

Discussion Guide: Transforming Presence

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42 (NIV)

October 13, 2002: "Transforming Presence...Knowing God in the Ordinary" by Rich Vincent - Pastor Singles Ministries CPC. Rich challenged us to live our normal ordinary everyday lives moment-by-moment in the "now" in accordance with the promise of Jesus that "*surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age*"¹ and the promises of the Lord God that "*never will I leave you; never will I forsake you*"² and "*I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.*"³

Our Challenge...to live as if God were present at all times in every place - in all situations - knowing that He is always seeking our good and His Glory.

If we live our lives in the light of God's presence...

A. We would see God in everything. For example, the "secular" (void of God) would be "sacred" (filled with God), the "small" would become "great" as small deeds would be done in great love, and God would be seen in all aspects of life...not merely during our "devotional time." God reveals himself to us in...

- Scripture...through the living word of God.
- Creation...in which all creation declares His glory.
- Humans...made in His image, we reveal God in and through our lives.
- Providence...in every situation in life, God is with us. It's not merely chance or luck...it is the living God at work in our lives.
- Christ...through the life and teachings of His Son, Jesus.

Discussion Question: How has God revealed himself to you in recent days?

B. We could fully live in the present moment.

- Dwelling on the past and worrying about the future takes us away from God's presence in the "now."
- God's presence in all things gives us joy in all present duties.

Discussion Question: In what ways have you, or would you like to, apply this principle of living in the present moment...with God?

C. Our lives would become "embodied prayer" in communion with God. At times our prayers to God might simply be "help" and "thanks."

Discussion Question: How would applying this principle change your prayer life?

¹ Matthew 28:20b

² Hebrew 13:5 quoted from Deuteronomy 31:6

³ 2 Corinthians 6:16b quoted from Leviticus 26:12, Jeremiah 32:38 and Ezekiel 37:27