

LIVING IN HIS PRESENCE CHANGES THE WAY YOU LIVE

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

SUMMARY

This message explores the profound truth that every baptized believer carries the indwelling presence of God through the Holy Spirit, making them a living temple. Drawing on the biblical transition from God dwelling in the tabernacle and temple to dwelling within believers through Christ's atoning sacrifice, the message challenges Christians to recognize that their ordinary, everyday lives are made holy by God's presence within them. When believers truly grasp that they are temples of the Holy Spirit, it transforms how they live, speak, and interact with others, turning mundane routines into acts of worship and making every person a carrier of God's presence in the world.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Before Jesus came, God's presence dwelt in the tabernacle and the temple, separated from ordinary people by a thick veil. When Jesus died on the cross, that veil was torn from top to bottom, signifying that access to God's presence was now open to all.
- Through baptism, believers receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This means every baptized person carries God's presence within them. As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, and believers are called to glorify God in how they live.
- Because God's presence lives in us, our ordinary, everyday lives become holy. Mundane tasks, routine conversations, and daily responsibilities are all transformed into opportunities for God to work through us.
- Living with an awareness of God's indwelling presence leads to three key shifts: our everyday life becomes holy, we begin to live with intentionality, and our awareness of God working in the world around us increases.
- We are not passive carriers of God's presence. We are his hands, his voice, and his feet in our homes, workplaces, families, and communities

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, in which Paul teaches that the believer's body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, received from God, and that believers are called to glorify God in their body because they were bought at a price

STORIES:

- The Game: Emma describes a game played by her cousins in which simply remembering you are playing means you have lost. She uses this as an analogy for how believers can go through their day unaware of God's presence, only to be suddenly reminded He is there, illustrating the sermon's call to cultivate a continuous conscious awareness of God

- The Pharmacy Prayer: While driving to work at a pharmacy, Emma prayed sincerely that God would use her that day. She describes how this prayer of intentionality made her alert throughout her shift, watching for the person God might want to reach through her
- The Youth Camp Chef: At a youth camp, Emma went to speak with the chef about practical matters and unexpectedly found the chef opening up about deep personal burdens. Emma describes silently asking God how to respond, illustrating how awareness of God's indwelling presence helps believers recognize and respond to divine appointments
- The Community Centre Encounter: A woman who had a difficult morning told Emma she had known she would see her later that day and that she would understand, demonstrating how others can sense and be drawn to the presence of God carried by a believer in ordinary settings
- The Heart Afternoon Tea: A nurse and mother shared with Emma her quiet confidence that after saying her morning prayers she goes into her day knowing God is with her, serving as an example of the settled assurance that comes from understanding God's indwelling presence

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE

This guide is designed to help your small group dive deeper into the message.

OPENING PRAYER

Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and open hearts to God's transforming work. Pray the IMPACTERS Community Prayer .

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Opening

1. Before hearing this message, how would you have described where God's presence is? Has your understanding shifted at all?
2. The message opened with the story of a game where simply remembering you are playing means you have lost. Have you ever experienced something similar in your faith, where you go stretches of time without consciously thinking about God, and then something suddenly reminds you he is there? What does that feel like?

Going Deeper

3. The message traces a movement in Scripture from God's presence dwelling in the tabernacle, to the temple, to dwelling in people through the Holy Spirit. What does it mean to you personally that God chose to make you his dwelling place rather than a physical building?
4. Emma says that our everyday actions become holy when we live with an awareness of God's presence within us. Do you find it easy or difficult to see your daily routine as holy? What makes it feel ordinary rather than sacred?
5. Three practical outcomes of living as a temple of the Holy Spirit were identified in the sermon: everyday life becomes holy, we live with intentionality, and our awareness of God working in the world increases. Which of these three resonates most with you right now, and why?
6. The message gives several examples of ordinary moments where God works through people, helping a child with homework, caring for someone who is sick, sitting at a reception desk, having a conversation in a supermarket line. Can you think of a moment in your own life where you later recognised that God was working through you, even in something small?
7. Emma shared that she began asking God each morning to use her, and that this prayer of intentionality changed how she showed up throughout her day. What would it look like for you to begin your day with that kind of intentional prayer?
8. Paul's question in 1 Corinthians 6:19 is pointed: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit?" Why do you think Paul frames this as a question? What might it suggest about how easy it is to forget this truth?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. The message mentions that even if someone walks away from the church or chooses not to live as God desires, the Holy Spirit still dwells in them and cannot be erased. How does that truth make you feel? Does it bring comfort, challenge, or both?
2. Where in your life do you find it hardest to remember that you carry God's presence? What tends to make you forget?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

The following are simple, concrete ways to carry this message into the week ahead. Choose one or two that feel most relevant to where you are right now.

Daily Reminder Set a recurring reminder on your phone once a day with the phrase, "God is here and I am with him." When it goes off, pause for a moment and simply acknowledge his presence before continuing with your day.

Morning Intention Before you leave home each morning this week, say a short prayer asking God to use you that day. Be specific about the places you are going and the people you are likely to encounter. Notice what happens when you show up to those moments with that intention already in place.

Reframe One Routine Task Choose one task you do every day that feels purely routine, whether that is washing dishes, commuting, answering emails, or caring for someone. This week, approach that task as an act of worship, doing it with the awareness that God is present in you as you do it.

Pay Attention to Ordinary Conversations This week, when you find yourself in an unplanned conversation, resist the urge to rush through it. Ask yourself quietly, "Is God working here?" Practice listening more carefully and speaking with more care, knowing you carry his presence into that exchange.

Reflect at the End of the Day Before you sleep each night this week, take two or three minutes to think back over your day. Ask yourself: Where did I sense God working through me today? Were there moments I missed or ignored? What would I do differently tomorrow?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, thank you for the privilege of your presence. Thank you that you do not remain at a distance but have chosen to make us your dwelling place. Help us to live this week with the awareness that you are in us and with us at every moment. Shape our words, our actions, and our choices. Give us eyes to see the people and moments you place in our path. And where we fall short, remind us that we rely not on our own strength but on your grace. Amen.