**Revive us again – Ex. 33: 3 -4**

**Focal Truth: When God’s people sin they experience the distant presence of God**

Do you sense the relational presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in your life?

Is God among us in this church in power presence?

Do you feel a distance, a resistance from God when you try to pray or worship?

**The sin of God’s people causes God to distance Himself from them.**

**Observations**

1. **God’s people sinned in the presence of God – Ex. 32:7,9**

 *Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought from the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves…I have seen this people, and behold they are an obstinate people.*

 God’s sovereign presence is universal – Ps 139:8 – If I ascend to the heavens you are there, if I make my bed in death you are even there.

 God’s gracious presence is relational – To disciples -“I am with you always”

 God’ people sinned to the face of God – 32:4

 *He fashioned with a graving tool and made it into a molten calf, and they said, this is your god, O Israel who brought you from the land of Egypt*

The people lived in worldly sinfulness before God

 *Whom you brought from the land of Egypt*

1. They came out of Egypt looking like Egypt – ornaments from Egypt
2. They came out of Egypt desiring like Egypt
3. They came out of Egypt thinking like Egypt
4. They came out of Egypt longing for Egypt
5. They came out of Egypt worshipping like Egypt
6. **God was grieved by the sin of His people – Ex. 33:3**

 *for I will not go up in your midst…*

1. Ps. 78:40 – How often they rebelled against Him in the wilderness, and grieved Him in the desert.
2. God is grieved when His people choose sin rather than faith & obedience
3. God is grieved when His people substitute other things for their relationship with Him
4. God is grieved when His people refused to admit that they have sinned
5. Mark 3:5 – Jesus was grieved when he saw the hardness & unbelief of peoples hearts
6. Eph. 4:30 – do not grieve the Holy Spirit

 **The Holy Spirit is grieved by sinfulness in God’s people**

1. **God withdrew His gracious presence from His sinful people – Ex. 33:5**

 *Say to the Sons of Israel, You are an obstinate people, should I go up in your midst for one moment, I would destroy you…*

 **When you break your relationship with God He distances Himself from you**

 **Sinning to the face of God is doing evil in the sight of the Lord**

1. James 4:6 – God opposes the proud – God distances Himself from the proud
2. Ps. 51:11 – do not cast me away from your presence
3. Ps 13:1 – how long will you hide your face from me?

 God withdraws relationally from among His people when they are rebellious & unrepentant

1. No power
2. No glory
3. No joy
4. No peace
5. No hope
6. No fruitfulness

 Rev. 2:5 – remember from where you have fallen, repent and do the deeds you did at first, or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place unless you repent

1. **God’s people mourned & repented when they became aware of God’s distant presence – Ex 33:4**

 *When the people heard this sad word, they went into mourning, and none of them put on his ornaments*

1. 33: 5 – the Lord said to Moses, say to the sons of Israel, you an obstinate people , should I go up in your midst for one moment, I would destroy you, now therefore put off your ornaments from you, that I may know what I will do with you.
2. 33:6 – So the sons of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments from Mt. Horeb onward
3. 33:7 – Moses would take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, a good distance from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And it came about, that everyone who sought the Lord would go to the tent of meeting which was outside the camp

 The people repented, put away their worldliness & prayed!

2 Cor. 7:11 – this godly sorrow has produced in you, such earnestness, concern to clear yourselves, indignation, alarm, longing, zeal & readiness to punish wrong. You showed that you have done everything necessary to make things right.

**Things to Remember**

1. The happiest time in the Christian life is the closeness of Christ’s presence
2. The saddest time in the Christian life is the distance of Christ’s presence
3. Sinning in God’s presence causes a distant presence from God
4. Awareness of the distant presence of God brings godly sorrow & repentance
5. There are three people living inside of you: the one you think you are, the one other people think you are, the one God knows you are!

**Daily Use**

1. Don’t grieve God by sinning in His presence
2. Grieve that you have grieved God
3. Grieve that your sin distances God from you
4. Repent return to your first love – get rid of your worldly ornaments!
5. Thank the Lord Jesus for the promise of His presence for all days