

*serious matter
to disrupt schedule -
suspend classes*

I K. 19:9-18

HOW/MAY I KNOW THE PRESENCE OF GOD?

1. I am sure all of you know fundamental diff. between saying prayers and praying. You think of repetition of prayer-forms out of prayer-book...Tibetan prayer wheels... What Jesus said Matt 6:7.. "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking." Or heathenish practice of some who work selves into emotional frenzy by hypnotic repetition of Bible word.."Glory".."..or even holy, reverend name "Jesus" SAYING PRAYERS..worse than useless...going nowhere.

2. What is true praying? It is an entering into the holy presence of God..reverently..in godly fear..knowing He is.. there...humbly worshipping Him and daring to speak to Him. And that takes a deal of heart preparation. Like Esther as she came into king's presence..after 3 days of fasting.. and then waiting until king held out golden sceptre to her. Like priest who first washed at laver before coming to golden altar with incense of prayer.

3. How do I find the presence of God?

FIRST:- I must WANT to find it. DO WE? Adam didn't. Hid. Afraid of what God would say. This is sometimes why we can be outwardly present in prayer meetings..and shut off minds. When God spoke to Daniel..his companions "fled to hide themselves". And MISSED THE VISION AND THE GLORY (Dan. 10). "And I was left alone". ONE MAN found presence of God. The rest drabbed through life vaguely restless, unsatisfied.

SECOND:- I must get within SPEAKING DISTANCE. Moses, out in wilderness of Sinai.."turned aside" to go to burning bush.. where God spoke. Today we "turn aside" from our occupations to get where God speaks...And here is His speaking..His Word. We take time today to listen, as well as talk. Doing this now. And approach this Holy Book as Moses came to bush..reverently.. humbly..with shoes off..confessing our own feeble walk.

THIRD:- I must have a responsive, ready heart. Ever read this:- Exod. 34:8 "And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped." That was ready response to presence of God. "Yea that honour me, I will honour." There is such a thing as the "RECIPROCATION OF GOD". You a free agent? Yes..as to choice. But not as to consequence. In very real sense..WHAT YOU DO GOD WILL DO. Take heed! Many feel can run own life..and yet somehow God be right at hand when needed. DON'T FOOL YOURSELF! King Saul found it didn't work that way! "The Lord answered him not." He had LOST THE PRESENCE OF GOD!

Take heed what path of life you choose! You can FORFEIT THE PRESENCE OF GOD! I have seen it happen. And the misery... I have seen a face in anguish..bec. God did not answer... Both sides of that text in I Sam.2:30 work with equal power. Other half is this.."They that despise me shall be lightly esteemed." Reciprocation!. You may make a million..live in grand home..two cars....wife, husband, family, ease, pleasure ..and lose the presence of God. MOST SERIOUS THING BEFORE YOU FOURTH:- I must come to God sanely, soberly, sensibly, seriously, serenely, securely. ^{not dead} God is not deaf. He hears a whisper... often better than a shout. He is little interested in the braggart who feels he is more spiritual than his fellows... because of his learning, position, or some experience. He shut His ears to a Pharisee who prayed "I am not as other men ..I am superior." If you want to lose God's ear..BRAG! And espec. if you BRAG about YOUR experience and consequent so-call spirituality. Nor is God interested in excitement. Elijah met the exitable boys on Mt. Carmel...and then quietly, clearly called on God..in his ordinary language..and God sent both fire and rain. Later he himself had to learn that God not interested in great demonstrations of noise and upheaval... I Kings 19:11-13a. AND GOD WAS THERE.

Is He here? He said:- "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst." GOD. ETERNAL GOD. SOVEREIGN GOD...CREATOR GOD...HERE.

Will you seek His presence? Or shut Him out, even while you sit here?

Afraid? Or willing at last to say "Lord, anything." ^{Come - I am listening with a doc. heart}

Dare you do it? - ^{of Pres. of Authority God}

Willing to come within speaking, hearing distance? -

Ready to respond...say "I will" to His call? Or "Good-bye"?

Steady-minded enough to come quietly..confidently..boldly

and yet reverently and in utter humility?

I call you into His Presence..NOW...to kneel...to speak into heaven itself...where you and I are going..per very soon.

Berean Pr. Day - Feb 10/70 -