



*Life in the Presence of God:
Practices for Living in Light of
Eternity*
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“Ken Boa’s writings have played a major role in my spiritual growth and development for over twenty years. This volume will move to the top of my favorite books by him. I long to experience more of God in this noisy and busy world, and Ken has provided a fresh, practical, biblical pathway filled with wisdom, insight, and theological depth. I highly recommend it.”

– Chip Ingram, Living on the Edge, pastor, Venture Christian Church

“Stop, take a deep breath, and read just long enough to see if this is worth considering.”

What I’m asking you to do will take no more than a second, but it will also take the rest of your life. It won’t require you to sign up for a Bible study or commit any block of time to a group of people. You don’t have to buy a study guide (unless you want to) or find a babysitter on a Tuesday night. It’ll be easy, but at first it may take a lot of discipline – until it becomes habit. Then, in many ways, it will be effortless, as natural as breathing. And it will be the most important, most fruitful, most enjoyable thing you do.

I’m talking about learning to live in God’s presence. It’s something I’ve been learning to do more of lately, so I’ve written this book as much for myself as for you. And my goal is simple: to learn with you how to practice the presence of God better in every facet of our lives. By *practice*, I mean discerning and developing habits of awareness of God’s presence – if not all day, every day, at least much more often than most of us typically do.

The Bible calls this “abiding,” “remaining” in Christ, “walking with God,” or “keeping in step with the Spirit.” Whatever you want to call it, God’s Word is clear that it’s important. Without abiding in him, Jesus said, we will accomplish nothing of lasting value (John 15:5); we won’t live like God wants us to live. We also won’t get what we want out of life.

Outside of this book is a great, big world all around you. It clamors for every bit of your attention, and usually, because it’s loud and incessant, it wins. Christians are often taught that our main line of defense against this clamorous, invasive world is a daily quiet time. If we’re disciplined enough to practice this, we usually “complete” it before leaving our homes in the morning. Then we head out into the rest of our day, having compartmentalized our God life, leaving our Bible and our relationship with Jesus on our desk or bedside table.

Sure, it’s good to give the first – or the last – moments of our day to God. But what about the rest of the day? It’s so easy for our hearts and heads to end up somewhere else. Is that how God really wants us to live? Is that what he really had in mind when he said he’d give us abundant life (John 10:10)?

I’m proposing that we take our life with God – and our awareness of his presence – with us everywhere, not just into our quiet times but into our noisy times too, incorporating practices into our lives that help us keep that awareness right in front of us, throughout the day, every day.



Kenneth Boa is an author, a speaker, and the president of Reflections Ministries. He is the author of over fifty books, including *Conformed to His Image*, *Faith Has Its Reasons*, *Face to Face*, and *Rewriting Your Broken Story*. He is a contributing editor to the Open Bible, the Promise Keepers Men's Study Bible, and the Leadership Bible, and is the consulting editor of the Zondervan NASB Study Bible.

Boa earned a BS from Case Institute of Technology, a ThM from Dallas Theological Seminary, a PhD from New York University, and a DPhil from the University of Oxford.

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Anyone can do this. This book is for followers of Christ of every age and maturity level. It's for those who consider themselves mature Christians but who, for whatever reason, have never been taught how to abide in Christ. It's for new believers who are just learning what it means to walk with Jesus. And it's for those who want to rekindle an intimacy they once enjoyed with God but has since faded. It's even for people who already feel close to God, because, really, none of us is ever finished drawing near to him—not in this life. As with a relationship with a good friend, there are always new ways of spending time with him, of drawing closer to him, no matter how mature we are.

I hope I can convince you that becoming more conscious of God's moment-by-moment presence is something you need and can have. It's not something just for "super-Christians" (a category of people that doesn't exist). It's not for the superspiritual or the ultramature. It's actually an innate capacity that every true follower of Christ has and can cultivate. From the time a person first believes, God puts his Holy Spirit in every believer, and that Spirit is now available to us every second of every day (Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 1:13-14). Most of us live largely unaware of this divine presence, to our own detriment and impoverishment. More than that, we do so at risk of being disobedient to the commands of Jesus (John 15:4-8).

In many ways, this book is a sequel to my last book, *Rewriting Your Broken Story*. That book focused on the power of an eternal perspective. This book talks about how to develop that kind of perspective from a practical standpoint. While that book aimed to convince you of the value of an eternal perspective, I hope this book will teach you how to have that kind of perspective, so you can realize the eternal longing God has placed in your heart and in every human heart (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

We were made for more than this world, and only when we live with that understanding can we fulfill the true purpose for which God made us. In one sense, only God himself can give you this perspective, but we can do certain things to make ourselves more open to his working in us and to hearing what he wants to teach us. Those things are what this book is about.

-Excerpt taken from the introduction

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