

PRESENCE TO PRESENCE

A scenic view of Table Mountain and the sea. The image features a large, semi-transparent silhouette of a human head in profile, facing left, which serves as a background for the title text. The landscape includes the iconic flat-topped Table Mountain, a coastal town, and the ocean under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

Retief Uys
07 January 2024

1. The Presence of God:

It is His person: personhood, love, will and closeness.
Only through Jesus may we experience it.

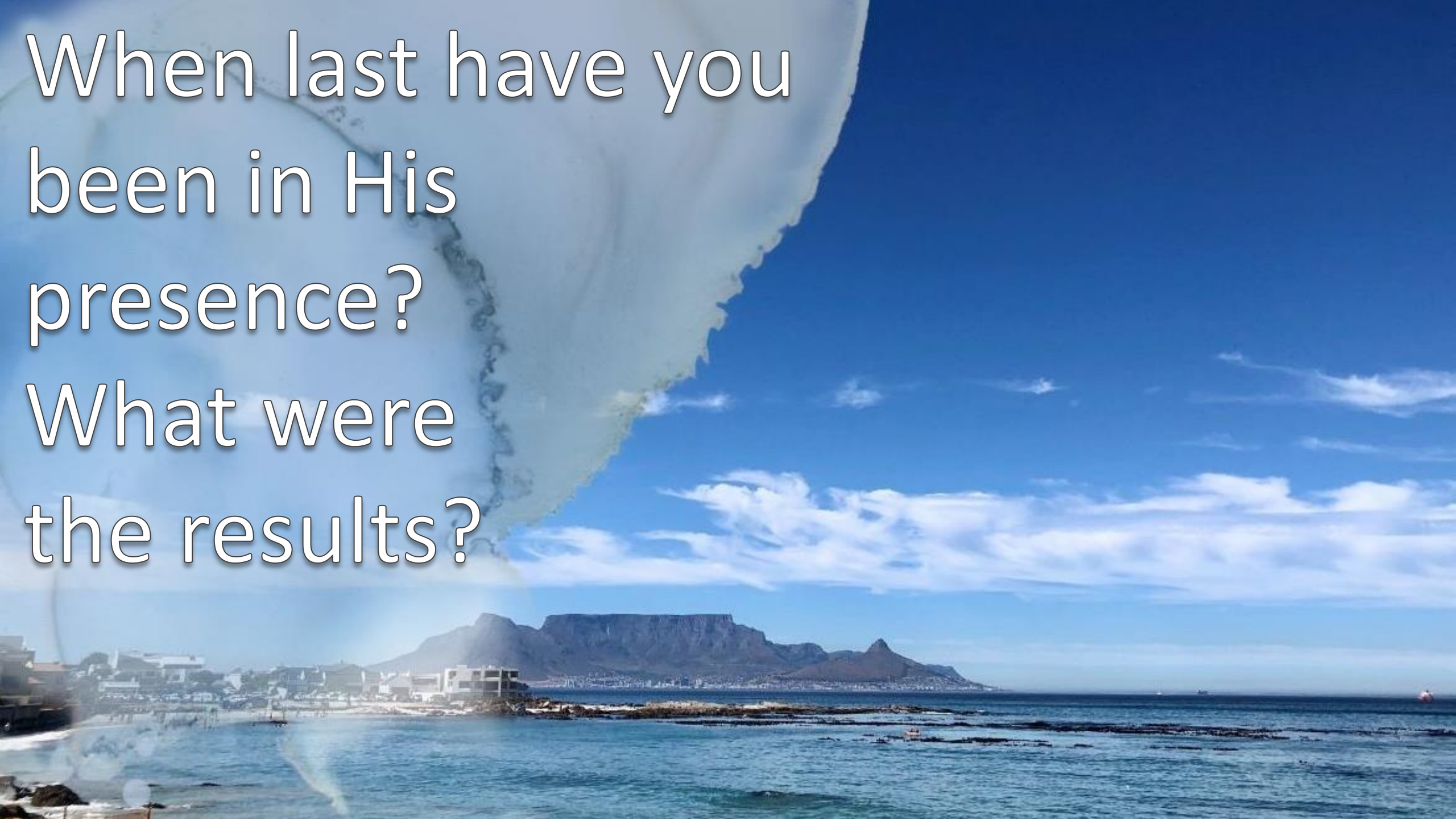
→ He is omnipresent | Everywhere: Yet we are often unaware OR our affection, focus and our presence is not with Him

→ As good as saying my heart and love is elsewhere...

Not a people of performance, but of presence!

Not dead religion, but His Person and presence with us.

When last have you
been in His
presence?
What were
the results?



Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

2. Presence is the Plan:

God's plan: Himself to us. Himself with us! It is all about Him...

1. Creation and the fall:

The Plan: Adam and Eve dwelled with God, until the fall -

Genesis 3:8 They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Old Testament

So, what happened next?

2. Jesus – birth and death:

Birth: Matthew 1:18-25 The Nativity of the Messiah

The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After His mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit..."Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is by the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins." 22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name Him Immanuel, which is translated "God is with us."

#1 Beginning: Immanuel = GOD WITH US

#2 And in the end –

Matthew 28: -The Great Commission- 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

3. The Holy Spirit:

**our dispensation*

The Presence Plan in our time:

John 14:23 Jesus answered, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

2 Timothy 1:14 Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

4. The Return of Christ:

The Presence and relational plan upon His return -

Acts 3:21 Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

John 14:1-3 Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

3. Living it:

- ✓ **Our highest call is fellowship and walking with Him, daily**
For you?
We are called to love Him most...

I want to reach for God
the way I reach for my phone.

When I'm bored, when
I'm uncomfortable, when I
need answers or entertainment.

When I'm lonely and
need someone to talk to.

Cory Asbury

✓ **Choose: You remember –**

Luke 10:41 And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”

✓ Be Aware –

We cannot avoid the dangers of life without God's continual help, so we should ask Him for it ceaselessly. But how can we ask for help unless we are with Him? To be with Him, we must cultivate the holy habit of thinking of Him often.

You will tell me that I always say the same thing. What can I say? It is true. I don't know.

✓ How is He present?

→ Word

→ Spirit | Prayer and walking by the Spirit

→ His Body

- **True freedom: 2 Corinthians 3:17** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

- **Life is where He is: Exodus 33:15** Then he said to Him, “If Your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here.”

- **In righteousness** | Dealing with sin through faith in Christ

PRESENCE TO PRESENCE Prayer

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