

Carrying His Presence Forward The Gift of Presence – Part 4

Life Church St. Louis December 28, 2025
Lead Pastor Dan Walker, PhD, MDiv

Introduction

Psalms 127:1 (ESV) Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

Proverbs 16:9 (ESV) The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.

John 15:5 (ESV) I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

1. Ask God for Clarity Before You Move Forward

Exodus 33:12 (ESV) Moses said to the Lord, “See, you say to me, ‘Bring up this people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’”

James 1:5 (ESV) If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Psalms 25:4-5 (ESV) Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

2. Seek God’s Presence, Not Just God’s Help

Exodus 33:13 (ESV) Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.

John 17:3 (ESV) And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Psalms 27:4 (ESV) One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

Philippians 3:8 (ESV) Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

3. Let God’s Presence Define How You Move Forward

Exodus 33:14 (ESV) And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

Exodus 33:15 (ESV) And he said to him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.”

Exodus 33:16 (ESV) For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?

Matthew 11:28-29 (ESV) Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

2 Corinthians 3:17 (ESV) Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

4. Walk Into the New Year Confident in God’s Personal Favor

Exodus 33:17 (ESV) And the Lord said to Moses, “This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.”

Isaiah 43:1 (ESV) Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

Romans 8:15-16 (ESV) For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

Carrying His Presence Forward Study Guide

The Gift of Presence – Part 4

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Introduction.

1. As you stand at the transition between one year and the next, how do you usually approach what is ahead, and what shapes that approach the most?
2. What does it look like in your own life to let the Lord build rather than relying on your own effort and strength (Psalm 127:1)?
3. How have you experienced the difference between making plans on your own and allowing the Lord to direct your steps (Proverbs 16:9)?
4. In what ways does staying connected to Jesus as the source of your life affect your ability to bear fruit as you move into a new season (John 15:5)?

1. Ask God for Clarity Before You Move Forward.

1. What stands out to you about Moses asking God for clarity instead of moving forward based on his own confidence (Exodus 33:12)?
2. How does God's promise to give wisdom generously encourage you to bring your questions and uncertainties to Him (James 1:5)?
3. What does David's prayer teach you about waiting on the Lord for guidance rather than rushing ahead (Psalm 25:4–5)?
4. What is one area of your life or one decision ahead where you need to intentionally pause and ask God for clarity before moving forward?

2. Seek God's Presence, Not Just God's Help.

1. Why do you think Moses prioritized knowing God and His ways rather than simply receiving instructions (Exodus 33:13)?
2. How does Jesus' definition of eternal life challenge common ideas about faith and success (John 17:3)?
3. What do David and Paul's words reveal about the value of knowing God above everything else in life (Psalm 27:4; Philippians 3:8)?

4. How could your daily routines change this year if your primary goal became knowing God more deeply rather than just asking Him to fix problems?

3. Let God's Presence Define How You Move Forward.

1. What does God's promise of His presence and rest reveal about how He wants His people to live and lead (Exodus 33:14)?
2. Why was Moses unwilling to move forward unless God's presence went with both him and the people (Exodus 33:15–16)?
3. How do Jesus' invitation to rest and the freedom of the Spirit shape your understanding of life in God's presence (Matthew 11:28–29; 2 Corinthians 3:17)?
4. What practical boundaries or commitments could help ensure that God's presence sets the pace and direction of your life this year?

4. Walk Into the New Year Confident in God's Personal Favor.

1. How does God's personal assurance to Moses change the tone of this entire conversation and the journey ahead (Exodus 33:17)?
2. What comfort and confidence come from knowing that God calls you by name and claims you as His own (Isaiah 43:1)?
3. How does the Spirit's witness that you are God's child help you face fear, failure, or uncertainty (Romans 8:15–16)?
4. How can reminding yourself and others of your identity in Christ shape the way you respond to challenges in the coming year?

Conclusion.

1. As you reflect on the year behind you and the year ahead, what would it look like for God's presence to define every step of your journey?
2. What is one intentional decision you can make now to ensure that you do not move forward into the new year without the assurance that the Lord is going with you?