and encouragement that we are speaking with God's words we must continually spend time in his word.

Ex. Receiving a letter

Ex. George Mueller, Read the Bible through 100 times before he was 71
Travis Maxey, Read the Bible through 55 times in 13 years.

Staying in God's word will allow the presence of God to be alive and moving fresh in our lives and will give us the authority, the power, the confidence and the encouragement to do what God has called us to do and to stay Faithful to the message He has given us to share.

Ex. Deep Dive into the water brings much more calmness

3) His presence will Empower us to stand firm and steadfast in difficult challenges, Jer. 1:10

When God calls us into His service He empowers us and equips us to go through anything that comes our way. Jeremiah faced opposition to his message he was preaching, he was tortured and abused, but he relied on God's presence to be with him. Jer. 1:17-19. The command to stand up is literally "gird your loins," or "brace yourself". It is used of getting ready for work, battle, debate, or for the tiring job of preaching to an unreceptive audience. God would make Jeremiah like a fortified city. He would be made strong because of the Presence of God was with him. When we are obedient to preach the message that God has given us, He will Strengthen you, He will protect you and He will Rescue you.

The reason Jeremiah could preach the message that God gave him to preach was because He relied on the presence of God. When the Presence of God is in a place, it is alive, but when the presence of God is not in a place, it's Dead. Jeremiah wasn't seeking anything else to give him the power to deliver the message except God's presence.

Jeremiah Embraced his core convictions, but still showed compassion to the people of Judah. His heart didn't grow cold toward the people even though they abused him and considered him a traitor. He continue to seek God, who was the most important person in his life.

Steve Smith says in the Christ Centered Commentary, Early in his ministry “I was seeking God for his presence, his power and his blessing, but I was not seeking him just to know him. I wanted his blessings; I did not want him.” Our focus should be to KNOW GOD. John 17: 3–4. Everything else flows from this.

Jeremiah 9: 23-24,

Our Glory Is Not What We Have, but Our Glory Is Knowing God.

Our culture tells us to Idolize self, family, accomplishment, religion, ability. These are the things we chase. We brag about educational achievements, employment accomplishments, financial successes, physical prowess and other things. But God says, “If you are going to brag, if you really want something to shout about, brag that you know me. If you can’t talk about that, you don’t have much to boast about.” Tony Evans

Too Know God (not merely to know about God) in intimate fellowship is the most meaningful pursuit of life.

This was the life of Jeremiah. His single focus was to know God and that led to the Presence of God being manifested in his life to

Energize him for God’s work

Encourage him to do what he had been called to do

Empower him to stand firm and steadfast in difficult challenges

What are we willing to do to make Knowing God our single focus so that God’s presence would be alive and moving in a fresh way in our life daily. Is. 26:8 Our desire is for your name and renown. To Know God and make Him Known! Phil. 3:10

As we begin our 21 Day Fast on Sept. 8, what are you willing to give up to live “Above and Beyond” and make your single focus Knowing Jesus, so that everything in your life will flow from this relationship. We will close our Fast out with a 24 hr. Reading of the OT and praying for 24 hrs. Start praying now for God to work in your life and the life of our church for Above and Beyond.