

I remember one day as I walked around a young fellow happened to come a long and we got to talking. He said a few rather innocuous curse words. They were probably as nothing today. They were not among the worst by any means at that time. Then he happened to ask me what I was doing. I told him I was preaching in the chapel. Oh, he said, excuse me for what I said! He felt so bad to think that in my presence he had uttered these words and I was preaching.

I don't know how many would feel that way today. I remember one time there where I went to a house where there was a grizzled elder miner with a wife and rather large family. I called at the house and had a visit with them maybe 15 minutes. Quite friendly. I didn't get very far. This was my first contact with them, in trying to establish a friendly relationship. Then I left them and went on.

The next day I was visiting with one of the most active members of our little church who was a good friend of these people. She said to me, After you left the house the young gift girl there came over to see me and she said, The minister dropped into our house yesterday and he was there for 15 minutes, and the minute he left Dad left out == let out a stream of profanity and obscenity and this went on for about 5 minutes! He said, That's the longest time I've gone without swearing in 30 years!

Why should my presence make that much difference? Well, it did to him. I think our country has degenerated. No Doubt about it. But every one of us is greatly affected by those in whose presence we are. How are you affected by the knowledge that you are in God's presence? Do you realize that every minute of every day and every step that He is thoroughly acquainted with what you are doing and with what you are planning. Of your tiniest thought God is aware of it, God is interested in it. Do you take him into consideration in everything that you undertake?

Nothing is too difficult for God if it is truly His purpose. There is nothing man can be sure of doing if he is undertaking it in his own strength, without the power of God being with him to help him. Are we planning our lives not merely for the future but day by day in the consciousness of God's presence. Are we aware of His constant interest? Of His constant love for us? Of his desire that each one of us shall do that which is right and that He will do that which is best for us? Are we aware of His constant love and of His tremendous power?

And then I think another very important aspect of our consciousness of God's power and of his presence is our realization that if we are truly doing our best to serve him, if we are truly seeking to live in his presence, and things go wrong, difficulties we can't overcome. We come into circumstances that just wrect the plans we've made, that bring us pain, misery and suffering. Tasks for which we can see no sensible reason. Have we so learned through the time to live in the presence of God as to realize that even this is part of His plan for our growth -- of His plan. We may not see how it works out. It may be impossible for us to truly understand it in this life.