



**Practicing the Presence of God**

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*Shared Stories*

*Shared Learning*

*Shared Experience*

*Prayer*

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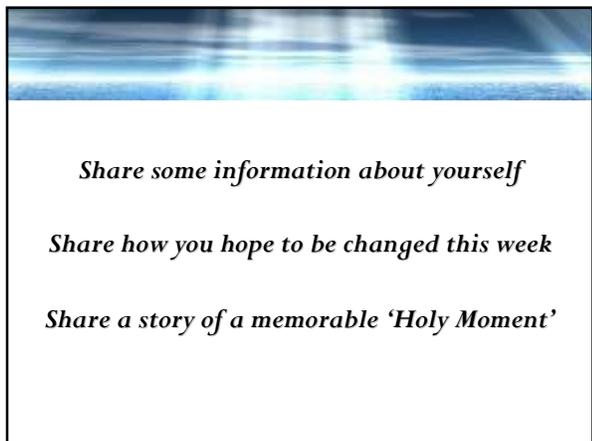
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*Share some information about yourself*

*Share how you hope to be changed this week*

*Share a story of a memorable 'Holy Moment'*

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*"There is not in the world a kind of life more sweet and delightful, than that of a continual conversation with God. Those only can comprehend it who practice and experience it."*

**-Brother Lawrence**

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**Why this topic?**

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*Leaders who consistently lead for transformation are leaders who consistently engage the Presence of God.*

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**Psalm 46:1, 7, 10-11**

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble...The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress...He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”

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Be still- **raphah** (sink into)  
And know- **yada** (perceive, or to be aware)  
I am God- **Elohiym** (Almighty one)  
I will be exalted- **ruwm** (rise)

*Practicing the presence of God is about learning how to live in rhythms where we sink deeply into an awareness of God, that God might arise in our lives and be glorified before the world.*

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*We all may agree on the importance of engaging the presence of God, but many of us, particularly leaders, struggle with this because of the barriers.*

*What are the most common barriers?*

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**1. Forget What You “Know.”**

*"Men invent means and methods of coming at God's love, they learn rules and set up devices to remind them of that love, and it seems like a world of trouble to bring oneself into the consciousness of God's presence. Yet it might be so simple. Is it not quicker and easier just to do our common business wholly for the love of him?"*

*Brother Lawrence*

***\*This is not a set of ideas. This is a lifestyle.***

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**2. Develop Daily Expectations.**

*Expect that at any given moment, something will happen to deepen your awareness of God.*

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*Look for God EVERYWHERE.*

*Live concurrently.*

*Pray with your eyes OPEN.*

*Listen for a response.*

*Acknowledge God moments out loud (make praise a habit).*

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**3. Be Kinder to those Unavoidable Interruptions.**

*Is this God inviting me into a Holy Moment?*

*Rehearse the Questions:*

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*How is God at work in this?*

*Is this interruption really God's nudge in disguise?*

*What is God's response to what is happening?*

*What response would please God's heart?*

*What can I learn in this moment about God's nature?*

*About God's behavior? About God's current priorities?*

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**4. Design God Moments.**

*What "Whisper Spots" are we creating that lead us into corporate Holy Moments?*

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**Program Chaos**  
**Altar Calls**  
**Worship in Community**  
**Storytelling**  
**Others**

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**Shared Practice (Live Homework!)**  
*Spend some time, right now in conversation with God about this session.*  
*Share with someone how you hope to deepen your personal awareness of God daily.*  
*Share a practice that you would like to take back to your church community, and record it / set goals.*

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**Recommended Reading:**  
**The Practice of the Presence of God** by Brother Lawrence  
**The Pursuit of God** by A.W. Tozer  
**Experiencing God** by Henry Blackaby  
**The Power of a Whisper** by Bill Hybels

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