

**“Joined in Awe!: Sharing God’s Presence”**  
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Acts 2:42-47

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Please click [here](#) to read the Scripture.

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*“Surely the Presence of God is in this place!”*

Wherever we are . . . whatever we’re doing . . . no matter how deep our faith is . . . how weak our trust is . . . whether we are walking in God’s ways, or have stumbled and gotten terribly lost . . . we are not alone. We live in God’s world. God is with us. We are not alone.

Are you **aware** of this?

When you are aware, then you can be **available**. You can be available to however God is choosing to make God’s Presence known to you. God is elusive. God is not at our beck-and-call. We cannot conjure up authentic experiences of God. We cannot create or manage them. God is wild! Any experience we have of God’s Presence is purely God’s gift.

We can be aware: *“Surely the Presence of God is in this place!”*

We can be available: *“Help me to notice!”* That’s our prayer: *“Holy Spirit, fill us and show us what You want us to see, to experience, to know of God’s Presence.”*

When you are aware that God is Present, and when you become available to how God is making God’s Presence known . . . then you can be **attentive**.

Attentive, you wait to **sense** God’s Presence. I talking about *sensing* a few weeks ago. God can use physical sensations — things we take in through seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, smelling — sensations to enliven a sort of “spiritual sense” God has given us to tell us God is with us.

Attentive, you wait to **savour** God’s Presence. That was a couple weeks ago. Savouring is enjoying the moment with God, no matter what you’re doing or where you are. Everyday moments become filled, enhanced, pregnant with glory when we savour how God is present with us.

Wherever I am . . . *“Surely the Presence of God is in this place. Help me to notice. Help me to sense. Help me to savour.”*

And now, *“Help me to **share!**”*

## II

The reading we heard is from the Bible book called “The Acts of the Apostles.” I’ve also heard it called “the Acts of the Holy Spirit,” because it’s all about what the Spirit — the Presence of God — did in the early years of Jesus’ People. The Spirit filled them, individually and as a community, and drew others to the Good News of Jesus. God’s Presence created a new way of being together, the Church-community. What we heard is a brief, summary description of what this was like.

They were daily-devoted. They were daily-devoted to sharing in learning together from those who had first walked with Jesus, the apostles. They were daily-devoted to sharing life together. They were daily-devoted to sharing meals together. They were daily-devoted to sharing prayer together. They were daily-devoted to sharing their wealth together. They were daily-devoted to sharing in worship together.

This daily-devotion, this sharing together, these core practices . . . all were shaping them as Jesus’ people. They continue to shape us.

They were devoted, daily. In and among their day-to-day tasks, they tended to these things. In and among their day-to-day activities, they experienced God’s Presence. They shared God’s Presence.

This short description tells what was happening then, and holds a promise for us now. We can share God’s Presence.

## III

Sensing and savouring God’s Presence is very personal. It’s a gift from God to you. But it’s not a gift to be kept private, tucked-away. God’s Presence is not for you alone. It’s God’s gift for you, to be shared by you.

We cannot be follow Jesus “solo.” God made us for each other. The Holy Spirit forms us into community to share God’s Presence.

Sharing God’s Presence strengthens and encourages us.

There are many, many, many times when I’m not experiencing God’s Presence. I’m aware God is with me — *Surely the Presence of God is in this place!* I can be available and attentive to God’s Presence. Yet, for whatever reason, there are times when I’m not sensing God. I’m not savouring God. I need you. My trust in God is strengthened when you tell me about your experience of God’s trustworthiness. My love for God is encouraged when you tell me how you are experiencing God’s love.

And when I am experiencing God’s Presence, sharing that with you strengthens and encourages me too. Sharing takes nothing away from us. It’s not like cookies. I have 3

cookies, give you 2 and only have 1 left. Tragic! But sharing my experiences of God's Presence doesn't reduce them. It magnifies them. Together, we share in celebrating God's Presence. Together, we share in what God is doing in us, and through us, and around us.

#### IV

The Spirit gives us ways to share.

Like this! Worshipping together, God's Presence is front-of-mind. (Or it should be). Together, we are opening to God who is moving in this place, in this time.

Part of the gift of worshipping together is realizing that we are different. For some of us, God's Presence is most sensed and savoured in our praying. For others, it is in the Bible reading, or reflection time, or with the children, or through our offering. For many it's through music, though we differ about what sorts of music open us to God's Presence. Worshipping together teaches us to value the ways others experience God's Presence when they are not our ways. We don't diminish our ways, but we make sure our worship is serving theirs too. If it's valuable to my fellow worshipper, though not for me, I honour and treasure it because their ways are helping us worship in God's Presence together.

Sharing God's Presence can be more personal too. Do you have someone with whom you share your experiences of God's Presence? Many of us don't. We've been taught it's very private. Maybe we're not sure what we've experienced, or what it means, or that we're "spiritual" enough to have things worth sharing. I'm in a small group where we share our experiences of God. It's been very encouraging. It's made me more aware of God in my life. Some in our congregation have recently started doing this too. Is that something you'd like to be part of?

I would love to hear your experiences of God's Presence, and I'd like to discover with you ways we can do more sharing together.

Then there is sharing God's Presence beyond our particular Jesus-community. Wherever you go this week, God will be there. God will be with those whom you're with. They probably won't notice God, at all! Part of your calling is to be a witness to God's Presence. Look for opportunities where there is an opening and a need for you to share into someone's life that God is with them, and they are not alone.

#### V

Remember back to that very first Christian community. It was so full of sharing. We're told, "*a sense of awe came over everyone.*"

Let's pray for that. *Holy Spirit, bring a sense of awe to us. Give us reverence and wonder. Fill us with that sense of trembling fear that is full of delight, when we realize that God is here! Surely the Presence of God is here!*

If you sense and savour God's Presence . . . how can you not share?

Let's keep sharing together, and celebrating God!