



# **Lights and Perfection, Inc.**

**Go and make disciples!**

E-votional 22

## **A Distinct People**

Exodus 33:13-16 (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." And He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. 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?"*

There is surely a lot of lessons in this one passage of Scripture. However, I really only want to touch on one for this E-votional.

The idea I would like to touch on has to do with the Presence of God in His people's lives.

Moses is literally having a very real discussion with the Lord where he is asking the Lord who He is going to send with them on their journey to the promised land (v 12). The reason for this question is because earlier in verse 3 the Lord said,

*Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people."*

The reason for this was that the Lord's people were always rebelling against His ways. So Moses, in the context of this passage is talking with the Lord and asking Him whom He will send to go with them.

It is interesting to see how Moses interacted with the Lord on this. Moses is saying Lord you say that you know me by name and that I have found favor in Your sight, but You won't let me know whom you will send with me (v 12).

Moses continues to ask that if he found favor in the Lord's sight that He would

show him His way. Next, the Lord says, (v14).

*“My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”*

This is absolutely amazing. But what is really important here is what Moses tells the Lord (v15).

*“If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.”*

The important thing that we should all think about is this, are we in line with this same thought as Moses? What I mean is that are we willing only to go if the Lord is with us?

I would really hope the answer is yes. I can't imagine going and doing something God may like for me to do apart from Him and what He is actually calling me to do. The basis of this story is really simple. We can either go in the Presence of the Lord or not.

The truth is that it is really easy to get caught up in a work for the Lord and not really even be doing the work if that makes any sense? Basically, we can be doing something for God and at the same time apart from Him. The reality of God's Presence is for all who call on the name of Christ. Moses knows, as should we, that apart from God's Presence and Spirit in our lives anything we do is really nothing and of no significance. When we read the New Testament, we see a group of people who were evidently filled with God's Spirit and Presence. Actually, when I look at them by reading the Bible, I see a group of people that were unmistakably marked by the Presence of the Lord and thus made a distinct people. I wonder, do we have this same mark in our life that makes us a distinct people? When people see us, is there something, or rather someone else that they see? How will anyone know who we belong to if all they see is us? And even more importantly, how will they know in whom we follow and believe if He is not manifested in us?

After reading this story I wonder if you are like me and just want to get on your knees in true humility and ask the Lord. I know you are calling me to act or do something, but honestly, how can I unless Your Spirit goes with me. I could, all day long live this godly life of a disciple apart from You God, and often people do. But what sets Your people apart from the rest of the people on this earth is that Your Spirit and Presence go with them.

I wonder, would you be willing to pray this prayer with us.

Lord, I don't want to be just another person who calls themselves Christian. I want

the world to know You. But how can they know unless Your Presence goes with me? Father don't let me take even one step in any area of my life unless I am being led by You. It is so easy to get caught up in what everyone else is doing. But that is not what You require. Bless Your name above all other names as the one and only Lord of lords and King of kings, to whom all glory, honor, and power belong, in Jesus name.

In Christ's Love,  
Chris and Jeanne  
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