



“The Presence of God”

God’s Favor Expressed Through God’s Face
Guest Pastor Obed Martinez / June 17th, 2018

Opening Prayer:

Holy God, we come before you today as we do everyday seeking Your face. We know You are always with us, Father, and we do well to acknowledge You in all of our ways. Let our ways always give way to Your perfect will, Lord. Help us hear AND obey what we already know to be from You and to hear Your small still voice when we are not sure what to say or do. Overflow us with the Fruit of the Spirit that we may pour Him into others. Bring us deeper and deeper into Your presence this day and every day as we behold the face of our Lord and our God. Amen.

Icebreaker:

Why do they call it "Facebook"? Our faces reveal visible expressions of our inner condition at any given moment. Sometimes without us even being aware of them. Our faces are living emoji's! Take a show of hands of who in the group uses social media, texts or email to communicate? What are some other ways to communicate with those around us?

Encouragement:

Every problem we encounter can bring us into the Presence of God. If we are facing Him and not the problem. If we're focusing on our problems we're focusing on the wrong thing. We get the life we focus on. Our FOCUS should be, must be on the face of God.

We all go through the feeling of losing God’s presence from time to time. Any believer knows that there are times of spiritual leanness when perhaps the Lord determines to test our faith.

While we will never lose the reality of God’s presence, we might lose the “sense” of His presence. We never lose the reality of God’s presence, no matter how badly we fail; we never sink so far as to banish the Holy Spirit. We can anger God because of sin, but true followers never lose the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture: Read Galatians 5:22-23

The practical result of being in God’s presence is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness. We call it "Fruit." Many Christians seem gloomy and dejected because they lack this sense of God’s presence. The fellowship that comes from obedience and trust in the Lord is what sustains us, especially during trials, for the joy of the Lord shall be your strength. Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds because trials produce faith and develop perseverance. When we persevere through trials, proving to ourselves and to others that our faith is real, our sense of God’s presence increases, as does our joy.

Next Steps:

Many of us are one passed test away from our next assignment, or breakthrough, or stronghold. Israel failed tests for 40 years on an 11 day journey! Every battle we've lost was because of the lack of God's presence, not for the lack of power. Passed tests lead to greater abundance, greater tests, greater conquests, and greater rewards that are ALREADY there ready to be inherited. But there is no manifestation without preparation. Are you prepared to inherit the promises of God? If not, here is a few ways:

LIFE Class

- Discover how God has shaped you to serve
- Every Sunday at 12PM
- If you've started LIFE Class, but haven't finished, you can join any Sunday!
- Visit sdrock.com/life/class for more information

Floodgate

- Friday, July 20 / 6:30PM / PL Campus
- All campuses, one incredible night of worship
- Bring your family and friends to worship God together as one church
- sdrock.com/floodgate

Women's Retreat

- 18th Annual **Women's Retreat**
- **August 10-12th** at Murrieta Hot Springs Christian Conference Center
- Spirit filled weekend including worship, sessions led by special guest speakers from each campus, a Saturday night concert, break out classes, times for relaxation, socializing in the coffee house, and more.
- Visit sdrock.com/womensretreat to register

At the Movies

- We need your help to transform your campus lobbies into movie sets!
- If you'd like to be involved, there is a role for everyone to play!
- **AT THE MOVIES SERIES** begins July 1!
- Builds for the lobby transformations will take place in June.
- Text one of the codes listed on the link below for more information on your local campus. <https://www.sdrock.com/events/19902/>

Military Outreach

- The Rock Church Military Ministry is personally inviting you and your family to a day of fun, prizes, laughter, and hope.
- On June 23rd, from 11am to 3pm, we want to honor your sacrifice in serving our Country. This event is 100% Free to all ACTIVE Military Families that could use some encouragement and/or assistance. RSVP to secure your spot.
- <https://www.facebook.com/events/160630541420029/>

Closing Prayer:

Your presence God ALWAYS leads to Your promises. We give thanks that You have prepared the way and the ways before us. Guide us in our walk, and help us prepare for the battles and the conquests to come that we may inherit the promises in Your Holy Word. We know You fight for us, Father, and will continue to retake that which the enemy has stolen. Bring us and keep us in Your presence. Help us focus on Your face and not the troubles of this world as we behold the power and the glory that is Yours alone. In Jesus' name we seek the face of the great I AM. Amen.

Notes:
