

GROUNDED IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Kim Cash Tate, Revive '21

“Lord, help me to cling to You” is a prayer for desperate, unpredictable, and painful times.

We don't have to cling to our circumstances, emotions, or thoughts. Instead, cling to God to get His perspective, and watch His power at work in the circumstances. Cling to God, and let His peace, His love, power, and His faithfulness restore your soul in the midst of trying circumstances. **When I cling to God, I am grounded in His presence.**

As you start to taste God's presence, you will also taste the Spirit's conviction.

Sometimes getting grounded means some things need to be shaken up first.

After leaving my career as a lawyer, I began to embrace home as my main ministry, and I saw the beauty and the power in it.

As I spent time in the Word each day, I was grounding myself in the presence of God. Whatever else was happening in my life—frustrations, emotions, weariness, challenges—all of it was checked during that time. **I could see God is trustworthy. He sees me. He knows what I'm dealing with, and He is well able to handle it. Nothing is too hard for Him.**

In Deuteronomy 13:4 (NASB), the first five verbs can be obeyed at a distance:

You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him, and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.

The sixth verb, cling, puts me in God's face, glued to Him. It's personal and intimate. It's a command but also an invitation. The Almighty God of the universe, the One who made the sun, moon, and stars, is telling me not just to cling to Him, but that I *can* cling to Him.

We were created to cling, to walk intimately with our Lord, to stay in His presence.

In Genesis 3:8, Adam and Eve hid themselves from the presence of the Lord because of their sin. Instead of a beautiful, personal relationship with God, there is separation (Gen. 3:23).

God did not create man to dwell apart from Him, but sin meant they could no longer dwell in His presence and enjoy Him the way they had. Sin meant their world became shaky, and because each of us is born in sin, our worlds are shaky—full of turmoil, devoid of hope. We cannot get grounded apart from Christ.

Three vital ways to cling to God and stay grounded in His presence:

1. Stay in the Word

Change how you view time in His Word—not as an obligation, but as getting to spend time with the Lord. Your soul stays grounded as you're reminded of who He is and how great He is—greater than whatever is causing upheaval in your life.

God says in His Word dozens of times, “I am with you.” He knows how much we need to stay grounded in His presence. Just reading those words will settle your soul and invigorate your spirit.

When spying out the Promised Land, Joshua and Caleb knew that God's presence meant everything. In Numbers 14:9, they reported, “The LORD is with us; do not fear them,” and the Lord rewarded them.

Joshua, a strong leader, warrior, and man of great faith, wasn't shaken by the battle against Amalek (Ex. 17) or the giants in the Promised Land. But he was shaken by Moses's death. **You don't know how much you'll be shaken by a circumstance until you're in it, overwhelmed by it, and don't know what to do or how to go on.**

God comforted Joshua with a reminder of the mission, “Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you” (Josh. 1:5).

How is Joshua—or any of us—able to be strong and courageous (vv. 6,7,9)? Look at what comes before and after those verses. In verse 9, God says,

“Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

When you know the Lord is with you, you don't have to tremble or be dismayed about the situation, the diagnosis, the heartache, the hardship, or the closed door, because the Lord is with you. **Just that one truth, that He's with you, means a million things. It means everything.**

2. Stay talking to the Lord

Believers in Christ can talk to Him all the time because the Lord is with them all the time. **Talking to the Lord about everything is how to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17).**

When prayer is your lifestyle, you will stay grounded. If you're in the habit of taking everyday frustrations and disappointments to the Lord, when you encounter a big trial, you'll already know where you're going: straight to His presence.

Like Hannah in 1 Samuel 1:10, we get grounded by laying it all out before the Lord. **Take your heartache and tears to the Lord. He cares for you. He wants to hear from you. No one understands you like He does. No one loves you like He does. He is the only one who can restore our souls.**

In 1 Samuel 1:18, Hannah “went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.”

We don't need things around us to change in order to get grounded. We don't get grounded because God answered a prayer. You can get grounded as you wait, through the power of His presence.

If our Lord and Savior needed time alone in the presence of the Father when He walked this earth, how much more do we (Luke 5:15–16; Matt. 14:22–23)?

3. Stay praising and giving thanks

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thess. 5:16–18) are all-the-time actions that bring you into the presence of God.

Have you noticed, when you start praising and giving God thanks, your whole temperament changes? It brings glory to God when we rejoice, give thanks, and pray. The Lord knows it's also good for our own souls.

Don't wait to get grounded in His presence until something difficult happens—stay grounded in the presence of the Lord. It doesn't mean you won't be shaken by circumstances, but you'll know how to get grounded when you are shaken. You will know how to run to the presence of the Lord. Even then, you might find yourself uttering the prayer I've prayed for years: **“Lord, help me to cling to You.”**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Can you relate to Kim's disappointment at her father's absence? Have you ever felt that your earthly or heavenly father was absent?

When has the reality of God's presence brought great comfort in your life? How has His presence brought conviction and correction? Have you ever wanted to run from His presence (Gen. 3:8)?

Kim explained that sometimes getting grounded means things need to be shaken up first. How has God used upheaval in your life to draw you closer?

Can you share a time when God didn't answer a prayer the way you wanted, but later you were able to see His wisdom? Like Hannah, what are you pouring your heart out to God and waiting on Him to do?

Express what it means to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17)? Throughout the day, what do you mostly talk to the Lord about?

There are many things we can choose to cling to instead of the Lord. What are they? Describe how you would like to cling to Him more in the future.

Share a Scripture verse that will remind you of God's intimate presence in the future.

