

Closer Than You Think

Theme: Remember God's Presence – Christ Lives in You

Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:2, Colossians 1:27

1. Opening / Foundation – Deuteronomy 8

“Remember the whole way the Lord your God has led you...”

Line to declare:

“If God led them through it, He was present in it.”

2. NT Anchors – Peter and Paul

Peter (Mark 4) – The Storm

Peter panicked in the storm, not because Jesus wasn't present, but because He was quiet.

Calibration truth #2:

Silence does not mean absence.

Paul (Acts 16) – The Prison

Paul worshipped in chains, not because God changed circumstances, but because He was present within them.

Calibration truth #3:

God doesn't always change the place—He changes the atmosphere.

3. The Turn – From ‘With Us ’to ‘In Us’

“In Deuteronomy, God was *with* His people.

With Peter, Jesus was *in the boat*.

With Paul, God was *in the prison*.

But now... in Christ, God is even closer than that.

He is not just *with us*—He is *in us*.”

Scripture: Colossians 1:27

Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

4. Practical Truths – Living from Christ in Us

Truth 1 – Awareness, Not Feeling

“We don’t practise God’s presence to feel something—we practise it to live from what is already true.”

Daily reminder: *Christ, You are my life today.”*

Truth 2 – Obedience Confirms Presence

“The Spirit becomes most real when He empowers obedience we couldn’t produce on our own.”

Fruit > feelings:

Patience instead of anger

Peace instead of panic

Forgiveness instead of bitterness

Truth 3 – Peace Under Pressure

“If Christ were not in you, you would not still be standing.”

Philippians 4:7: *The peace of God will guard your hearts and minds.”*

5. Final Pastoral Line

God is closer than you think—because Christ lives in you.”

6. Simple Week Practice

Invite the congregation to **practice this daily:**

Prayer: *Jesus, live Your life through me today.*”

Observation: Pay attention to your responses—peace, patience, boldness, obedience.

Conviction grows not from feelings, but from living Christ s life from within.

7. Connect Reflection

Where in your life do you need to notice Christ’s presence today?

How have you experienced His fruit, even in hard circumstances?

Closing

Reaffirm: *Christ is not just with us; He is in us.*

Challenge: Live this week from identity, not circumstances.

Bless: *May the Spirit remind you daily—closer than you think.*”