

## AN INVITATION TO GOD'S PRESENCE

*By George Miley*

**The season of Lent is an invitation to seek the Presence of God—** a glorious invitation, a beautiful invitation, an appealing invitation, an irresistible invitation.

The Presence of God is what every human being is seeking for, longing for, although most of us don't know it.

**We are created for the Presence of God.** We were formed to live 24/7 in God's Presence. In the Presence of God there is fulfillment, meaning, fullness of joy, purpose, beauty, contentment.

**In the Presence of God we come home.** Where is home? Home is in the house of the Father, in the Presence of the Father.

**The Presence of God is the place of insight.** How do we get in contact with the things influencing our lives on a subconscious level of which we are unaware?

**In the Presence of God there is healing.**

**The Presence of God is the place of discipleship.** Discipleship can only take place in the Presence of Jesus. In order to be a disciple of Jesus we must be with him.

**Story from Germany.** Hanna, a German Jewish Holocaust survivor, responds to a German woman who is desperate to experience Christ' power to heal.

**Seek.** Why do we need to seek God's Presence? If we are created for it, why is it so hard? Why does it feel so unnatural, so unappealing? Because we are so damaged.

**Sin and damage.** We don't understand sin. The foundational reality with sin is that a relationship has been violated. This has produced guilt. It has also produced damage.

In our rebellion, damage and loss we must seek God. It is a pursuit.

**How to we seek God?** There are practices that help us. Some of them are millennia old. We learn them from Jesus and our Judeo-Christian spiritual forefathers and mothers. They have been called spiritual disciplines.

**Solitude.** Jesus was led into solitude in the wilderness by the Holy Spirit. Jesus wanted to seek his Father. Jesus throughout his life on earth was seeking God.

**The soul.** Our soul is longing for God. We come in touch with our soul in solitude.

The American soul is bruised and bleeding because of our unceasing activity. We don't know how to be quiet before God. In solitude, I remove myself from activity and noise and wait in God's Presence. God is in control; I am not.

Solitude is an entry point into the spiritual practices. It opens the way to prayer, fasting, study, meditation.

**God is a Father.** Every father has a great desire to be with his children.

**Story from Germany.** Hanna has become a spiritual mother to Germans. When we are in the Eifel we are with Jesus.

God is longing for us. But a father does not want the love of his children by demand. He wants their love to come to him as a result of their own choice.

