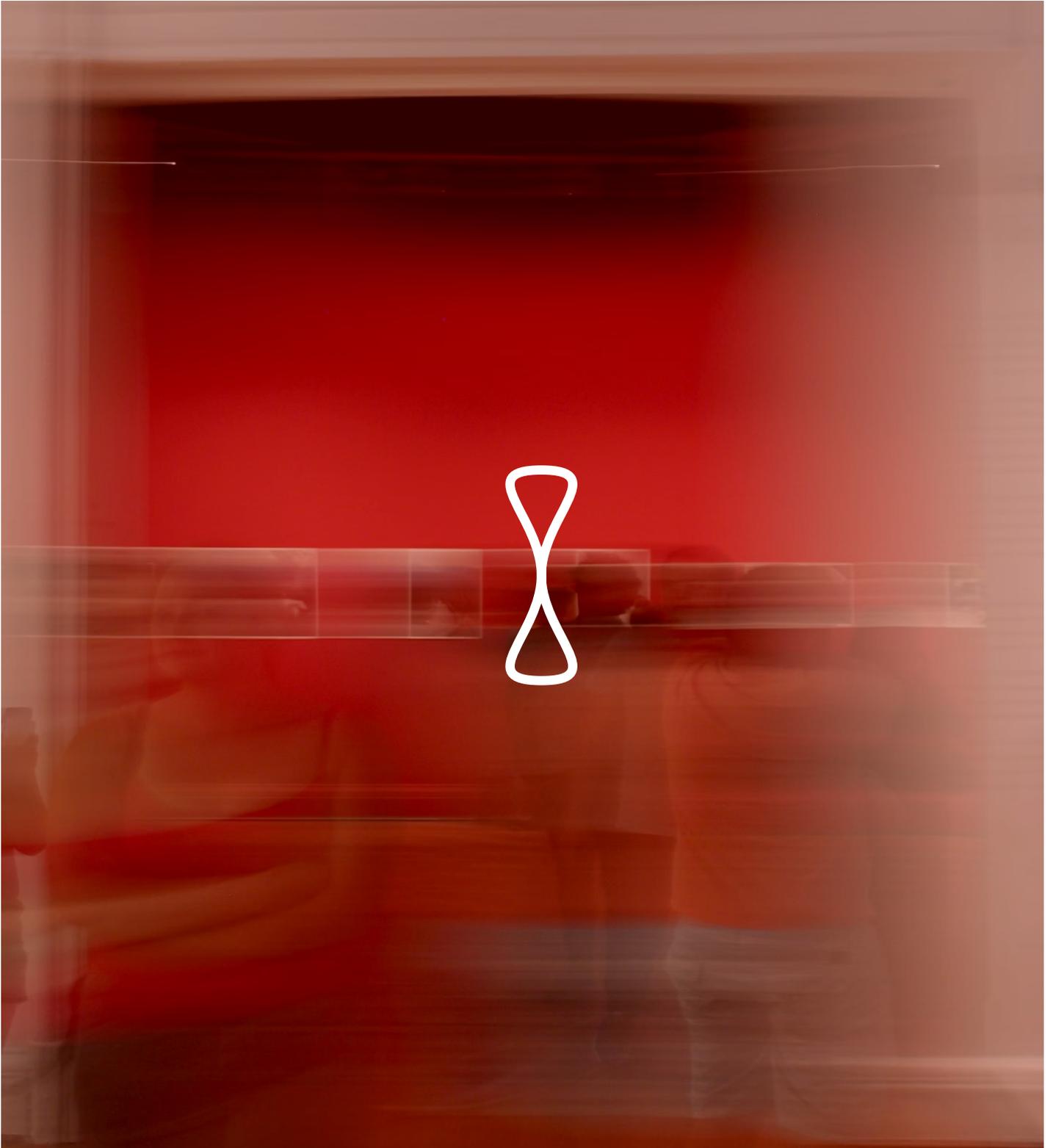




# P R E S E N C E



February Teaching Series

# God Comes Where He's Wanted

Week 3

# Reflect

Take some time to process together as a group on last week's practice:

- How did you start practicing what we talked about last week?
- How was your experience in your practice?
- Where did you feel God most present and distant this week?

# Overview

Jesus invited us to meet God in the hidden place of prayer. Prayer is not a performance to impress others or prove our goodness; it is a private, intentional, intimate, and honest encounter with our Father who already sees and loves us. Real transformation happens not in public visibility but in quiet faithfulness, where distraction fades and honesty begins.

Prayer is also not about controlling outcomes or making things happen. Instead, prayer forms our own hearts and grows our desire for God. In a culture driven by productivity and results, Jesus calls us to stillness — releasing burdens we were never meant to carry and learning to ask not “How did I do?” but “Who am I becoming?”

Our desperation can become a doorway to deeper delight in God. Too often we settle for small satisfactions when God offers Himself as our greatest joy. As we slow down in prayer, silence, and solitude, our souls awaken to His presence and discover that His love is truly better than life.



# Reading

## **Matthew 6:5-6 NIV**

5 *“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

## **Psalms 46:10 NIV**

*He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”*

# Discussion

When do you find it easiest and hardest to pray?

Why is it tempting to perform spiritually in front of others?

Where do you feel spiritually desperate right now? How could that desperation become a doorway to deeper desire for God?

Where is your current “private place” of prayer? If you don’t have one, what could it be?

What burdens or outcomes might God be inviting you to release? What does “be still and know that I am God” look like in real life this week?

# Practice

ABBALOVE

**Silence & Solitude** is the practice of being with God. It's the place you begin and come home to each day: God's loving presence.

1. Choose **5–10 minutes** at the same time each day—morning, lunch break, or before bed. Sit quietly, breathe slowly, and pray one honest sentence: *“Jesus, I am here.”*
2. Pick **one location** that becomes your meeting place with God:
  - a chair in the living room
  - your parked car before going inside
  - a corner of a park
  - the edge of your bed in the morning

## Notes:

Returning to the same place helps your body learn stillness and attention. Your mind will wander—that's normal. When you notice distraction, gently return to: *“Jesus, I am here.”* Silence is not empty; it is being with God without hurry (Take note of your experience to share with the group next week.)

## Further Resources

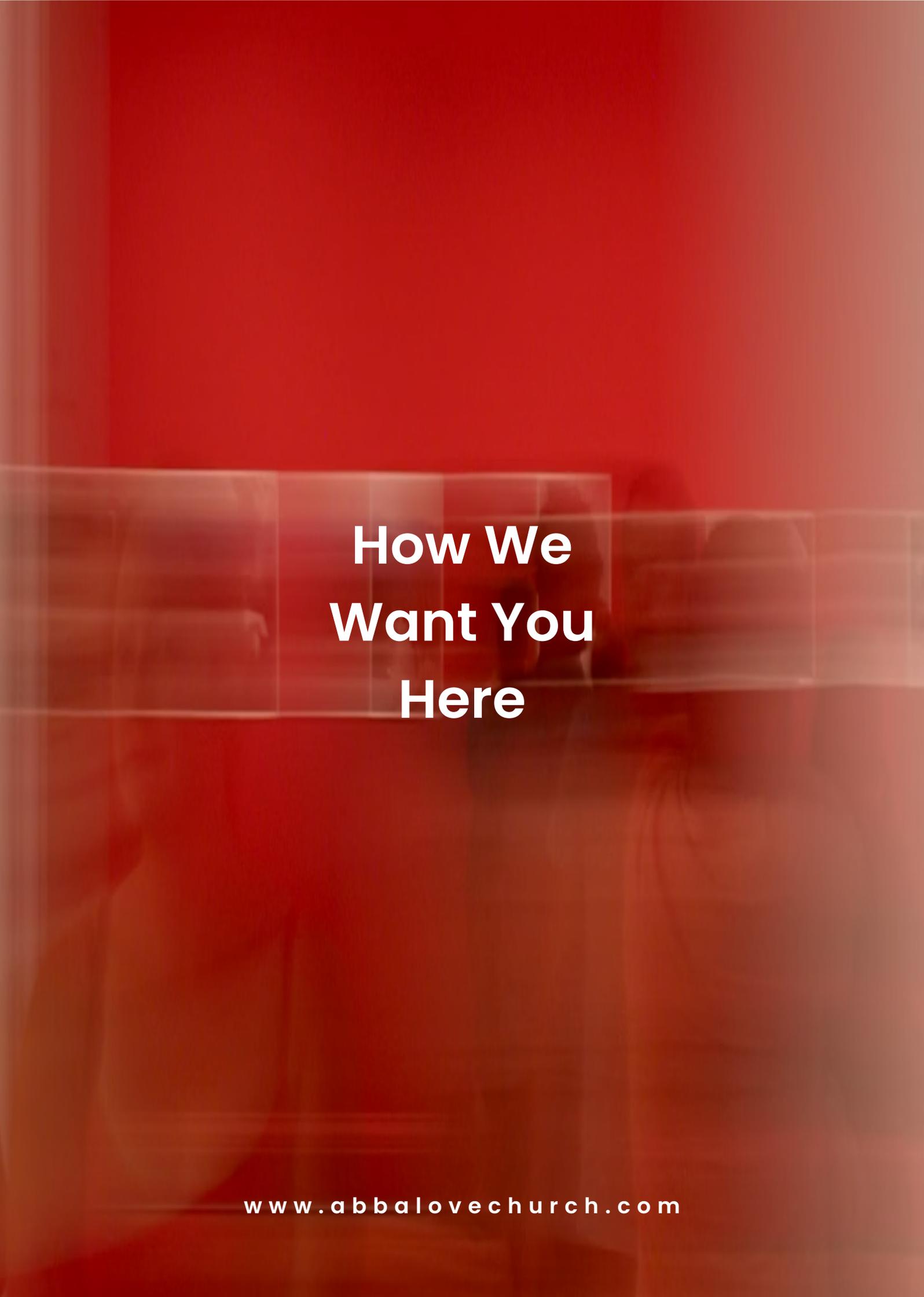
**Video: Presence Teaching Series** - Abbalove Church

**Book: Praying Like Monks Living Like Fools** - Tyler Staton

**Book: How to Pray: A Simple Guide For Normal People** - Pete Greig

**Podcast: Rule of Life: Prayer** - Practicing the Way





# How We Want You Here

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