

The First Church, Part 6:
“They Had the Presence of God Among Them”
Acts 2:37-43

I. The presence of God was clearly seen in the first church (v. 43).

- A. The presence of God was manifested through the sense of fear (reverential awe).
- B. The presence of God was manifested through miraculous works.

(Isaiah 61:1-5; Hebrews 2:3-4; Revelation 1:9-10, 12-13, 17)

II. The presence of God should be clearly seen in the modern church.

- A. It should be seen individually (by the way we live our individual lives).
- B. It should be seen corporately (by the way we relate to other believers).

(Exodus 19:5-6; Mathew 22:34-40; John 13:34-35; Acts 4:13; Hebrews 12:28-29; 1 Peter 2:9-10)

Scripture References and Notes

continued steadfastly [προσκαρτερέω (proskartereó)]

- I persist, persevere in, continue steadfast in; I wait upon.
- (from *prós*, "towards, interactively *with*" and *karteréō*, "show steadfast strength," derived from *krátos*, "prevailing strength")
- properly, to consistently showing strength which *prevails* (in spite of difficulties); to *endure* (remain firm), *staying* in a *fixed direction*.
- [*proskartereó* means "to continue to do something with intense effort, with the possible implication of despite difficulty – 'to devote oneself to, to keep on, to persist in'" (*L & N*, 1, 68.68).]

Philippians 1:27-30 (NASB)

²⁷ Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind **striving together** for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

striving together [ἀθλέω (athleó)]

- I engage, compete, in an (athletic) contest.
- I compete together with others, cooperate vigorously with.

fear [φόβος (phobos)]

- fear, terror, alarm, (b) the object or cause of fear, (c) reverence, respect.
- (from *phebomai*, "to flee, withdraw")
- meant *withdrawal*, fleeing because feeling inadequate (without sufficient *resources*, *Abbott-Smith*).

Isaiah 6:1-5

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. ² Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" ⁴ And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts."

Revelation 1:9-10, 12-13, 17

⁹ I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, ¹² Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. ¹⁷ And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last."

Hebrews 2:3-4

³ ...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*, ⁴ God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NASB)

⁹ But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

Exodus 19:5-6

⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶ And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

Acts 4:13

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

Hebrews 12:28-29

²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. ²⁹ For our God is a consuming fire.

Matthew 22:34-40

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying, ³⁶ "Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*" ³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹ And *the* second is like it: '*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

John 13:34-35

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

*Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are from the New King James Version.

*Bolded Scripture references are not in the bulletin notes, but are available in the full notes on the church website. You may access these at <https://www.firstbaptistcp.com/sermon-archive/>.