



## **WOW: Word Of the Week**

### **Presence**

**April 14, 2021**

An interesting Old Testament study revolves around the “presence” of the Lord. The Bible notes many times that God was with his people. God again and again promised, “I will be with you.” God was present among his people in the cloud and the pillar of fire. Moses’ argument with God in Exodus 33 centered on God’s continuing presence. Later, God was present in the Tabernacle, and eventually in the temple.

In the New Testament, a primary evidence of God’s presence is through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Individual Christians, and the church as an entity, are the temple of God through the Spirit. In Acts 18, God promised that he would be with Paul in Corinth, seemingly referring to something other than the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Despite our knowledge that God is continually “with us” spiritually, like the little boy who wanted the comfort of being near his parents during the nighttime thunder and lightning storm, we like “a God with skin.” It is comforting to be around those whose usher us into the presence of God. I remember Howard Norton telling of an experience where his arrival and visit brought comfort, an assurance of God’s presence, “It just seems that God is nearer.”

Ministers and church leaders who are the “presence of God” are a blessing to those they serve. At Fort Gibson, I was blessed to serve with elders whose presence make clear to all who were there that God was at work among us. Wherever such leaders go, they represent God’s presence in a meaningful and uplifting way.

Christians bless others when they represent God’s presence. Small group conversations quickly turn to spiritual matters, visits seldom remain superficial, hearts unite before God’s throne simply by sharing time together.

Ministers, are you the presence of God? Elders, are you the presence of God everywhere you go? Christian brother and sister, do others leave your presence knowing that they have connected with God? This week, let’s pray about being God’s presence.