

# Journey to Spiritual Maturity and Divine Presence

spiritual growth divine guidance prayer

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## **Basic Information**

- Date & Time: 2024-04-18 18:11:45
- Location: Oasis Bible Training Center
- Instructor: Steve Jones
- Title: The Ways of God Part 3: "Waiting on the Lord"

## **Summary**

This teaching explores the speaker's spiritual journey to Pinecrest Bible Training Center, emphasizing divine timing and preparation. Through experiences of divine communication and seeking deeper intimacy with God, the speaker delves into the significance of 'the river' in spiritual context. The pursuit of spiritual maturity, perfection, and sincerity is highlighted, along with the transformative power of faith and familial relationships. Spiritual practices such as prayer, stillness, and reflection on His Word are discussed as means to connect with God and understand His presence in everyday life.

## **Knowledge Points**

### **1. Spiritual preparation and divine timing in personal growth**

- **Waiting on God** The speaker was waiting on God before starting the teaching, indicating a moment of reflection or seeking divine guidance.
- **Change of teaching topic** Initially planned to teach on the 'River of God', but received a different inspiration or reminder from God.
- **Journey to Pinecrest** It took the speaker 40 years to reach Pinecrest Bible Training Center, emphasizing a long journey of getting to a significant place of learning.
- **Significance of timing** The timing of the speaker's arrival at Pinecrest coincides with their birthday, suggesting a meaningful or predestined moment.
- **Prayer for readiness** The speaker prayed not to leave Pinecrest until they were ready, showing a desire for complete preparation or spiritual readiness.

## 2. Spiritual growth and the pursuit of deeper intimacy with God through understanding and aligning with 'the river' of divine presence.

- **The importance of fulfilling God's call** The speaker expresses a deep desire to fulfill God's call on their life, indicating a strong commitment to their spiritual journey.
- **Experience of divine communication** The speaker recounts an experience where they heard the Holy Spirit in an audible voice, which guided them to a deeper understanding.
- **Significance of 'the river' in spiritual context** The river is metaphorically used to represent a source of spiritual nourishment and guidance, as referenced from Psalms 46:4.
- **Learning to flow with the river** The speaker discusses their lifelong quest to align with the spiritual flow of 'the river,' suggesting a dynamic and evolving spiritual practice.

- **God as a refuge and source of strength** The speaker emphasizes the role of God as a protective and empowering presence, particularly in times of need.
- **Celebration of 40 years in faith** The speaker marks a significant milestone of 40 years in their faith journey, drawing a parallel to the biblical story of the Israelites.
- **Seeking deeper intimacy with God** The speaker expresses a desire for a deeper level of intimacy with God, indicating a continuous pursuit of spiritual depth.
- **The role of divine wisdom** The speaker highlights the importance of seeking and receiving divine wisdom as essential for spiritual growth and understanding.
- **The impact of spiritual books** Mentions how reading 'The Manifest Presence of God' by Walter Beuttler profoundly impacted their spiritual understanding and relationship with God.
- **Preparation for spiritual responsibilities** The speaker talks about preparing to undertake spiritual responsibilities like healing and deliverance, emphasizing the need for a solid foundation in God.

### 3. Spiritual Renewal and Divine Presence

- **Presence of God** The speaker felt the same divine presence at Pinecrest as he did during significant spiritual experiences in his past.
- **Prophetic Encounter** A woman at Pinecrest prophesied that the speaker was called by God to learn there, emphasizing simplicity in understanding deep spiritual truths.
- **Importance of Prayer** The speaker reflects on Matthew 6:6, emphasizing the personal and private nature of prayer as a means to communicate directly with God.

- **God's Perceptiveness and Presence** The speaker is comforted by the belief that God not only is with him but also sees him and understands his heart beyond visible actions or problems.
- **Concept of the Secret Place** The speaker explores the idea of 'the secret place' as a metaphor for a personal space of communion with God, accessible anywhere and anytime.
- **Biblical References to God's Dwelling** The speaker connects various biblical locations and concepts as representations of God's dwelling, such as Bethel and the Father's house.
- **Unity and Love in Christ** Reflections on John 17 highlight the themes of unity among believers and the love they share, which originates from Jesus and God the Father.
- **New Creation in Christ** The speaker emphasizes the transformative power of being 'in Christ,' which renews one's identity and purpose, leaving behind past faults.
- **Spiritual Strength and Renewal** Isaiah 40 is cited to illustrate how waiting on God renews spiritual strength, enabling believers to rise above earthly challenges.
- **Ministry of Reconciliation** The speaker discusses the role of believers in reconciling the world to God through the example of their transformed lives in Christ.

#### **4. The pursuit of spiritual maturity and perfection through the guidance of divine teachings and the emulation of exemplary figures like Jesus.**

- **Man's Attempt to Perfection** The speaker discusses the human endeavor to achieve perfection (maturity) by learning from a teacher, drawing a parallel to spiritual learning.
- **God's Way of Maturity** According to the speaker, God's method for humans to achieve perfection (spiritual maturity)

is through spiritual communion, specifically sitting 'at the Master's feet in the secret place.'

- **Scriptural Reference** The speaker cites Proverbs 13:17, emphasizing its meaning across different translations which include health, healing, deliverance, and salvation.
- **Role of a Faithful Ambassador** The speaker expresses a desire to become a 'faithful ambassador', linking this role to the qualities of health, healing, deliverance, and salvation.
- **Comparison to Jesus** The speaker compares the role of a faithful ambassador to Jesus, whom they consider the ultimate example of such a figure.

#### **5. The pursuit of spiritual perfection (maturity) and sincerity through Jesus' teachings and personal devotion.**

- **Imperfection of humanity** The speaker emphasizes that humans cannot achieve perfection (maturity) on their own, which underscores the need for divine intervention.
- **Role of Jesus' sacrifice** The necessity of Jesus' crucifixion is highlighted as essential for saving souls, indicating that perfection (maturity) is unattainable without this sacrifice.
- **Concept of perfect sincerity** While humans can't be perfect, they can strive for perfect sincerity and complete surrender to God's will.
- **Importance of loving God and neighbors** The speaker reiterates Jesus' commandments about loving God and neighbors as foundational principles for Christian life.
- **Non-judgmental attitude** Christians are encouraged to love and pray for everyone, including political figures and others they may disagree with, without being hateful.

- **Praying the scriptures** The speaker suggests using Psalms 23 and 91 as guides for prayer, emphasizing the personal connection and reflection with God.
- **Spiritual exercise of reading Psalms** A guided exercise is provided where Psalm 23 is read slowly to foster a deeper spiritual connection and reflection.

## 6. The spiritual practices of reading scripture, worship, and stillness as means to connect with and understand God.

- **Reading scriptures slowly** Emphasizes the importance of absorbing the content of scriptures slowly to understand the messages about God and oneself.
- **God inhabits the praises of His people** Highlights the belief that God is present in the worship and praises offered by His followers.
- **Being still to know God** Stresses the significance of being still as a form of worship and a way to connect deeply with God.
- **Importance of quiet time** Quiet time, even when one does not sense the presence of God, is portrayed as a crucial period when God is actively working.
- **Dependence on God for transformation** Conveys the idea that personal transformation into a God-like character requires waiting on and depending on God.

## 7. The transformative power of faith and the enduring influence of relationships

- **Desire to dwell in the house of the Lord** The speaker emphasizes the desire to constantly dwell in the presence of the Lord, not just in heaven but throughout everyday life on earth.

- **Breaking generational curses** The speaker shares a personal testimony about how becoming a Christian helped him break the cycle of alcoholism in his family.
- **Significance of parental influence** The speaker reflects on the positive impact his father had on his life, despite his father's struggles with alcoholism.
- **Importance of seeking parental approval** The speaker expresses a lifelong desire to earn his father's approval, highlighting this during significant spiritual moments like his baptism.

## 8. The importance of humility, individual uniqueness, and deep spiritual practices in living a Christ-like life.

- **Prophetic demonstration** The speaker refers to an early experience as a prophetic demonstration of their future role in standing before God's people.
- **Identity as a 'little teapot'** The speaker expresses a desire to be a humble, clean (pure) vessel for God, metaphorically describing themselves as a 'little teapot'.
- **Importance of individual uniqueness** The speaker emphasizes that every individual is unique and special, created to shine and bring God's presence into the world.
- **Christian meaning** The term 'Christian' is explained as meaning 'little Christ-like ones', highlighting the goal of emulating Christ.
- **Prayer and solitude** The speaker discusses the importance of solitary prayer as taught by Jesus in Matthew 6, emphasizing the need for privacy in prayer.
- **Waiting on God** The speaker stresses the benefits of waiting on God, which include becoming more attuned to the Holy Spirit and experiencing miraculous events.

- **Spiritual sensitivity** By waiting on God, individuals can develop spiritual senses that allow them to perceive divine guidance more clearly.
- **Personal testimony of divine encounters** The speaker shares a personal story about recognizing and affirming a woman's God-given talent, which led to a profound spiritual experience.
- **Integration of prayer, fasting, and waiting** The speaker suggests combining prayer, fasting, and waiting on God as a powerful spiritual practice that can impact the world.
- **Potential for global revival** The speaker proposes that widespread adoption of these spiritual practices could potentially lead to a world revival.



## Assignments

1. Read and meditate on Psalms 23 and 91 as a spiritual exercise.
2. Read your notes and 2 books.