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Sermon preached by Pastor J.W. Tyler,
on Sunday Afternoon,
January 6. 1974.

Lesson Psalm 115.

And he said unto him, if thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence. Exodus 33. 15.

This is a revelation and recording by the Holy Spirit of the very language, the holy, spiritual, divine language of the communion that passed between the Lord and His beloved servant Moses as the cloudy pillar descended and stood at the tabernacle door. So it is congruous with the occasion in two ways; with the holy ordinance, - the Communion of the Body and blood of the Lord Jesus, that which passes between the Lord and His people; also with the first holy Day in a new era of time which has come in with clouds of considerable ^{darkness} and distress, but the Lord has a message for us, - for all His chosen. Nothing can frustrate or reverse it or make it void. No earthly circumstances can affect it: nothing can turn it away from us as to its efficacy and the blessed effects and fruit and joy and peace and blessing of it. Nothing that has taken place in the earth can demonstrate the holy blessedness of the word He has delivered to His people. There are no conditions; nothing relating to us. It will not fluctuate according to the guilt, worthiness or unworthiness in us, nor any change in the history of the world. It is His word. "My presence." We are not now considering the presence of God in His holy law as on the fiery Mount. "My presence." mild and pacific and benign and clement, merciful, gracious, loving, My presence. It is a tremendous subject.

Presence. How may it be defined? It means for a certain person to be in a certain place at a certain time, and for you to be capacitated to know it: to have senses that are activated by the presence of that person so through those senses you are aware of the presence of the person. This term, presence, is different from the omnipresence of God. His omnipresence, one of His perfections, you clearly know. He is everywhere at the same

time, - terrible to the wicked; wonderful to the righteous; penetrating to the righteous. "Whose eyes are as a flame of fire." He sees through us. One of the biggest pieces of delusion is the deception of the human heart; not only the ungodly, the godly know their wicked^{heart} is constantly active. They may be guilty of a deceptive attitude, or one that is not transparently honest before God.

This presence is different from the omnipresence of God. We could well stay here for a while,- and we must. We shall eternally, to the end of time and through eternity stay in the presence of God. You say; "How can this be defined as to the banished? He is everywhere present in the universe, in heaven and earth, and it is the eternal frown of God that will spell out the damnation of hell. What is this terrible thing, damnation? It is the perpetual, everlasting curse and frown of God. What is the beautiful thing here? Presence.- a special, beautiful wonder and effulgence. Glory is effulgence, and this presence is special and singular and exclusive to the whole ransomed Church of God; to all whose names are written in the Book of life from the smallest to the greatest; everyone in the Book of life will know His presence. Do you know His special presence? Is there a prayer ascending now for your children? that they too may know this special presence. It is not forbidding, repelling, destructive. This presence of the Lord will draw; it is benign. It brings light to dark minds; peace to troubled hearts; forgiveness, healing, the sweet, saving health of the gospel; His presence at Mpunt Zion. "My presence.

I will try to be concise. It will be clear to the friends that this matter of presence can only really arise where there has been a first revelation. The new man has a sense, a spiritual sense, and those people are in oneness with Him. You do not know, you cannot define or distinguish the presence of a person by their speech and movements and so on unless there is a bond of love, oneness. It presupposes you are already acquainted with ~~with~~ the divine Person, whom to know is eternal life. He says; "My presence shall go with thee." We have five senses, or six, as human beings, and it is an impression on those senses makes us aware of the presence of persons and things. We can translate this to spiritual

terms.

The sense of sight. How wonderful it is that the Saviour gives us to see Himself. I do not know whether I mentioned this on Thursday. In the amazing work of the Holy Ghost there is a formal revelation. You may ~~see~~ with greater clarity, wonder and force and efficacy see the Lord than any person on the face of the earth. O happy souls in this holy Sanctuary who could say;

"O blessed sight, O lovely form,
To sinful souls like me;
I'd creep beside Him as a worm,
And see Him bleed for me." (950)

A revelation of the glory of Christ is the greatest in a child of God's life,- to be able to say you have seen Him. This I cling to. If you know it you will cling to it in time, in the river, in floods and flames, however low you sink. The wonder of it is He comes again. "My presence shall go with thee." Let us pray to Him in this year that we may have further revelations of the glory of Christ; that we may behold Him whom our soul loveth. The refulgent beam of His glory irradiating your spirit will activate your soul to such a degree that you will know the meaning of the good physician of the Bible, St Luke, when he speaks of the babe leaping in her womb for joy. You will know this in your souls. Your soul leaps in you after Christ.

There is a spiritual sense of hearing, sound. His speech; He speaks. I will just give you a lesson on this, or a test. What do you come to the House of God for? What is one of the chief things? If you know Him you come to hear His voice. This is it. Before I preached I heard the Lord's voice in a few places,- twice here, once at Galeed, once at Beulah. I did not know anything about the building, the people, or the minister: it was the Lord and my soul. With Mr Fookes at Gower Street Memorial Chapel I heard His voice. He said to me; "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1.9) I had it in my soul. He gave it to me; He confirmed it. This is His presence. I wished I could have gone straight to the third heavens: I was near. How often have you heard His voice? It is wonderful to hear His voice. You know He is there. His voice activates the sense of

spiritual hearing. "It is I; be not afraid." and so on.

And His presence you will smell. There is a sense of smell. Instead of the stench of the fall you get the smell of the fragrancy of the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the valleys. You can tell His presence by it.

And you know it by feeling. Those who have the hand of faith feel after Christ: they stretch forth their hands unto God. They handle Him. He touches them: they touch Him.

And you taste. "O taste and see that the Lord is good." (Psa. 34.8) (I regret that we must come to a close.) A few illustrations of those who felt the sweet presence of Christ. I begin with the dear woman we often think of, Manoah's wife. Manoah said; "We shall surely die, because we have seen God." you have been like that. Take a few weeks ago; I felt so, as if we should die: not now. That gloom has been penetrated in my spirit. Manoah's wife had His sweet presence. It seemed as if it was the terror of the law with him. She knew more: she had the revelation of the angel and the Lord had received their sacrifice and she had His presence. This word has followed me for years, and it is the same to day. God has not changed. She said, and this applies to us. "If the Lord were pleased to kill us,-" this is how you have felt. "If the Lord were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meat offering at our hands, neither would he have showed us all these things, nor would as at this time have told us such things as these." I present this dear lady to you. She had got His presence. "We shall not die." You are afraid of it. Two things have encouraged me to day; one, the beautiful rainbow this morning, and the sunshine and the mild weather. It is as though He says; "See, I am your God. Why so cast down? Look at the ~~mild weather~~ rainbow; at the sun which has penetrated the clouds and the mild weather. The Lord delighteth in mercy." "We shall not die." "If the Lord intended to kill us He would not have showed us these things."

I want to name another blessed woman, the Shunammite, and her ~~son~~ son died. The prophet sent Gehazi to her. "Run now,- her soul is troubled; there is something urgent here.- say unto her, Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child? And she answered,

It is well." She had His sweet presence

This is the presence of the Lord and she was under its sweet influence.

"It is well." One observation here; don't take too much notice of the way you think and speak when you are destitute of the Lord's presence. If you are dark and cold in your heart you say things that are at variance with God's will. How do you speak when you have His presence? In our

(A.M.) Lesson, the servant of the prophet was in a dreadful state when he saw the Syrian host compassing the city. "Alas, my master! how shall we do?" We have been saying it, and concerning Israel. "What shall we do?" Elisha had the presence of the Lord. He prayed; "Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see." And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." I am saying to you; the Lord open your eyes and you will see. Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. Amen.