

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.

We wandered in lives of addiction and pain because we couldn't handle our own view of life. Bad things happened to some of us. We started to look at ourselves from a negative point of view. Circumstances seemed to crush us and we walked with our head down rather than our head up. Life just plain tired us out and we wanted an escape.

When God created us, He had a wonderful plan for a life of joy and blessing for us. He meant for our lives to take place within the context of a loving relationship with Him and with others around us. We got scared of other people who seemed powerful to us so we certainly wanted to avoid any contact with an all-powerful God. What ugly consequences might come from that?

The truth that so many have come to experience is, that exciting things happen when people make a deliberate effort to encounter God. There are stories of people in the Bible who "climbed a mountain" and began to see God, themselves, and life from a different perspective.

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. and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" (From Matthew 17)

To get to the top of any mountain requires effort. There's the climb up and around and over things -- the higher the climb the more difficult the obstacles and the more dangerous and serious the consequences if an accident happens. However, take that last step, turn that last corner and there is an amazing view before you. Wow!! The journey takes some effort before we get to appreciate the beauty "at the top." 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 and there's nothing sweeter or more beautiful than that.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed are those who take refuge in him. (From Jeremiah 29 and Psalm 34:8)

Once we've arrived, that beautiful vista is before our eyes, the breeze is fresh, the sounds are pure. It's just wonderful and it settles our soul. Spiritually speaking, feeling the bright light of God's love fall upon us, hearing God's voice name us, understanding that we are a beloved child of God is a mountaintop experience. What's the benefit, the wonder, the joy, the value of being on the top of the mountain?

Jesus wants us to understand and to have our lives nourished with the truth that we can only know when we view life from His perspective. He invites us into these beautiful moments and experiences to teach us, to strengthen us and to transform us so we are not the same when we come down from the mountain. Because the fact is that at some point, we must all come down from the mountain to where the God view seems to grow dimmer and the world view looms larger. We bump into problems, we see needs around us, and it is God's plan that with His power and love we reach out to touch those people and circumstances with the beauty we've seen on the mountaintop. As the worldview seeks to obscure the God view within us, we must continually claim God's view of ourselves and 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. What difference does it make to how we live our life each day that God is watching over us?