

God's presence in darkness and lightness-Exodus 13:21-22

Objective: We're typically good at seeking God's presence when it's dark in our life. Unfortunately, we can get complacent and lose that thirst for Him when there're bright skies in life. We continually need His direction regardless of if it's a dark or light season we're in. The goal of this lesson is to learn the significance of remaining connected to God, for the purpose of mobilizing towards *His* plans for us. We'll do this with the Israelites' story as our backdrop.

I. What

a. *God's very presence – Theophanies and Christophanies*

- i. Some ways man has experienced His presence up to this point
 1. Angel of the Lord to Hagar – Gen 16:7-14 → Christophany
 2. Burning bush – Exodus 3:2 → Theophany
- ii. Pillar of cloud and pillar of fire – Ex 13:21-22, 40:34-38, and Numbers 9:15-23
 1. Ex 13 is the first time He's appeared to the whole Israelite community
- iii. How or Who is God's presence today?

II. Why is His presence important?

a. *To get directions from God*

- i. Exodus 13:21b, and Numbers 9:15-23
 1. Keep in mind that they're unaware of what to do next
 - a. We'd rely on God more if we had a similar approach of not knowing what to do next
 2. Grow our trust in Him
 - a. Numbers 9:22 – patience is the biggest tester of trust
 - b. We too can find ourselves waiting on His movement when it's both light and dark, just like Israel did

III. Who does His presence apply to?

a. Israel – According to the context of our scriptures

b. Christians – Matt 28:20

i. He's with us to the end of the age

ii. Its critical for us to obey like Israel did – Numbers 9:18 “at the command of the LORD”

c. The enemy – he wants others detached from God's presence like he got detached in Isaiah 14:12

i. James 4:6 warning for us to heed when it comes to pride

IV. When do we experience His presence?

a. For Israel: Right after leaving Egypt- Exodus 12

i. A pivotal moment for Israel

b. For believers: Whenever we want to

i. It's a matter of yielding to God's Spirit – Eph 5:18

ii. We can also experience His presence coming off a victory

1. We experience both light and dark seasons

V. Where do we experience God's presence?

a. For Israel: Etham according to our text – Exodus 13:20

i. This isn't the land of promise

b. For Christians: Everywhere

i. We're also not in our “Canaan”, which is heaven – Phil 3:20

ii. Even in heaven we'll still experience His presence, but it'll be on a whole 'nother level – 1 Cor 13:12

VI. How to apply this into my life?

a. Prayer – 1 Thessalonians 5:16

b. Our history, along with others' history

i. Recall previous, successful times of getting direction from Him

c. Turn off the noise in life, in order to hear His orders on where to go

d. Surrendering to King Jesus Who is The Way – John 14:6