



**Understanding The Manifest
Presence of God: Part II
“Reasons for the Loss of the
Manifest Presence of God”**

Isaiah 59:1-2

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The Most Important Competitive Advantage

- **The most important competitive advantage you have is your relationship with Jesus Christ**
- **“Relationships Matter”**

Introduction

- This is part II in our series on “Understanding the Manifest Presence of God”.
- Today we will examine some “Reasons for The Loss of the Manifest Presence of God”
- I can call them the 4 D’s or you can call them the **Four Deadly Sins.**

Four Deadly Sins

- ➔ 1.) **Disobedience**—which is sin (Isaiah 59:1-2) | Samuel 15:22-23; 16:14)
- ➔ 2.) **Defilement** (Psalm 101:3; 119:37)

Four Deadly Sins

- ➔ **3.) Distractions**---Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42)
- ➔ **4.) Drifting**---The church at Ephesians left her first love (Rev. 2:4-5)

Disobedience

When we examine Isaiah 59 we discover that this remarkable chapter continues God's charges against Israel, and He spells them out. Their sins had brought about their sad state. Sin prohibits us from experiencing the manifest presence of God.

The Second Deadly Sin-Defilement

- (Psalm 101:3) is about David's vow of integrity, we must not allow ourselves to become defiled.
- The word **Defile**-means to **become polluted or unclean.**

The Third Deadly Sin- Distraction

- This one is not so obvious to us:
- We can allow ourselves to become distracted from being at the feet of Jesus because we are so engaged in daily activities. We can become so busy doing work and religious activities that we miss Jesus.

Luke 10:38-42

- ➔ Martha is the first person seen, and she has a highly commendable character. It is said that “Jesus loved Martha.” Therefore, it is important for us to see the strong points of her character and see what it was that caused a person so strong to get off track!!!

Martha was a courageous person

- During this time period it was extremely dangerous to associate too closely with Jesus, especially around Jerusalem. The authorities were seeking some way to kill Jesus as seen in (John 7:25,30,32). Many of his own disciples had forsaken Him now as noted in (John 5:66) and others were now speaking against Him. (John 7:20, 43-44).



Mary also loved Jesus and was loving and humble

- ➔ Mary had a spiritual hunger
- ➔ Mary had a readiness to hear
- ➔ Mary had a desire to surrender
- ➔ Mary had a willingness to do

Mary set at the feet of Jesus the courtyard was large enough she could have set somewhere else.

Martha got distracted.

The Fourth Deadly Sin-Drifting

- The church at Ephesus drifted and lost her first love. Rev. 2:4-5
- Revelation was addressed to the following churches in Asia:
 - 1. Ephesus
 - 2. Smyrna
 - 3. Pergamos
 - 4. Thyatira
 - 5. Sardis
 - 6. Philadelphia
 - 7. Laodicea

The City of Ephesus

- At its height Ephesus was the most important city along the coast of Asia Minor. There were 230 cities that dotted the coast line of Asia Minor during this time. Many had ideal harbors, but Ephesus was the queen among these coastal communities. The city had been founded to command one of the main highways of Asia Minor.

The Church at Ephesus

- The church and its believers had lost their feelings for Christ. Believers had left their first love.
- Christ was no longer first in their lives. Very similar to today. They were putting themselves and their own affairs first, and they were putting the church first not Jesus--- the programs, services, ministries , and fellowship of the church were first instead of Jesus.

The Church at Ephesus

- They had become more attached to the church than they were to Christ
- They had lost their feelings of warmth and tenderness for Christ
- They had lost their sensitivity to Christ, their fervor, spark and unction

The Church at Ephesus

- They were not fellowshiping and communing nor praying and sharing with Christ—not like when they were first converted.
- They were not walking in a consciousness and awareness of Christ's presence, joy and rejoicing in Him throughout the day.
- They were not having personal fellowship with Christ

“ Central the million dollar question this morning is have you lost your first love? ”

Are we enjoying church, instead of focusing on Christ who is the head of the Church. We will not experience the manifest presence of God if our emphasis is on the church instead of worshipping and praising God