

Possessing the Faith to Encounter God

*²² So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. ²³ For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. ²⁴ Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. **Mark 11:22-24***

If you long to encounter God, you must believe that you will encounter Him. If you have this idea that your prayer time is always fruitless and boring, it will likely continue to be so. You must train yourself, first to know what God’s word says about encountering God, and then train yourself to actually believe it. One of the ways to do this is to learn the scriptures about encountering God, and memorize them. Read them back to God in your prayer time. Meditate on them throughout the week. We must build ourselves up to believe.

*¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father ^[1]of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. **Ephesians 3:14-19***

This is no shallow version of Christianity. This is a deep connection to God. It cannot be attained without Faith. Not only faith in Jesus, knowing that he died and was raised from the dead, but faith that He is closer to you than anyone or anything else, because He is literally living on the inside of you. We must have faith that His word is true. Let’s refresh ourselves on what the Word of God says about encountering The Living God.

Encounter Scriptures:

- a. **John 14:21** says if we love him and obey Him, He will manifest Himself to us.
- b. **James 4:8** says to draw near to God and He will draw near to you.
- c. **Hebrews 10:19-23** says we have boldness to enter the Holy of Holies by the blood of Jesus, and the veil that is His flesh that was torn at Calvary.
- d. **Jeremiah 29:13** says “you will seek me and find Me if you seek Me with your whole heart.”
- e. **Psalms 139:7** says “Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?”
- f. **John 10:27** says “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”
- g. **Ephesians 2:6** says we are seated with Christ in Heavenly Places.
- h. **1 Corinthians 3:16** says we are the temple of God and His Spirit dwells in us.

It is also important to remember where we need to be positioned for encounter. If you want to have a personal experience with Jesus, you need to be alone (**Matt. 6:5-8**): "... go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place..."

Once you have spent time in the word and in the Secret Place on a regular basis, you will likely begin to encounter God, even in the midst of mundane tasks like daily chores or work. I find that the more consistent I am in the secret place, the more the Lord visits me in unexpected ways and places. It really blesses me and overwhelms my emotions when He chooses to manifest Himself like that to me, when I am least expecting it and not asking for it.

There are a few Godly men and women who have been anointed to release Holy Spirit encounters by the laying on of hands. This is a wonderful way to experience God, and can be a great kick start to begin your journey to connect with Jesus. However, it is very unhealthy to rely on a man or woman of God to supply you with your encounter "fix" for the week.

The manifest presence of God feels amazing, and I can see why men and women chase it from conference to conference, or even church service to church service at their home church. Unfortunately, they are missing out on an even more powerful encounter with God; one that is so powerful and intimate that no other encounter can compare. This personal encounter is what fuels us to do the work of God without burning out, and enables us to pour out the anointing when we touch or pray for others. If you find yourself always searching for someone to pray over you or prophesy over you, or maybe you just always seem to feel spiritually "dry," it may be that you have never truly had a personal encounter with the Lord.

In comparison, if you see others always flocking to you for prayer, a word from God, or even for anointed hugs, you likely already know that you are anointed. It is a wonderful thing to learn how to carry and release the anointing, but it is always important to redirect these dear ones to Jesus Himself. Flowing in the anointing brings much joy and pleasure. So long as we do not let it go to our heads, but always remember it is Christ in us who is touching these people.

God desires to raise up an army of anointed ones, who know how to quiet themselves in the secret place, to receive the anointing, to walk in and carry the anointing, that know how to discern each situation, and how to release the anointing appropriately. The time has passed for luke-warm Christians and pew warmers to dominate the church. There is a great falling away taking place even now, and a separation between the sheep and the goat, the holy and the unholy. Which side will you be found on? Those who do not encounter God for themselves will be swept away in a wave of deception. Those who have encountered Him and seen Him face to face will love and serve Him to the death.

We live in a very dark time in the nation and in the world. But it is possible to still have joy and peace, no matter our circumstances.

¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace ***in believing***, that you may abound in hope by the ***power of the Holy Spirit***. **Romans 15:13**

There is only one place to receive joy and peace. There is only one way to receive power from the Holy Spirit. There is only one place to be anointed to heal the sick or raise the dead.

The Secret Place.

*² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces ^{1a}patience. ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him **ask in faith**, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. **James 1:2-8***

I have always used this scripture applied to physical healing, but the Lord began to speak to me about applying it to encounter. How can I expect to encounter God if I really don't believe I will? If it is impossible to please God without faith (Hebrews 11:6), how could I encounter Him if I do not believe I will. If I ask God to draw near to me, but I doubt that He will, I shouldn't expect much to happen. Especially if I curse my prayer time by saying things like "God never speaks to me," ... "I never get anything out of my prayer time," or "I don't hear God's voice." All of these things are at odds with God's word. If you speak like this, then you do not have faith in His Word regarding encounter.

We all have areas where we do not agree 100% with God's word. In our hearts, we want to agree, but our mind and our mouth has not come into alignment. First, we must ask the Lord to reveal any areas where deception may be lingering. Then we must repent and ask God to remove that deception. Then we use the word of God to rebuild the truth in our hearts and minds, that our words and actions will line up with TRUTH.

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

²⁴ And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139:23-24

Prayer

Lord,

Search our hearts and reveal to us any areas where we have agreed with darkness; any area that hinders us from encountering You. We renounce those connections to the enemy or his influence.

We believe your Word is true. You have promised that if we love you and obey Your commands, you will manifest Yourself to us. I thank you that when I go to the secret place of prayer, I will hear your voice, I will encounter You, and I will be changed by that encounter.

Lord help me in any area where I have had unbelief. I choose to believe it!

Amen