

***EXPERIENCING* the Almighty**

Those times are not just for “Bible” times

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NOTE: *Some of you just read the notes and don't hear the audio. On this sermon even much more than others, I recommend you hear the audio and have the notes in front of you. The numerous STORIES that illustrate the points and make this message come alive will only be on the AUDIO version. It would take too long to write every word out. So please – listen to the audio.*

** **

Good morning, family of God Most High. I gave this message at the Feast of Tabernacles 2015 on the last day of the Feast, the **21st day of the Hebrew 7th month.**

Prophetically, if the Feast of Tabernacles pictures the Millennium, by the end of the Feast, *Sukkot*, we're depicting the last portion of the Millennium.

By that time, **JEREMIAH 31:34** says no longer will people be telling their neighbor to come to “know the LORD – YHVH”, but that the knowing of Yehovah will be thorough – like waters covering the sea. Everyone will know Yahweh – the LORD -- from the least to the greatest. In that passage of scripture, God's excitement is palpable.

Jeremiah 31:34

"No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know Yahweh,' for they ALL shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says Yahweh. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

THIS pictures a time *AFTER* the Wedding Supper of the Lamb of God. By the time of the Millennium, the Bride (the church) has been married to Christ a while. But right now – we're engaged, betrothed to the Son of the Almighty.

2 COR 11:2

“For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I *may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*”

Of course Paul clearly ties the Bride of Christ to those being called out now, the church of God, as you can see in other passages - - such as **Ephesians 5:22-32**, especially verses 25-27. Yeshua sometimes referred to himself as “the Bridegroom” (**Matthew 9:15**). Paul repeats the emphasis that the church is to be the Bride – in **Romans 7:4**.

So if we're engaged to the Son of God now – I want to ask you this: Did your fiancé or fiancée want to see you? Did you want to see your fiancée/fiancé? Did he or she want to send messages to you – and you to him/her? Or was your contact with each other rather obscure?

You *know* you made time to receive and send messages, to be with that person, to even APPEAR to one another. As the betrothed of Christ, should we expect any *less* from Yeshua?

For that matter, El Shaddai – God Almighty Most High -- is our FATHER, our Abba, our Daddy. Don't you think He will avail himself of every opportunity to let you – his child – experience Him? And doesn't he want to experience YOU? Of course!

I'm talking today about EXPERIENCING our Savior, and experiencing God Almighty in much more concrete terms than just in prayer and Bible study. I'm not minimizing those; I'm just saying there is much much more that can be happening.

Are we to assume that God no longer speaks to, appears to, sends angels to, gives visions to – his beloved people and that we should just accept those days are long gone? Or are the best *theophanies* – God revealing himself to people – still ahead of us?

We're soon coming into the worst time the world has ever seen. We're going to have to have confidence He's there, he's hearing us, he's acting for us and revealing himself to us. We'll have peace if we know He's right there – and there's no doubt in our minds.

So, have you been EXPERIENCING God in your life?

For example: The **Early church around 69 AD was told at one of their meetings to get out of Jerusalem/Israel – and they fled to Pella.** They were saved when they obeyed the voice they heard. Are we ready for that? The rest of the Jews stayed and were slaughtered by the Roman legions in 70 AD.

I believe God and Christ should be as real to us today as your husband or wife is real to you; as your kids are real to you. As real as the person you're talking to, standing in front of you. We should know God's presence is with us just as real as the High Priest experiencing the *shekinah* glory of the Holy of Holies – virtually moment by moment, if He's real to us at all.

Some use Hebrews 1 to teach that -- sure – in the days of the Old Testament prophets, God appeared to the prophets, but now we have to content ourselves with the written Word, now that Christ has come. Certainly the written Word is terrific, but I submit – there is so much more we can be experiencing.

The early church believers were filled with the Holy Spirit. Scripture says so in many places. **Even after Christ's resurrection, hundreds saw Yeshua, they heard God's voice. They had visions, angels appeared to various ones, and there were prophecies and powerful miracles. People were raised from the dead. They continued to EXPERIENCE GOD even after the resurrection and ascension.**

HAS THAT STOPPED?*

- Stephen's face shone like an angel's face as they were about to stone him. Acts 6:15
- **Peter** had visions, showing him it was time to take the gospel to the GENTILES.... (remember Cornelius – Acts 10)
- **The early group of elders in Antioch** Syria all got the same message from the Holy Spirit – to separate out Paul and Barnabas for a special mission. How did that happen? **Acts 13:2.** Can we still hear the Holy Spirit speak to us as well?

- Paul spoke of the Holy Spirit forbidding him from going here or there **Acts 16:6-7. How was that communicated so clearly ahead of time?** Was that just for Paul, or there for us to realize the Holy Spirit still speaks to us?

That's what I'm talking about today. That Abba and Yeshua – Jesus Christ – still want you to EXPERIENCE a closer relationship with them, AND have more moments when you know that you know God was here! Moments when you ask yourself in wonder – “What just happened?”

Not just for prophets

Prophets and apostles certainly had those moments. But so did the regular people.

- **HAGAR** – an Egyptian ex-slave who gave Abraham a son – Ishmael -- experienced God directly. Genesis 21:14-21
- **The 2 unnamed disciples on the road to Emmaus did.** Luke 24:13-32
- A disciple in Damascus named **Ananias was tapped to baptize Paul-- Acts 9**

These people not only “knew” the Messiah but EXPERIENCED him. You can too!

Let's start with KNOWING God and Yeshua. How important is it to really *know* him?

Do you know that you know Messiah? Look how important it is to KNOW him, according to Yeshua (Jesus) himself:

John 17:3

And this is ETERNAL LIFE, that they may KNOW You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

How about the Apostle Paul? If anyone had experienced God – he did. Was he unique? Be turning to Philippians 3. He had had, after all:

- Acts 9- the road to Damascus experience...
- Acts 18:9—in Corinth, vision – “don't fear”
- Acts 23:11—Yeshua STOOD beside him after almost being torn apart in Jerusalem – “Be of good cheer... must testify in Rome.”
- Acts 27:23-24—angel stood by and said the ship would sink but all lives would be spared. Paul knew his God was right there.
- we know Paul was given lots of gifts of the Spirit – could HEAL, raise the dead, speak in tongues, preach, prophesy – you name it, he experienced it.

And yet Paul himself was not healed of thorn in the flesh, stoned, beaten with rods, left for dead, shipwrecked, jailed, was in the middle of riots.... Hardly a charmed life....

Philippians 3:7-14

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 **and be found in Him**, not having my own righteousness, which is

from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 **that I may KNOW HIM and the power of His resurrection,** and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

So if anyone in the New Testament times had **experienced** Christ – besides the 12 apostles – it was Paul. And yet he speaks in a tense that implies it's an ongoing PROJECT... "THAT I may **KNOW HIM**..." And he GOES ON to say in verses 12-14 that he didn't feel he had already attained to that level. It's a lifelong GOAL.

We're coming into the most AWESOME TIMES in all history – and TERRIFYING times, if we don't know God intimately, but we're also coming into times when – if we're ready – we could be RECEIVING revelations and outpourings of the Spirit like the early fledgling church did.

Must hasten to add:

It's critical HE also knows us! Remember what he said in **Matthew 7:21-23** that he will say to SOME PEOPLE "Depart from me you workers of lawlessness (iniquity) for I DON'T know you."

Obviously there are many passages that show us that we must repent, change sinful directions of our life and let Christ LIVE IN US – OBEDIENTLY – and walk as he walked, or we can't say we really know him. ***1 John 2:3-6.***

So let's be clear: I understand that to KNOW GOD or Christ clearly includes seeking him, obeying him, loving him, and walking as he walked – obediently.

But my topic today is experiencing God in dramatic powerful ways.

I can watch **thunderstorms and lightning** on **videos** – and come to know **thunderstorms** to some degree. But when you have MANY thunderstorms right over your home (Describe) – BANG, GE-BANG, BANG – BOOM – and one HITS YOUR HOUSE (TELL STORY)... now you're EXPERIENCING lightning and thunderstorms.

Is it WEIRD to experience God and have messages, visions and see angels?

I hesitate to give you a couple examples of what I mean, because frankly – we've been so programmed to think 'Oh, that's really weird... I dunno...'

But stories from the Bible – if you hadn't already heard them – could seem very strange too. Examples:

- Balaam's talking donkey or ass ... Could sound very strange to hear that story.
- When **Elisha** asked God to open his servants' eyes to see the hordes of angelic chariots circling invisibly above the city **2 Kings 6:15-17**

ARE angels as REAL TO YOU TODAY in whatever building you're in?

- Or when David inquired of God as to the battle plan against the Philistines – and was told “here’s the battle plan; when you hear the marching (angels) in the top of the mulberry trees, then attack” - - **2 Sam. 5:23-24.**

2 STORIES of my own now ... out of many, many I could give. NOT saying I have everything go well for me. I've lost a son. Have had huge trials like many of you.

Hear on the audio about my STORY of being given a message while having breakfast... very clear message, “Call Jim”.

Then 3-1/2 yrs ago, we had another vivid experience from God: (again, hear the audio for the full exciting story). Loren AND DORELLA – IN Ventura, CA -- Medicaid office ... Panera Bread restaurant... Did we see and talk to an angel? (Hear the exciting story).

And what about great healings, great miracles? Are they over with?

John 14:12

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and GREATER works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."

I know they're not over! Last year I had 2 MRIs that showed me with enlarged spleen, enlarged heart and enlarged liver and possible brain tumor. 2014 was a tough year of faith.... CANCER INSTITUTE OF FLORIDA.... Scary if I dwelt on what I could see and feel. (Full story on audio)

ALL OF THAT disappeared on later measurements and tests. Yeshua promised GREATER works than even HE did – to the end of the age – but we have to believe, surrender, and EXPECT – and look for it. ASK for it.

Yahweh also let us be part of an instant major healing in 2013 in Colorado with a man who had had a major stroke. His wife had serious back pain from herniated disc and scoliosis. **Both were instantly healed by God (Steve and Linda B.). The man's strength returned, his normal voice and speech returned, and he could walk miles – where before he was extremely weak. God still heals. He has not retired. He has not quit healing.**

ASK to experience a revelation of God's glory and we will be more likely to receive an answer. Ask and you shall receive. Remember Moses asked God to reveal his glory on Mt Sinai (Exodus 33:18). What if he had not asked? So YOU ask too! Try it.

EVEN YOU

Or perhaps you feel – “Why would Almighty God reveal himself in such a powerful way to sinful ME? I could see Him revealing himself to prophets and apostles – but to me.”

- But God also revealed himself in various ways *even to UNCONVERTED people* -- **ALL 3 MILLION unconverted children Israelites at Mt. Sinai – all experienced God.**

Even people like **Balaam**, the Babylonian emperors, and for that matter ALL the people who experienced Yeshua and his miracles on earth were unconverted. Even **Herod** experienced God, though it wasn't very pleasant, after he refused to give the Creator glory (Acts 12:20-23).

Even the big name prophets – all of them – were VERY HUMAN, with very human sinfulness like *David, Jacob, and Peter*. *Even spiritual giants like Abraham and Moses* all had giant faults too.

So don't think you have to be perfect or angelic before God will reveal himself to you in strong thoughts, messages, healings, miracles and answered prayer.

Yahweh Reveals Himself in different ways to match Personalities

As I discuss *how* God wants to reveal himself... **remember HE made you, and made you UNIQUE**. Nobody else in the universe is just like you. Your fingerprints are unique. Your eyes are unique. HE made you for HIS reasons, for HIS glory – and as I give examples today remember *He will reveal himself to you IN YOUR SPECIFIC way that YOU need, in order to see, hear and feel him and come to know Him closely.*

For example – just like the way Yah revealed himself and had Israel experience him at Mt Sinai in Exodus 19-20 was very different from the way he revealed himself with Elijah at that same spot – NOT in the fire, was not in the earthquake (compare Psalm 114), was NOT in the windstorm – but in relative SILENCE.

1 Kings 19:11-13

11 Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before YHVH." And behold, YHVH passed by, and a great and strong **wind** tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before YHVH, but YHVH was not in the wind; and after the wind an **earthquake**, but YHVH was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a **fire**, but YHVH was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

The actual Hebrew for "still small voice" was an IDIOM – actually meaning stark silence! I got that from a Jewish Hebrew scholar. Not a sound! It was so dramatic that Elijah knew Yah was in that silence!

13 So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

My point: God's character never changes, but he does change HOW he lets us experience Him or how He reveals himself. We're all so unique and HE knows it, because HE made you and made me. What impacts you and what works for you may not work for me. So he works with each of us differently – just as I explained how He revealed himself differently to Israel from what He did with Elijah at the same spot, at Mt. Sinai.

Your experiencing God will be different yet again. Because you're unique, God will give you your own unique moments. Don't try to make your "Experiencing God moments" be like anyone else's. Again, you're unique. You're special. You will meet God in the way that lets you best experience Him if you open your eyes and ears and are ready for it. Remember that Yeshua said special insight is given to those who have ears to hear and eyes to see – Matthew 13:43.

"Experiencing God" Defined

So what do I mean by "experiencing God"? I mean those "what just happened?" moments of life when you know something Supernatural has happened.

These frankly can be awesomely inspiring and wonderful times. These can sometimes be times of God's spankings – because he loves us.... And in those moments, you will also know you are experiencing God. So I'm explaining these "experiencing God" moments as all over the map. They can be deliriously joyful moments or they can be moments of warning, punishment and judgment. But recognize them as moments when HE is interacting with you – yes even you!

It could be "simple" such as an unexpected phone call you get or it can be an incredible answered prayer, or a strong THOUGHT that you know you didn't generate. It could be a powerful miracle. It can be a sudden awareness of quiet – and God's presence. It could be something as simple as something in NATURE – in God's creation – that you somehow know was HIM saying He is there with you. OR it can be incredibly complex and powerful as a set of situations come to the fore, such as everything that happened when Israel was brought out of Egypt.

The experience will be different for each one of us, because we are all so incredibly unique and special to our Maker. So your experiences can be very different from what I'm describing. That's great! That's wonderful! Because HE made you – and thinks you're beautiful and wonderful.

EVEN CHILDREN can be experiencing these. Remember Samuel? He was but a child. David – a teenager. Jeremiah – a teenager. So many others. So any children hearing this: I'm talking to you as well.

BEST WAY TO GET TO KNOW SOMEONE

So what's the one best way to really experience someone, to really get to know someone? Sure, we could walk with, take time with, talk to, be with, work with But you can have all of those if you would... LIVE with that person.

When you *LIVE with* someone over months and years – you really see all the possible sides of that person. *So to live with that person usually leads us to come to know and EXPERIENCE that person better.* Keep that in mind. LIVE WITH a person. So guess what Yahweh does?

John 14:23 NKJV

*Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; **and My Father will love him, and WE will come to him and make Our home with him.**"*

1 Corinthians 3:16

“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that **the Spirit of God dwells in you?”**

Since our Abba/Daddy in heaven wants you to experience Him and HE wants to really get to know your every moment – guess what? He offers to move into our hearts and lives (Ephesians 3:17) and allows us to be IN HIM as well by His Spirit.

Really grasp the magnitude of that.

To LIVE with someone for some time – you have to really love them. Otherwise there are sparks. Or divorces. Or separations. Sure. But one thing is certain when you LIVE with someone: you should be EXPERIENCING one another. You should be seeing and learning new things about each other. You should know that you’ve seen them in a thousand different situations and are learning what each one is really like. You see what they’re like when tired, or sick, or happy, or when they first get up—or late at night. You EXPERIENCE one another.

*If we’re not experiencing God, perhaps we have locked him outside our home –HIS home – like the Laodiceans (Revelation 3:20). Perhaps He’s knocking on our door but we can’t hear him because we’re not home, or are sound asleep – or have too much noise going on, or *don’t want* to open the door. Perhaps we’re naked and not ready to open the door. We’ve taken off our filthy garments of sin but have not yet put on Christ, and we’re miserable, poor and naked – like the Laodiceans.*

But if God is living in you and me, we should be experiencing him. Open the door. Tune in to him. ASK for him to reveal himself in your life.

For how long?

Mark Twain said “Fish and guests stink after 3 days.” Lol. So to be with someone for more than 3 days, you have to really *want* to be with that person.

And how long does God want us to live with him? For forever and ever (1 John 2:17). He has given us eternal life – so we CAN be with him forever. What does that say about his love for you? How much does God love YOU? Would you say the Father loved Jesus? How about you? Yeshua is praying to God the Father in John 17 – look what he says:

John 17:23

“I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them AS You have loved Me.”

CJB – ‘have loved them JUST AS you have loved me.’

Little ol’ you and me! God loves you and me like Yeshua, like Jesus.

So God refers to you – to church brethren – as “beloved of God” – Romans 1:7. Colossians 3:12 says we are the “elect of God, holy and beloved...”

WHY AM I SAYING ALL THIS? Because you won't fully – or correctly – experience someone who loves you, until and unless you BELIEVE THEY LOVE

you! We have to let their love flow. Someone who is doubtful of a father's love, or doubtful of anyone at all – will not be able to receive love and loving experiences properly.

But since we've all sinned – and some of us with sordid and humongous sins – we tend to think that God begrudgingly accepts us, and maybe is even embarrassed by us. Don't you think that sometimes? But look what God's word affirms for us:

Hebrews 2:11

"For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason **He is not ashamed to call them [that includes US] brethren...**"

So get over this feeling that God won't reveal himself in his own way to YOU. He will! HIS way, HIS timing, when HE wants to – if we invite him to and want him to as well.

KING MESSIAH Yeshua, Jesus the King of Kings is not ashamed of you and me. Like the hymn – "As the Deer" says: "... you're my friend, and you are my brother, even though you are the king..." And He IS your friend, he IS your brother, and He does love you deeply.

Abba loves you like he does Jesus Christ. Did he interact with Yeshua, with Jesus? Of course. And now that we're in Christ in God, like Col 3:3 says—Father seeks interaction with you.

SO – what do we have:

- We're the temple of God's presence. As such, he wants a GLORIOUS temple that reveals the glory of God.
- God the Father and Jesus live in us by His spirit because Abba loves you as Jesus
- *The Eternal wants to live with you for forever and ever.*
- AS the betrothed to Yeshua – he wants you to experience his life and his love, a LOT more than you are.

Let's get back to being the Temple.

When Solomon inaugurated the new PHYSICAL temple, we read in 2 CHRON 7:1-3 that FIRE from heaven consumed the sacrifice on the altar and God's glory was evident.

2 Chronicles 7:1-3

*When Solomon had finished praying, **fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of Yehovah filled the temple.** 2 And the priests could not enter the house of Yehovah, because the glory of Yehovah had filled Yehovah's house. 3 When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of Yehovah on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised Yehovah, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever."*

WE'RE HIS TEMPLE today. Yahweh has not changed. He wants to fill his present temple, which is you and me -- with his glory and his divine shekinah presence as well – if we would dedicate ourselves to him and seek His presence.

We can be experiencing GOD a lot more than we currently have been.

TIPS ON EXPERIENCING God's "what's just happened moments" more often

1. **REPENT OF OUR PRIDE AND SINS** – AND SURRENDER EVERYTHING TO HIM. GET OUT OF THE WAY. See HIM MORE – and less of you.

John the Baptist said: "He must increase, and I must decrease." **John 3:30**

Paul – said everything he ever had was nothing but rubbish or dung and he gave it all up for the excellence of knowing Jesus as we read earlier in Philippians 3:1-12.

1 John 2:3-6—can't claim to know him if we refuse to keep his commandments and walk with him obediently. We must walk as he did: obediently. Humbly. With faith.

And yet, to whom DID Yeshua reveal himself the most – the religious leaders – or repentant sinners?

- Woman at the well John 4 – she had been a very sinful woman.
- The woman caught in the act of adultery John 8
- Zacchaeus, Herod's IRA man who ripped people off of their money -- Luke 19
- Luke 7:42-47 The woman weeping over and anointing his feet – Yeshua admitted her sins were many but that she knew it and was repentant. He added that those who know they are forgiven much, tend to love much more than those self-righteous folk who look down on people with sinful pasts. News bulletin: we've ALL had sinful enough pasts worthy of the death penalty.

2. **THE PEOPLE OF GOD MUST LOVE EACH OTHER** – to see the revelation of Christ. We read earlier how workers of iniquity/lawlessness will not be known by God, but there's more. Our Father and our King do not like it at all when we refuse to reconcile with our brethren who attend "over there" – or gossip about them.

Remember Yeshua said we should reconcile even before praying. And he said everyone will know who the true disciples are by their profound love for one another (John 13:34 -35).

1 John 3:14 HOLMAN

*We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. **The one who does not love remains in death.***

This means putting up with one another. Forgiving one another – that gives us something in common with God when we do this. As we forgive and love one another, God is much more apt to reveal his glory to us.

Don't participate in the "church wars". Cross organizational lines. SPLINTER groups – splinters are painful to the body. Don't be part of that.

Do you really think the Bride of Christ is going to be composed of people who – for the most part – want nothing to do with one another? LOVE one another – even those guys and gals "over there" – at the other group.

I also believe we would see more healings if we would esteem and discern the body of Christ better – which is the group of believers. **Read 1 Cor 11:29-30.**

3. **FOLLOW THOSE STRONG URGES YOU GET AND** you'll get them more frequently. DO "TEST THE SPIRITS" however (1 John 4:1)
 - **Story of the lady in Netherlands – was 2:30 a.m. my time**, tired, turned computer off, heading for bed. I got a strong thought/message: "Go check your email". *The rest of the story is on the audio.* She had been praying that I would call her and affirm God's love for her in spite of various things she discussed. I had never known or met this person before – but God heard her prayer and I walked back down to the office, turned on the computer, saw her email, and called her. It ended up being a very moving call for both of us. God was teaching me lessons too.

What if I had not believed or done what the strong urge and thoughts were telling me? But now I get things like that happening several times a year.

God is not mute. God has not retired. God still enjoys talking with you. Strong thoughts or urges – test the spirits, yes – but do believe and then act on them.

4. **WHEN YOU PRAY, LET YAHWEH ALSO TALK to YOU!** Yahweh wants you to speak to him in prayer – but He would also like to talk to *you*. He would like you to hear his answer for you while you pray.

Prayer is a relationship, not just a prayer list. Yes, I use lists – but the best part for me is when I stop for a while and ask Abba or Yeshua to speak to me. And guess what? Sometimes they do. Not in voices I hear – but in strong urges and thoughts I know are not originating from me.

So I usually use a **NOTEPAD** beside me as I pray. I pray ... then I say, "Please speak to me. What you want me to hear from you." Most of the time, frankly, I get nothing. But other times, I start writing like crazy and can't keep up with the strong thoughts.

So yes, INVITE HIM to speak to you.

Think of this as a radio that is broadcasting all kinds of messages – and we just have to tune in to Him. BE tuned in. Be one of those who have ears to hear.

I do this ***when preparing a sermon*** – before, during and after as well. **On the audio of this sermon**, I give a story of woman praying for a particular topic she needed help on. She was praying while I was preparing the next day's sermon. God must have heard her, because it was clear to me that God wanted me to cover something else – what the woman was praying about!

Any of you who speak at church services, don't even think of preparing his words for the group without FIRST asking him to guide you on topic, what to say, what HE wants, etc.

5. GET QUIET! You'll more likely hear God in times of quiet. In the world, Satan throws "Weapons of Mass DISTRACTION" at us.

Do we have to have a TV blaring all the time? Can we not drive sometimes with just quiet – or perhaps have peaceful hymns of praise if you must want something. Must we have Talk Radio or rap or high energy music blaring?

Where do you spend your time? Is it focused on Facebook? Do we spend more time in Social media than God's word? Or VIDEO GAMES. NOISE. QUIET DOWN. How much more time could we all have if we just quiet down our lives more? How more likely will we be to HEAR when He speaks – if the world's competing noises and distractions aren't going on?

Elijah experienced God when it got all quiet. Yahweh brought Israel into the quiet **wilderness**.... And there married them after he gave them his law.

Try to GO WALK with God – or with Yeshua – in the cool of the day. I like to commune while gardening. We can come to know our Creator better as we learn about creation and enjoy it.

6. ASK HIM – BEFORE you start Bible study – to reveal HIMSELF to you.

Too many of us study primarily for doctrine. For learning the scriptures. For winning a debate. Or to study a topic of scripture. Some of those could be OK.

How about *not* just knowing the BOOK, but getting to know the Author?
Come to where you want HIM -- more than data, more than the Greek or Hebrew.

Or are we more interested in conspiracy theories, the Illuminati, FEMA camps, CERN, chem trails, what the Masons are up to, or what Obama is doing, or what the Pope's doing...

John 5:39-40

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to ME that you may have life.

7. Make FREQUENT contacts with your Savior and Father throughout each day.

When my grandsons call me on the phone – my HEART SINGS! ABBA put that joy inside me. ABBA LONGS to hear **your** voice, to see you, to have you visit him. He wants and longs for that interaction! Claim it, use it. You can feel his SORROW when we don't come to him in Isaiah 1 for example.

Think of it: In OLD COVENANT – one man alone could come before the *shekinah* presence of God, and only on the Day of Atonement. ONE MAN. One day. That was it.

But now, because the heavenly veil has been rent – and Yeshua has presented Himself and now sits before God's presence constantly, all of us can come before the real Holy of Holies any time day or night, 24/7. So let's take advantage of that.

8. SPEAK, LIVE AND ACT as if YOU TRULY BELIEVE YOU BELONG to HIM – and HE BELONGS TO YOU.

- He's LONGING for the time when he can say in our hearing: "You are my people, and I am your God, your Elohim."
- He put this into the **Song of SONGS** so we can understand our relationship with Yeshua – "I am my BELOVED's, and MY Beloved is MINE." **Song of Songs 6:3**

Try this: don't just speak of "God" or "Yahweh" – but speak of "MY God", "MY Savior" and MY Messiah, MY king – not just "THE king". **Assignment:** do a Concordance study of "my God" – and read through the over 100 scriptures, especially in the Psalms.

We dismiss Thomas for being a "doubting Thomas" – but when He did see Yeshua, what did he say: "MY Lord, and MY God." It became very personal to Thomas. (John 20:28) Before that, Mary Magdalene was told to tell the disciples that Yeshua was ascending "*to MY Father and YOUR Father, to MY God and YOUR God*" (John 20:17). He could have just as easily said, "Tell them I'm going to God the Father." But can you hear the difference?

Something will happen in your life to bring you closer to our God – if you put this into practice. You will start to feel his presence more and see his interaction with you more.

9. When you pray and ask for God's intervention, believe you've ALREADY received your answer – BEFORE YOU ACTUALLY SEE IT. PRAISE Him BEFORE YOU SEE THE ANSWER.

Remember the story of Christ cursing the unfruitful fig tree and how a day later they found it dried up from the roots? Look at what Yeshua said:

"When you ask, believe that you have ALREADY RECEIVED" Verse 24.

Mark 11:20-24

Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. 21 And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away."

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.**"

Other translations: "Believe that you have received them".

10. EXPECT these experiences. TRUST AND BELIEVE. Then we MUST SURRENDER SELF. MUST BELIEVE. MUST TRUST.

In the story of **Lazarus' resurrection**, there's so much about experiencing God. Martha – like most of us would have done – was looking just at the facts: Her brother had been dead for 4 days now and there'd be the horrible stench of dead flesh if his tomb was unsealed. It was too late, she reasoned.

John 11:40-44

Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that **if you would believe you would see the glory of God?**"

How many of us miss seeing the glory of God, of experiencing God, because we keep looking at what we can see and feel? We focus on the "facts" and not on WHO is there with us.

41 Then **they took away the stone** from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You **that You have heard Me.** 42 And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me."

True faith will thank God for having already heard, already acted – before the tangible evidence. I recommend you hear my sermon on that topic.

43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

There's so much here. **If we believe, we will experience the glory of God – as Moses did, just in our own unique way. We have to also ask God to take away the STONE in our hearts.** That has to happen so we can see the glory of God.

Bonus point: STRETCH. If you want to experience God more – be RECEPTIVE and DO what you're being led to do. Be willing to STRETCH! (Rock climbing – sometimes had to "go for it") Someday I might expand this point into its own sermon.

- **Have you tried using YHVH – Yahweh – instead of a title like THE Lord, or THE Eternal?** Some say they never would use Hebrew names. One of the shortened versions of Yahweh used in scripture is YAH. I wrote a whole blog on that.
 - **EVERY time you say Hallelu YAH** – you're using the Hebrew name.
 - **Yeshua taught us that HALLOWED, HOLY is Father's name** – in the "Lord's Prayer"
 - **I recommend you hear my 2-part sermons "What is the Creator's Name?"**
- **RAISING your HANDS IN PRAYER** – David says he often did (Psalm 63:4; 141:2; 143:6; Psalm 28:2; 134:2). Moses did (remember Aaron and Hur supporting him?); Solomon did (2 Chron 6:12) at the dedication of the temple.

Think of yourself as a little child lifting his arms for Daddy to pick him up. Or as a child I saw in an airport one time running to her Mom with both arms outstretched. She could hardly wait.

Paul recommends it – "lifting up holy hands in prayer without wrath and doubting" --- **1 Tim 2:8 SO WHY DON'T WE?** Do it when feeling moved. I don't just do it all the time, but when feeling especially moved. Start with trying it privately as you pray in your bedroom. Then when you feel led to raise your hand in praise, if you feel a bit "self" conscious, you're missing the point.

- **Clap? Ps 47:1 (sons of Korah)** – “CLAP your hands, all you people...SHOUT TO GOD with the voice of triumph.”
- **GROUP PRAYER – ACTS 12** - Peter IN JAIL. Did they pray together, as fervently, before James was beheaded?

WHEN are we most likely to experience God?

Can happen at any time.

Question: Is experiencing God more likely to happen in good times, or tough times? When we're righteous or REPENTANT for having been sinful?

Answer: It will happen when GOD CHOOSES. But odds go much higher when we're seeking him with all our heart; when we've repented and turned from our evil ways and ASK HIM to reveal himself.

I think we seek God more fervently when we're in pain and sorrow and in need – much more than in good times. When we're almost forced to let God and trust. Those will be the times you will most likely experience God. Look what Paul said:

2 Corinthians 12:2-6 (summarized) Paul spoke of his experience of somehow seeing heaven 14 yrs earlier...

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with YHVH three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, **"MY grace is sufficient for you, for MY strength is made perfect in weakness."** *Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.* 10 Therefore **I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

At times of faith the “chances” of EXPERIENCING GOD rise considerably.

LET'S WRAP UP. I started with Jeremiah 31 – when the whole earth will be covered with the knowledge of Yah and everyone will know him. But we can be experiencing God right now. Yes, even you! He wants to come LIVE in you. He wants you to experience him.

Repent deeply. Ask for him to reveal himself – while you pray and while you study. Stretch, and try even just 1-2 of the ideas in this sermon. Become more QUIET.

When everything we know physically burns up before the new heavens and new earth, and then we get to watch the re-creation of a brand new universe and watch God's heavenly city, heavenly Jerusalem come down adorned as a Bride for her husband.... (REVELATION 21-22) – wow! EVERYONE will be experiencing God at that moment AND from then on.

But he's given you the privilege to start experiencing him more and more right now.

CLOSING PRAYER