



Faithfully Growing with Tim Fortescue

Practicing the Presence

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| Desire | to develop a continual openness and awareness of Christ's presence living in me. |
| Definition | Practicing the presence is an invitation to see and experience every moment as a gift of God. It is to live alive to union with the Trinity. |
| Scripture | <p>"Your new life, which is your real life - even though invisible to spectators - is with Christ in God. He is your life. When Christ (your real life, remember) shows up again on this earth, you'll show up, too - the real you, the glorious you. Meanwhile, be content with obscurity, like Christ." (Colossians 3:3-4 <i>The Message</i>)</p> <p>"The word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it." (Deuteronomy 30:14)</p> <p>"You have your heads in your Bibles constantly because you think you'll find eternal life there. But you miss the forest for the trees. These Scriptures are all about me! And here I am, standing right before you, and you aren't willing to receive from me the life you say you want." (John 5:39-40 <i>The Message</i>)</p> |
| Practice Includes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing a rhythm of living that brings God to mind throughout the day • intentionally recollecting yourself before God as you engage in the activities and duties of life • seeking to see others through the eyes of God • stopping throughout the day to listen to God • carrying or placing symbols in your office and home that remind you of Christ's presence • using breath prayer, centering prayer |
| God-Given Fruit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • keeping company with Jesus all day long • having a deeper union with Christ • living a new way of being by letting go of your need to manipulate, compete and control • living as though the present moment has no competition • receiving each moment as sacred • abiding in Christ so that you see him in those who drain, irritate and anger • seeing yourself through God's eyes rather than the eyes of others • finding Christ as your joy, sorrow, emptiness and fullness • remaining open and teachable at all moments • growing in awareness of your constant need of God |