

Living From His Presence

God says that we have been made in His image (Gen. 1:26-27) and that we are His beloved sons and daughters (Gal. 4:5-7). Because of this, our lives have worth and significance and, thus, we are able to rest in His presence. Unfortunately, we often forget this and, instead, root our sense of worth and significance in our performance and/or how others see us.

Where do you find your sense of worth and significance? By living each moment in His presence, or by striving to perform for and/or please others?

On the continuum below, please circle the number that best represents how you would rate yourself given each of the following choices.

Living in His Presence

Living From Performance

Manifest fruit of the Spirit	1	2	3	4	5	Marked by anxiety and fear
Desire to praise God	1	2	3	4	5	Desire praise from others
His will is primary	1	2	3	4	5	My will is primary
God is good all the time	1	2	3	4	5	God isn't always good
God desires to bless me	1	2	3	4	5	God can't wait to judge me
Value relationships	1	2	3	4	5	Value accomplishments
Living in hope	1	2	3	4	5	Anxious about the future
High levels of trust	1	2	3	4	5	High need for control
Interdependent	1	2	3	4	5	Independent or codependent
At peace	1	2	3	4	5	Fearful
His strength	1	2	3	4	5	My strength
Love self	1	2	3	4	5	Disappointed in self
His wisdom and direction	1	2	3	4	5	My wisdom and direction
Operate from rest	1	2	3	4	5	Always rushed
Change atmospheres	1	2	3	4	5	Changed by atmospheres
People feel valued around me	1	2	3	4	5	People feel used around me

Questions

Why might you strive to perform for and/or seek the approval of people in unhealthy ways rather than resting in the presence of God?

What do you think God says about who you are?

How might fully understanding how God sees you affect how you choose to live your life?

Describe one thing you will do to intentionally live more from His presence rather than your performance.

Parting Thought

We work as if it depends on us, but we rest knowing that the results depend on God. In his book, *A Timbered Choir*, poet and farmer Wendell Berry has a few lines of poetry that help illustrate this idea:

Harvest will fill the barn; for that
The hand must ache, the face must sweat.

And yet no leaf or grain is filled
By work of ours; the field is tilled
And left to grace. That we may reap,
Great work is done while we're asleep.

When we work well, a Sabbath mood
Rests on our day, and finds it good.