

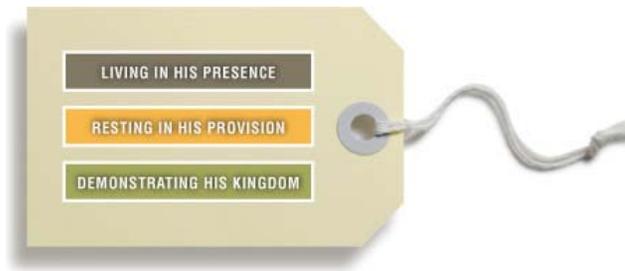
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## From My Performance to His Presence, Part 3: Identifying Clues of God's Presence 0

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What does it look like to really live from God's presence? How do we know when we're operating out of His presence and not just performing from our natural strengths and abilities? After years of pursuing greater intimacy with God and witnessing His presence being manifested in and around me, I've been able to identify a few clues:

- **When there's a clear sense that God is with us.** In these times, we feel as if we can almost reach out and grasp His presence. It's also the same feeling as drawing in a deep breath and slowly releasing it, knowing that all will be well.
- **When we experience and manifest the fruit of the Spirit.** Galatians 5:22-23 tells us that these are "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control" (NIV). It's supernatural when our responses to chaos are marked by these things, especially when our natural reaction would normally be the opposite.
- **When we live with a hope rooted in God.** We simply can't live in continual hope on our own strength alone. Romans 15:13 says "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you will overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (NIV). We need to be filled by Him, because He is the source of all true hope.
- **When we trust in His ability, not our own.** When we do this, we're able to rest in the midst of our performance, even during those times when we're giving our 110%.
- **When we hear from God, act on what we are hearing, and His power is released.** There's no greater reward than pursuing intimacy with God to the point where we can learn to distinguish His voice and act on it. In the moments when His power is released, we know we're not the source.
- **When we experience the Holy Spirit impacting others through our lives.** I've come to realize that my words alone usually don't have a life-changing impact on those around me. However, a few words spoken to another with the Holy Spirit's anointing can have a life-changing impact, far beyond any expectation I might have.

Here's my challenge: Become a detective looking for God's presence around you. During this next week, I encourage you to watch for and write down those times when you sense or see God's presence around you. You will be surprised: His presence is all around us, but we're often not paying attention.