

The 12 Days of Christmas

Day 9 – Living In His Presence

With Pastor Lu Luthra

On the ninth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me Living in His Presence.

Roger Gauthier: Hello and welcome to The Twelve Days of Christmas. I'm your host Roger Gauthier, founder of Tri-Vision Global and creator of the Entrepreneur's Pit Stop, working in conjunction with Dr. Joseph Peck of Empower 2000.

Today is day nine and this time we're going to do something a little bit different, because we focus on a holistic approach, today's message is going to be talking about the most important aspect of your life. It's the foundation of true peace, prosperity, and life-long success. Now today's guest is very dear and near to my heart. Next to my family, he's one of the true friends who has poured out his heart to help me in one of my darkest hours. The Pastor Lu and his wife Cynthia have been walking faithfully with the Lord since they received Jesus into their lives and not long after their conversion, they were called into the ministry. The Lord gave them a vision to teach, preach the word and prepare the bride for her king while fanning the flames of revival.

They've led home groups, participated in missions, pastored churches, even established a Bible college. They poured out their heart in teaching, counselling and equipping many [with the 00:01:35] Kingdom [word 00:01:35]. Lu's gift in the teaching and pastoral ministry is fueled by a hunger to raise up an [entire 00:01:43] army for the Lord. [With a 00:01:46] heart after God, Lu's anointed with an apostolic authority. Through example he teaches how to establish one's character in inner and outer Godly strength and purity as well as utilizing divine wisdom in practical living. He uses his gift to strengthen, edify and uplift others in their callings, their giftings and their destiny. I have to share that Lu carries a true father's heart to encourage others to be lifted up in their callings.

Today's message is called living in His presence. Lu, I want to thank you for joining us today. It's an honor and a privilege to have you on today's program.

Lu Luthra: Thank you Roger, it's a pleasure you know? Christmas is a time where everybody is celebrating the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ and we get so caught up in everything that is going on around us that we forget the real reason what we are celebrating. One of the things that happens, during this time, is that we forget about His presence because we are so preoccupied with other things than being occupied with Him. I want to share with people today about living in the presence of God, in spite of whatever it is. You see when you look at the Bible and the scriptures, in Hebrews chapter ten verse nineteen it says, "Having therefore brethren boldness to enter into the [sanctuary 00:03:21] by the blood

of Jesus." We have all been purchased by the blood of Jesus and because of the purchaseness that the Lord gave by his blood, it gives us a right to come into His presence. A lot of time people think I got a right to go into the throne room and I got a right to go here. We haven't already been learned how to be in his presence before even getting to the throne room.

Let me tell you, the throne room is a very holy place and not many people [they think 00:03:56] they have been into the throne room. The throne room is watched by the cherubims and the seraphims and I mean the place is so holy it [relies 00:04:09] on not lying down and are not holy. I don't think you're going to have the opportunity to get into the throne room. If we follow the scripture that it says, we have been purchased by his blood, that means we have been given the right to come into His presence. Salvation is something that people want, to get born again in order to get into the kingdom but then we have to work our salvation out everyday. It's the same thing when we get born again, we come into His presence but we have to learn how to abide in that presence in our lives everyday. When we look at the scriptures, God says that he created Adam. I believe, the way I look at the scriptures, is that after God created the earth He thought about it and he said, "Well let's create man in our image." He did that with Adam, why did He create Adam? He created Adam for His pleasure.

You and I have been formed in the same manner, our greatest responsibility is to have divine communication with God. God wants us to have a relationship with Him like never before. If people would only understand how much God desires the fellowship with you, you would know that He's running after you. Where we tell people run after God, run after God, the only reason we say is because God is already running after them. He's already warning them to Himself but what keeps them away is this situation that happened with Adam and you know that. I'm sure your listeners also know about it, it's not something that's new or a great revelation. Sometimes you have to go back to the basics to remind what we are missing. When Adam sinned because of what the devil did to him, it separated Adam from God. It broke the relationship that God had with Adam. The Bible says that the Lord would come down in [the cool 00:06:22] of the day everyday. He would meet with Adam, they would have fellowship. See that divine communion was there with Adam because there was no sin but that broke.

When that broke, what happened? It seized man, even man when he was created in the likeness of God, and when we allow sin to come in it breaks that thing within us and we stop obeying God and we stop loving Him. What happens? Guilt and fear comes into our lives and it pushes us away from running to God. Same thing happened with Adam. The question when the Lord came down to meet with Adam and He couldn't find him, what did He say to him? He said, "Where are you Adam?" Do you think that God could not see where Adam was?

Roger Gauthier:

Sure.

Lu Luthra:

Adam thought that if he could hide behind the bushes, God wouldn't see him. God wasn't playing hide and seek with him, God was saying, "Where are you Adam? Where are you in your heart? What have you done? Look at the great, divine communication that we were having and now that you have made a mistake, rather than coming to me you're running from me." The Lord was more concerned about his heart, where was his heart? He wasn't concerned about where are you? I can't find you. It wasn't a question of hide and seek, it was a question. Where is your heart Adam? That's what God is saying, even to His bride today, where is your heart? Where are you? Why are you running from me? Why are the things of the world? When we talk about the things of the world, I'm not talking about things of the world like houses, cars and all that. God wants you to be blessed but if they overtake you from the divine place with God, that's when God is saying, "Get the world off you. Forget those things that you are running after, run after me." That's what the Lord wants us to be and that's what He was telling Adam.

You see, God's desire is always to bring us back to Him. I want to move forward a little bit about the presence of God in this concept but because I wanted to lay some foundation down. David, they say, was a man after God's heart. Again that statement, David being after God's heart was not just the statement that he ran after God. He knew the heart of God. It's one thing to have a heart for God but it's another thing to know the heart of God. David was a man who knew the heart of God but even though we teach and say, "David was a man who was after God's heart. Why was he after God's heart? He knew God's heart." He wanted to build a temple and the Lord said, "You can't." "Why?" "You are a man of war, you have killed many." [His son 00:09:39] would build the temple. Rather than going into a lot of details, reviewing the scriptures, that Solomon built a temple. When Solomon built a temple, it was as if it was the most beautiful thing that had even taken place. He bought the best, he had the best stone, everything best. Best instruments, probably the best sound system that you will find in the system today.

They didn't need sound system then you know? I'm just saying that the best sound system but the temple was all built. It says on the day of dedication, it wasn't the temple because this was a man-made temple. It wasn't the beauty of the temple, it wasn't the best instruments that were there. It wasn't the greatest worship leaders, it was not even the levites or the priest that brought the presence of God in. It says, in the scriptures it said, "When the priest stood at the rightful place, the presence of God came down and filled the temple." We are the temple, we are carriers of the presence of God. We are the ones that God is waiting on us to stand and take our rightful place because God said, "I will not live in a man built temple." I will live in this temple that He's created which is you, I and those listening today. We are His temple, God wants to fill this temple but we have to come to a place, to stand in the rightful place. What is that rightful place?

To again acknowledge living in his presence. God wants us to live in His presence just like Adam fled from God, God doesn't want us to flee from Him. God wants us to come to Him. Many things in today's society you're hearing about, God's judgement is coming. Different things are going to happen, let me tell you something for your listeners. Yes, God has to judge sin. The judgement of God is going to come but let me encourage you with this. It's not that God's judgement is coming to destroy us, everything that God does He does for a purpose of bringing it back. He wants to bring back the person, He wants to bring his church back to Him so that they can learn to live in the presence of God. When sin is in our lives, we run from God. Even when the Lord came to Peter and He said, "I've come." What did Peter say to Him? "Lord get away from me. I am a man who is very sinful so depart from me." Jesus said to the disciples, "I have come for those that are sick not for those that are healed."

Listen let me tell you something. Many Christians today, they think they are well but they're really sick. We need this tabernacle that God has tried to build and is here. He is trying to create a total procession of this tabernacle, He wants to come and live in this tabernacle you know?

Roger Gauthier:

Wow.

Lu Luthra:

[inaudible 00:13:34] so what happens? The life of man upon this earth is life away from His presence. The way man lives on this earth, he has an acknowledgement of God. He thinks he has a relationship with God but he doesn't understand that he's living and he has forgotten to live in the presence of God. That's what I want to, again, encourage people to [see 00:14:00]. Everything that God does, He does for redemptive purposes. The judgement of God that comes, that is upon the church and upon His people, is to draw His bride to himself. He wants to bring redemptive things, to bring them back. He's not a destroyer, God has never been a destroyer. You might say to me, "Lu what do you mean? He destroyed the earth with Noah." Yeah but He saved Noah. He didn't destroy Noah but He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, He saved Abraham. Look at all that God's promises came through Abraham, today you and I wouldn't be here. Besides the Lord creating us and besides promises of Abraham.

He had to bring judgement, it's the same place now. God is going to bring judgement to his church but it is for a redemptive purpose. To bring us back, again, into the right eternal relationship with Himself. [inaudible 00:15:07] what does the scriptures say? He's a jealous God, what's he jealous of? Your house? Your car? Nothing, He's jealous of you and I having a proper relationship with Him. Living in his presence.

Roger Gauthier:

Such a powerful message, wow. I mean it really ... Such a different picture of God than what is normally portrayed.

Lu Luthra: Yes because [we have forgotten 00:15:33] so many things that you would only just have to be a Christian. I know you have to be Christian but the absolute heaven inheritance in normal Christians, every Christian is forgetting. There is our inheritance in heaven, not just salvation. Salvation only gives you entrance to get into heaven but inheritance, the real inheritance, is in heaven. That's why God, even Jesus He followed the patterns, He lived in heaven and He lived on earth. He desires for you and I to live in the same place. He doesn't want us to just be all earthly minded or just all heavenly minded that you're no earthly good. He's looking for a person that is going to come out of this natural living at a level that we're living in. God wants to live in us, God wants us to live in heavenly realm. I want to share ... I'm sorry go ahead.

Roger Gauthier: No, what you're talking is almost He wants us to live in heaven and bring heaven to earth as opposed to live on earth expecting to go to heaven.

Lu Luthra: That's right. That's where most people are. If you talk to them today, I just can't wait to leave this earth and go to heaven. You know the thing is if you're not prepared here for heaven, how do you think you're going to handle heaven? How are you going to handle? A good example is this, if you can't live your everyday life according to the biblical ways how you going to live in heaven? Heaven doesn't have two standards, heaven has one standard. On earth, we are allowed to keep our own standards because we keep of this mind that we got a great prize waiting when we get there. God wants you to have the great prize here, this is your preparation field so that when you get there you don't need preparation. You just get into heaven and enjoy God, [be with the 00:18:01] Lord. In our conversation, I talked about David and I talked about Solomon. I talked about ... There's a great scenario that the Lord showed me that I want to share with you and with your listeners right now if that's okay?

Roger Gauthier: Please do, Lu please do.

Lu Luthra: In the old testament, they talk about that there was a priest, a holy priest, that the people, the children of Israel went to, and they made a sacrifice. Then to this holy priest once a year he would go into, he would get the sacrifice, he would take the blood. He would walk through the different concepts of the tabernacle. He would get to a place where there was a veil. The only person that could go into that veil was that priest, he would go and offer up the people's sins and sacrifices in that place. Now there's a [theme 00:19:08] going on in that tabernacle as you know, that when he first comes in there's a sacrifice and he takes the sacrifice up to the brazen altar. He goes in, he goes up and washes his hands taking out all the impurities and everything, to have clean hands. Then he has the [choux 00:19:26] bread and he goes into the holy of holies.

Now when he walks into that holy of holies, what does he find in there? There is no light, natural light, and when he looks into it there's a golden lamp stand that is lit. Nobody has ever gone in and poured oil, they have all this wonder how did that light always keep going? The Lord showed me the same scenario of a

sinner. When the sinner comes in, keep your thought on the natural light because I'm going to come back there, same way with a believer. A sinner comes up, takes possession of that blood applied to himself. Most of the same process of going through the redemptive thing to get into that place where he stands before the veil, before he can get into holy of holies. Now most people today are standing outside the veil, very few get inside the veil. Going back to the point that I was trying to make, that when he went into this holy of holies there was no natural light. When I was pondering on the scripture about no natural light, the Lord opened up my understanding.

He said, "The reason I could not allow a window or an opening" like what do you call on them? On top of your house, sun ...

Roger Gauthier: Sunroof.

Lu Luthra: Sunroof or don't know what they're called.

Roger Gauthier: Ventilation shaft.

Lu Luthra: Yeah, some kind of light. He said, "The reason I didn't allow because even the air that you and I breathe has got impurities in it." That place was so kept holy, that even [not allowed 00:21:22] the natural light to come in. Here is, again, a sinner who has come before the veil. God doesn't desire any impurities in us even though on day of [calgary 00:21:39] He said, "It's finished." The veil was set apart and through the boldness of His blood, the scripture that we read earlier, it says that, "We have the right to go into the holy of holies." People don't allow the [purity 00:21:57] and the presence of God to be in their midst. To live in that place, to be able to get into the holy of holies. They carry around all those impurities so that the scripture we read earlier can be fulfilled. We can enter into their place of holy of holies.

God is desiring for us, He doesn't want because He ... I watched a movie one time. In the movie, this real rich man his son gets kidnapped. The kidnapper puts a ransom, if you give me so much I'll give you your son back. The movie doesn't go like as easy as I'm saying to you, that he pays the ransom. He pays the ransom, he still doesn't ... But God, the Lord Jesus Christ, paid the ransom for us. You, I and for the listeners by His precious blood. There should be no guilt or condemnation as long as we are living according to the word of God and according to the way the Lord has desired for us to live that we can enter into that place. We have been ransomed by the Lord's blood. We have a right to get into the holy of holies and push into that place of His presence. That's what God is desiring us. See the greatest fact of the tabernacle was the holy of holies was [inaudible 00:23:40] one thing.

Jehovah was there. His presence was there, it was within the veil. There's a veil within us of different things that we put on ourselves. We place upon ourselves that keeps us away, it could be fear, it could be trials, it could be sin. It could be

bitterness, it could be anger, it could be anything. It creates a veil. Many things that are not part of God's ways and if they are in our lives, that are not His ways, it will cause that veil to be there.

Roger Gauthier: Hearing it from that perspective, you want to run to God now. You don't want to run away from him, what a different way of understanding it. What a better way of understanding it.

Lu Luthra: See the Lord is not a religion, He's a person. One thing we forget in Christianity is God called us to have a relationship right from the beginning, like I said to you. He created us for His pleasure. When a married couple gets married and has a child, they say what? Oh this child is going to give us pleasure. They raise the child up, they got through all sacrifices. Go through a lot of different things and they raise this child upon their pleasure. Even if the child turns out not exactly the way, he's still their pleasure. You and I are still His pleasure but He doesn't want us to stand outside the veil. We will always be His pleasure but in what level of pleasure would you be satisfied with? That's my question. If I want more pleasure then I need to line up more with the ways of God. If I want to stay in the place of holy of holies then I need to be lined up with no impurities in my life.

Again like I said, people don't realize getting angry, having bitterness, having all these little things that we go through every day. I'll give you a good example. Yesterday I was out with my wife last night. We were driving through the [town 00:26:17] center which is a shopping mall in our area [inaudible 00:26:23]. Somebody cut me off and I said, "What is the rush?" My tone wasn't the way I'm talking to you. You see immediately, I was reminded that it's like almost sometimes it's a way of coming to a close. [inaudible 00:26:46] I'm sorry. [inaudible 00:26:50] you know what he did? I could have [collided 00:26:52] with him, he could have created an accident. I got to remember that but if I want to live in His presence, I can't allow anything to come between Him and I. That's the important thing we remember. Just the priest knew that inside the holy of holies, Jehovah was there. If you and I are His tabernacle and created for His purpose then we need to realize that Jehovah is living right within us.

He wants us to come inside where He dwells. The presence of God is the central fact of Christianity, you can never forget. People when they gather together, they worship the Lord, the word goes on. There is what we call an outward presence of God and the majority of the church is really good at experiencing that. God is calling us to come up higher, even in 2016, to a place where we are living in the omnipresence of God. Come into the understanding that God is always with us. It's like looking into a bubble and saying, "I'm in a bubble of the presence of God. God's all around me, God is always here." The heart of Christianity should be talking not only about just the Lord but talking about His presence. It's that presence that people need to realize because that's going to bring the fear of God in the church again.

Roger Gauthier: You're sharing something, you're sharing to have this concept that the way we have been taught church in the past is if we're not right, we can't come before God. We have all this guilt, condemnation and shame so therefore we don't go to God. Understanding from the perspective that you're sharing and how much He loves us, that love inside of us, we don't want to let ... You want to let go of those things because you love Him. Not because you feel guilty or shameful but you're like, "Wow He's so beautiful. I don't want these things in my life." You want to get rid of them now out of your love for Him, as opposed to your shame, guilt and fear of coming to Him.

Lu Luthra: Right. See I remember I said? We have been ransomed, the ransom has been paid. People are saying Jesus is coming again, He is coming again. He's not going to crucify Himself again, He spilled his blood once and that's it. He's coming to take us now. We were created for His pleasure, what keeps a person away from a person's pleasure is disobedience. Coming to God and saying, "Lord I'm sorry." [When our children 00:29:53] disobey or a husband and wife have an argument. One or the other says, "I'm sorry" what happens? Life goes on, they don't take the child and throw him out or the wife doesn't throw the husband out, the husband doesn't throw the wife out. If we can apply those natural principles in our lives here today, why are we having trouble with God?

Roger Gauthier: Just before you shared that, I had that same vision where husband and a wife right? They love each other, if they do something wrong and they hurt each other we can say, "Hey I'm sorry. I'm sorry" all we want but until there's a true, genuine, "Hey you know I really hurt you. That wasn't right of me" and there's that real acknowledgement of your mistake. Then there's the commitment to change, it seems that's when the relationship flows again. The loves starts flowing again.

Lu Luthra: It's that thing that I talked to you about earlier. The devil puts guilt, he puts fear when we do wrong. That guilt and fear keeps us away from God. What you just said, "I'm sorry. I made a mistake, I hurt you. I won't do it again." You make that genuine change not to do it again then your communication opens up. People have not understood the word repentance. Most church today goes, "I'm sorry, I repent." No, repentance means turning around and walking in a different direction. That's true repentance so if you're going down a road, sorry is not going to change it. What's going to change is making your total, complete turn and going in the other direction. Keep going on the same path and keep saying sorry, you will always say sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry but you're on the same road.

Roger Gauthier: If you can't see how you truly hurt that person then you can't feel the remorse needed to say, "Wow. That was inappropriate of me, I don't want to do that anymore."

Lu Luthra: That comes by building a one on one relationship with the Lord. It comes by realizing He is a friend to us [and yes 00:32:15] He will bring direction. In the

book of proverbs it says He chastises those that He loves. Let me tell you, the more I get chastised the more I feel as though I'm [inaudible 00:32:28].

Roger Gauthier: Amazing.

Lu Luthra: He's chastising me because He loves me.

Roger Gauthier: What a different perspective to take right? Then to realize that's a good thing.

Lu Luthra: Yes, then to say, "[inaudible 00:32:42] He's always after my case." That's the devil speaking but in that guilt, fear. That's [what He 00:32:52] did to Adam then He said, "Oh you've sinned now. You're afraid" [and he ran 00:32:59]. He used it two thousand years ago, He's still using it today.

Roger Gauthier: It's the same tactic just different approach.

Lu Luthra: Same tools.

Roger Gauthier: As we transition from 2015 into 2016, do you have a final thought you'd like to share so that people listening today can go into 2016 with a different approach? That will bring in more life and more of what we're really supposed to be experiencing here.

Lu Luthra: Roger, this is the question. The way I feel is what people need to do is really take an inventory before the year ends. If you take a day, take Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve and spend time before the Lord. Let it be a time of really taking inventory of what went wrong, what they did wrong, where they failed. Allowing all those things, asking for forgiveness of the Lord. It's like turning the page of their life and starting a new book in 2016. Say, "Lord I will love you more. I will obey you more, I will follow you more. No matter what somebody else says." It's up to each individual person, like I said earlier, how much of God do you want? It's up to each person, the more God you want, the less of you, you will have. My statement to the people for 2016 is this, let yourself die. It's no longer what you want or what you desire to have, let Him have all of you.

Let me tell you, if they have all of Him they have everything. Do I have a minute to close with a story?

Roger Gauthier: Please do, please do.

Lu Luthra: End with a story. There was a king, he was so loving and so caring that he wanted to give all his subjects everything that he could give them. After about three years, he had not been out to take a look at what his subjects were living, how they were living, what was going on. One day he disguised himself, one night, he went down and he looked. He saw that many were suffering, some of them didn't have food. Some of them didn't have places to stay. He announced, he said, "Next weekend my palace will be open. Everybody's invited to come

and they can take whatever they want out of my palace so that they live comfortable." Many people were afraid this is a trick he's going to do but the next weekend came and it said the line was all the way out around his palace fifteen times. People came in, took stuff out, people came in, took stuff out. There was one old lady, she was about eighty years old.

She was the last one left. When she walked in, she asked the king, she says, "I'm very old. You must have some trick in this and you're going to put me in jail if I take something." The king said, "No, no, no. You're like my mother, you can take whatever you want." She went around, looked, came back with nothing. She did this three times Roger. Finally the king says, "Mom" he called her mom, "You can have whatever you want." She said, "You're really saying that?" He said, "You can have anything you want." She said, "Okay." She turned around and hugged him. She says, "I want you." She was the smartest out of all, she said, "If I can have him I can have everything." If we can make that same decision in 2016, not looking for one thing out of the kingdom. Not looking for one piece of gold, one piece of silver, one this or one that. Make it in your mind for 2016, you have all God and if you have all God you've got the whole kingdom. That's my desire for people.

Roger Gauthier: That's good. You're sharing that, all of a sudden it dawns on me. We go about, talk about dying to yourself, so we go about living our lives. Trying to gather all these things that we think we want. We want this, we want that to try to satisfy that emptiness. Thinking we'll be made whole, we'll be made complete, we'll be made like God by getting all this stuff. When actuality is, we let go of all the stuff and instead have Him. By having Him, now it's not the stuff holding our lives, it's Him holding our lives. Then He adds to it as He desires and what He knows that gives us joy. Seeking Him is really the key in letting go of yourself.

Lu Luthra: Yeah. That's the true gaining the kingdom of heaven. It's not in your [inaudible 00:38:30], it's not in your calling, it's not a [large ministry 00:38:33]. It's not how many people God saved, it's how much of Christ is in you. How much of Him is in you, how much of you are Christ like.

Roger Gauthier: That's a good word for 2016. I know, in my heart, all I want to do is hold onto Him and never let go.

Lu Luthra: That's right. He's big, he's very you know? One quick statement before you go. When my son, who is now twenty eight, he was five years old and my wife Cynthia was picking him up. Bringing him from kindergarten, she was in the car, he leaned over to my wife and he said this, "Mom" he's singing this song, "He's got the whole world in his hands. Mom how big are God's hands?" That's what I want to say again, I know the last one was the last thought but this is the last thought. [God is 00:39:38] very big and there's a lot we can have with Him.

Roger Gauthier: Would you like to, it's so appropriate being that it's Christmas and moving to New Year's, how about we close off the meeting in a prayer? Let you close this out with a prayer Pastor Lu.

Lu Luthra: Father we just thank you for this great time and season that we're in. It normally reminds us to be with our family, our loved ones, but above all Lord it reminds us of you Lord. Gifts will come and go, the eternal gift of life that you've given us Lord will never disappear. Let us remember everyday of our life that you are a gift that's given to us every day. Father, I pray that every person that listens to this program that you will pour out your heart and your blessing upon them. Lord, I pray that their understanding would be widened this coming year Lord. That you would create a big hunger and a thirst in their hearts to run after you Lord. Lord just as a deer panted after the water, let them pant after you Lord. I pray Father God that this coming year will be a year of great increase in the lives of people of you Lord.

Lord give people the desires of their heart but above all Lord give them a desire for you. I pray a great blessing upon everyone Lord. I pray that your face will shine upon them Lord, give them your peace, your love and your joy. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Roger Gauthier: Thank you Pastor Lu. What a joy to have you here and share this message with us on these twelve days of Christmas. Just like to say thank you. Wish you, Cynthia and your whole family a beautiful and merry, merry Christmas and a joyous 2016 and New Year.

Lu Luthra: Thank you Roger. It's been a pleasure.

Roger Gauthier: Thank you, thank you so much.