

The God View

Why We Come # 2: *We want to discover God's will for our daily lives and to learn practical ways to live out our faith in God.*

Exciting things happen when people make a deliberate effort to encounter God. Moses climbed Mount Sinai and had a tremendous encounter with God that made his face glow. The disciples go with Jesus up a high mountain to pray and Jesus is transformed before them so his face and his clothes shine in dazzling white.

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters--one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid. When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus." (Matthew 17)

Both of these experiences come after climbing up high. We cannot go up a high mountain by taking a leisurely walk. At times our spiritual journey may be a leisurely walk, but more often than not, if we are to encounter God in meaningful and significant ways, we must put forth much more effort. The journey requires discipline and determination. We must exert ourselves and expend our energy. Yet we can be confident as we climb, because the Bible

clearly shows us that when we make the effort, God meets us.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord (Jeremiah 29)

God sometimes calls us to follow Him into uncharted territory and to move beyond our comfort zone. God sometimes demands that we reach out in ways we have never experienced before to people we don't even know. As we follow God into unfamiliar areas, God shields us as we go, watching over us and protecting us. To what new experience is God calling us? To what new opportunities for service? As we seek to follow, we need to remember God's promise to be with us and to help us.

The Lord himself watches over you! The Lord stands beside you as your protective shade. The sun will not hurt you by day, nor the moon at night. The Lord keeps you from all evil and preserves your life. The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go both now and forever. (Psalm 121)

The "God view" provides a wonderful perspective. Feeling the bright light of God's love fall upon you, hearing God's voice name you, understanding that you are a beloved child of God is a mountaintop experience. Yet, we must all come down from the mountain to where the God view seems to grow dimmer and the world view looms larger. As the worldview seeks to obscure the God view within us, we must continually claim God's view of ourselves and our life. We must continually be reminded of the person God knows us to be. We must never forget His amazing power and beauty with which He is able and willing to fill our world.

Questions For Reflection and Discussion

1. What is one experience where God has been revealed to you after you've been through a time of struggle and effort?
2. In what area might God be inviting you to come to some new area of acting or ministering?
3. How have you seen God accompany you and help you?
4. What difference does it make to how we live our life each day that God is watching over us?