

Epping Forest Community Church



**a worshipping
community**



LOVE GOD

**a relational
community**



LOVE OTHERS

**a healing
community**



BE TRANSFORMED

**a sending
community**



GO

a worshipping community



LOVE GOD

a relational community



LOVE OTHERS

a healing community



BE TRANSFORMED

a sending community



GO

- We put God first

- We need God's presence

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- We are committed to church family

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- We have high expectations of our miraculous God

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- We are disciples not church-goers

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John 15:4-5 NIV

“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ‘I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.’”

John 15:4-5 TPT

“So you must remain in life-union with me, for I remain in life-union with you. For as a branch severed from the vine will not bear fruit, so your life will be fruitless unless you live your life intimately joined to mine. “I am the sprouting vine and you’re my branches. As you live in union with me as your source, fruitfulness will stream from within you—but when you live separated from me you are powerless.”

John 15:4-5 MSG

““I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you’re joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can’t produce a thing.

God desires relationship with His people. God makes His presence available:

- ▶ **The Garden** Genesis 3:8
- ▶ **The Tabernacle** Exodus 25:8 Exodus 25-30, 35-40
- ▶ **Solomon's Temple** 1 King's 5-9
- ▶ **Herod's Temple** Matthew 24:1-3
- ▶ **Jesus** Matthew 1:23, 28:20
- ▶ **Holy Spirit** John 14:16-18
- ▶ **The Church** Matthew 18:20 1 Cor 3:9-16, Ephesians 2:19-22,
1Peter 2:4-10
- ▶ **Revelation** 21:22, Chapters 21 & 22

Jeremiah 29:13

(NIV) You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

(MSG) "When you come looking for me, you'll find me. "Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else,

(NLT) If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

(ESV) You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Psalms 105:4

(NIV) Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.

(MSG) Keep your eyes open for GOD, watch for his works; be alert for signs of his presence.

(NLT) Search for the LORD and for his strength; continually seek him.

(ESV) Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!

Luke 11:9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. **10** For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. **11** "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? **12** Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? **13** If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Jesus was motivated by his love relationship with his father not religious activity!

Luke 5:16 Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed

Philippians 3:10 (NIV)

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

Lord, where I am thirsty for your presence, fill my cup and let me drink.

And where I am not thirsty at all, rub salt on my lips that I may desire you deeply and seek you first.

What a privilege to be in
God's presence!

God's presence gives us rest

- Exodus 33:14, Matthew 11:28

God's presence makes us different from all other people - Exodus 33:16

God's presence guides and protects - Exodus 13:21, Psalm 23

God's presence brings Joy Psalm 16:11

God's presence is antidote for fear and discouragement - Joshua 1:9, Isaiah 41:10

How do we come into God's Presence?

What can I do to actively seek God's presence?

Withdraw: Run into the secret place Matthew 6:6

Turn your heart to him - Inner attitude

Declare your need. Jesus I need you,

Say God's Name and Call Upon Him

Confess Sin, receive Forgiveness, be honest!

Psalm 32:3-5, 1 John 1:9

How do we come into God's Presence?

What can I do to actively seek God's presence?

Turn your heart, affection to him (Inner Attitude)

Sing God a Love Song

Centre yourself on him. Jesus be the centre

Read, meditate on and declare Scripture.

Take a Walk with God

Be Still with God - Psalm 46:10

Pray in Tongues

Lord, where I am thirsty for your presence, fill my cup and let me drink.

And where I am not thirsty at all, rub salt on my lips that I may desire you deeply and seek you first.