
THE EVER-LIVING NEVER-LEAVING GOD

EXODUS 40:34-38



What are our basic spiritual needs? What do we need from God each day? We need his presence, his guidance, and his faithfulness, don't we? If we are to live each day with hope and confidence, we need to be sure, God is with us, God is guiding us, and God will stay with us. But how can I be sure that God will be with me today, guide me today, and stay with me today? Let's see how God assured Israel of that in Exodus 40:34-38.

LEARNING

GOD IS WITH US (34)

So Moses finished the work (Ex. 40:33). God had given Moses the Tabernacle plans from Exodus 25 to 35. God moved the people to fund the construction in Exodus 36. Then God helped Moses and the craftsmen throughout the building process from Exodus 37-40. In Exodus 40:33, we read these simple words: **So Moses finished the work.**

The very next verse says, **Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle** (34). Now that's an opening ceremony! As soon as Moses hung the last exterior curtain, God's glory exploded to cover and fill the whole building. What an awesome moment that must have been. God's message to Israel was unmistakable, "I am here. I am with you." And remember, he was not with them directly, but in and through the Tabernacle, the place of sacrificial death and blood-bought forgiveness.

GOD FORGIVES US
TO LIVE WITH US

But how do I know where to turn, where to go in life?

GOD GUIDES US (36-37)

God's presence wasn't static but dynamic. **Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up** (36-37). Every day, the first thing Israel did was look to the Tabernacle to see if God's glory was in it or above it. If it was still in it, they stayed put. If it was above it, God was moving and therefore so were they.

IF YOU WANT GOD'S GUIDANCE THROUGH THE DAY,
GET WITH GOD FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.

Will he be there for me every day?

GOD STAYS WITH US (38)

For the cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys (38). These are the last words of Exodus. Do you remember the first words? Chapter one began with Israel in pagan Egypt enslaved, oppressed, groaning, and crying. The book ends with Israel free from Egypt and filled with God. As we've discovered, they were a far from perfect people. And yet God stayed with them throughout their journey. He never left them or forsook them. Every morning they saw his glory cloud. Every night before going to bed, they could see his glory fire. What a comfort! When God comes, God stays.

WHEN GOD LIVES WITH US,
HE NEVER LEAVES US.

LOVING

But we don't have a Tabernacle, so how does God do this for us today? **And the Word became flesh and dwelt (lit. 'tabernacled') among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth** (John 1:14). Through faith in Jesus, God's glory is with us, guides us, and stays with us.

LIVING

Have daily confidence in the God who is with us, guides us, and stays with us though Jesus.
