

Heart to Heart with God

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

When two or more are gathered together in the name of the Lord, the Holy Spirit comes into their midst. When Jesus entered a room and stood in the midst of the people, that was all He had to do (John 20:26; Acts 2:22). He didn't have to perform in order to capture their attention. Though He was the focus of attention, He never drew attention to Himself, but to His Father. He just came into their midst, and the presence of eternity, love, grace, and mercy was there. Jesus just came and stood in their midst, and many were saved and many delivered.

Have you experienced times like that? Times when the presence of God was so intense that you didn't know if you could go on to the next thing? Perhaps it was just so rich that you could deeply sense the Holy Spirit, the power of His love, and the presence of His grace—a time when you were just so grateful, so thankful to be there.

This booklet was composed from words spoken in a time such as that. Part of it is from a heart-to-heart talk given before a small gathering, and we have done our best to accurately convey the essence of God's presence that we experienced there. As believers, always desiring to become more intimate with the Lord, let's allow Him to lead us into times of refreshing like this.

Chapter One

JESUS COMES INTO OUR MIDST

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

“And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you” (John 20:26).

As you look back in your life, consider the time when the Holy Spirit regenerated your soul, when He came into your heart. When the Holy Spirit moves in, He becomes our teacher—and no one can teach us like He does. Those times, when the Holy Spirit is teaching us, are the most tremendous times of growth.

If someone were to ask on a given day, “How was the church service tonight?” we could say with conviction, “Beyond the worship, the music and the message, all I can tell you is

that I met Jesus there through the Holy Spirit. I don't know how to describe it."

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful" (Psalm 1:1). What a verse! "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly...."

The Holy Spirit asks God's people to learn to trust in Him, to walk in Him, to move in Him, to breathe in Him, and to respond to Him through the Word of God. That is all He asks. He has one great desire, and that desire is to glorify Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is thrilled when we give Him opportunities to glorify Jesus Christ. Therefore, when we pray and ask something in Jesus' name, and when we believe with all of our hearts that He will do it, the Holy Spirit is delighting in glorifying Jesus Christ. We trust God the best we know how, and the Holy Spirit loves our response of faith.

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." That man will be completely happy.

David said, in Psalm 1:2, "But his delight is in the [doctrine] of the LORD; and in His [doctrine]

doth he meditate day and night.” I love that! I love to hear from heaven, from the Creator, from the One who simply spoke, and the world came into existence.

I love to hear from the One who breathed into man the breath of life, making him a living soul (Genesis 2:7), the One who speaks a word into the heart of a man and tells that man or that woman, “You are cleansed. Everything about your past is forgiven. You will never have to pay for your sin.”

He asks us, “What is the burden on your heart?” and we tell Him, “Oh, it’s my marriage.” Or, “It’s my teenager”—whatever it is.

And God says, “Do you want to tell Me all about it? Just tell Me about it. Let’s have a heart-to-heart talk. And as you tell Me all about it, I’ll move, and I’ll work, and immediately I will come into your environment and begin to serve you.”

Our Foundation—The Finished Work

We have the opportunity to walk in the Spirit—the *Holy Spirit*—who glorifies the One who holds everything together (Hebrews 1:2-3). “And he is before all things, and by him all things consist” (Colossians 1:17). Think of it!

God breathed, God spoke, and by Him all things consist—and nothing can get out of His hand. The moment that you accepted what Jesus Christ did on the Cross of Calvary, where He shed His blood and was crucified in our place—the moment He came into your heart to live, Jesus said through the Holy Spirit, “I will *never* leave you, and I will not forsake you.”

“I want you to know,” says Jesus, “that on that certain day, at an exact moment, you accepted Me as your Savior; and from that moment on, I will never, no never, no never leave you. That is a vow.” And immediately, you will have a witness of the Holy Spirit that He will never ever leave you.

I can’t even begin to describe what is on God’s heart toward His people. He loves you beyond your imagination. He loves you beyond anything you can even imagine. His love is true, and genuine, and real, and relevant, and spiritual, and active. What a wonderful Savior!

Something Wonderful

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

“But his delight is in the law of the LORD;

and in his [doctrine] doth he meditate day and night" (Psalm 1:1, 2).

A woman called the church after the radio program, and she said "That sixty-minutes I listened to radio today has completely changed my life."

When I asked her to tell me why, she said, "I can't explain it. Something wonderful took over. It was the presence of Almighty God that I've never ever had in my personal experience. A newness came in. This newness of life came into my very existence."

She went on, "I know I will never be the same again. Can you tell me more? I've got to hear more!"

When we pray and go to God our Father, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, and we say to Him, "Father, a dear friend of mine is going through hell. He must have Your help. So I'm going to kneel down, and I'm going to plead with You to touch him, to heal him. Would You please do it?"

How awesome it is to know that when that happens, the Holy Spirit begins to groan with groanings that cannot be uttered (Romans 8:26, 27). He is groaning over your prayer. Do not doubt it. He is deeply, richly, fervently, urgently

involved with what you told the Father. He groans with groanings that cannot be uttered.

True Wealth

God has given every single child of God thousands of promises in Scripture. If only we could realize how deep and how rich those promises are, we would begin to realize how rich we are just to be alive. With all the troubles that are happening in the world, we have God the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, and the Body of Jesus Christ. We have one another. We have the precious Word of God, the Book of books. I cannot comprehend the beauty of it. Where would we be without it?

And to think that God made the heavens and the earth with His Word (Psalm 33:6)! That Word is forever settled in heaven (Psalm 119:89). Think of it: Jesus Christ framed the worlds with the Word of God. In Hebrews 11:3, He framed the worlds—our solar system, the entire universe. Consider that when Jesus Christ spoke the living Word, some magnificent, supernatural, indescribable things happened. How is that possible? It is a *living* Word, the precious Word of Christ.

Let Us Glory in Knowing God

“But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD” (Jeremiah 9:24).

This is not a sermon; it is a message from the heart. With you and with your hearts, we join each other by saying to our Father, “We have no idea where we would be without You.” Wandering, waiting, in some cases shipwrecked, weak, failing, in frailty—still, the Holy Spirit comes in to fill us. The Word of God comes in, quickening us in His righteousness (Psalm 119:40), by His Spirit and His grace.

Oh, to know that by the grace of God we are ready to meet Him! It is not because we are good enough; it is because we have His goodness. It is not because we love enough, but it is because He has given us His love. It is not because we forgive enough, but it is because we have in Him all the forgiveness we will ever need.

Hear from the Promisor

“Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

“My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my

speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:

“Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God” (Deuteronomy 32:1-3).

I am so thankful! I am grateful that whether it is sickness, or sorrow, or heartache, or family trials—of all that could happen in a moment of time to us, we have the great Promisor.

The Holy Spirit comes to us and whispers softly, saying, “Listen. I want you to know that I hear every whisper from your heart. There is not a moment when I am not involved with your every thought from afar (Psalm 139:2). I am involved with everything about you.”

Trust Him with all of your heart. If you want to experience a plan and a purpose that goes beyond anything you could ever think of, just trust Him with your whole heart. Don't lean on your own understanding. Acknowledge the Lord in all your ways, and I guarantee that He will direct your path. That is a promise (Proverbs 3:5, 6).

Chapter Two

HOW CAN A MAN MEET GOD?

“Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

“And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

“And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

“And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

“And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

“Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and

the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

“And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

“And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites” (Exodus 3:1-8).

I don't know if we thoroughly understand what it means, spiritually, to meet God, with His still, small voice. Yet, something eternal begins to develop the moment a man or a woman or a young person meets God.

I remember when I met God for the first time, I did not hear Him audibly nor did I see Him with my eyes. I can't even begin to explain it to you. I well imagine the same story is true with many of you.

Oh, to meet God! To go through life seeing the curses of heartaches, sickness, disease, needs, pain, division—to see situations that just don't appear able to be changed, though of

course, they can be. And so many situations are sent until, finally, we meet God.

I didn't have any concept of what it would be like to meet God. I didn't understand Him. But one day it happened. I finally met God. And one day many of you met God—the Redeemer, the One who shed His blood for our sins. Never once has there been a time in His eternal history when He has not forgiven sins. For every moment in His plan and purpose, He loves every individual completely. That is His nature.

When Moses Met God

The whole key to having a prosperous, spiritual life is to meet God.

Moses was called by God to deliver Israel out of Egypt. But in anger, Moses killed an Egyptian soldier. Pharaoh found it out immediately, as well as the Jews who didn't like Moses.

Fearful, insecure, resentful, bitter, and hurting, Moses left Pharaoh's courts and escaped into Midian. But how long would he stay in Midian? How long would he be gone? After all, he was God's man. Would he ever come back?

Then, after forty years, Moses happened upon the burning bush. Now it was time for Moses to meet God. An angel was in the bush—

the angel of God, the angel that *was* God. Moses could not fathom it. But as he stood there, God said, “Moses. Moses, take your shoes off. The place where you are standing is very holy.”

Why was that place called holy? In this case, a man was meeting God there. The presence of God is always very holy. Whether you are talking with God in the garage, in the car, or in your bedroom, the place where a man meets God is very holy. That is how God sees it.

What made that such an unusual meeting for Moses? The presence of God was in that bush. The fire was burning, trying to teach us about the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 4:4), trying to teach us about the Word of God (Jeremiah 15:16 and 20:9, and Matthew 3:11).

There was that old bush, and there was a man who had been backslidden for forty consecutive years. He was well educated, and Acts 7 says he was brilliant as a military leader. But Moses, now fearful and insecure, met God that day.

Chapter Three

WAITING ON GOD

Remember the times when you have met God—intimate, personal times when you sensed His words and His thoughts. You sensed that He was there to talk with you, to deal with you, to help you. Perhaps it was because of failure or because of a great need; you just couldn't see the answer coming, and you started to faint. Maybe it was because of wounds, because of loving too much and getting hurt. Still, you were waiting on God.

This is a true story about George and Mary. George was in the military, and presumably he had died in combat and was considered missing in action. On a Thursday evening, Mary was reading letters from her dear husband. He had only been gone from her for a year, and as she read them, her mind would ponder and reflect. He had written to her three or four times a week and always spoke of his love for her.

She was reading a particular letter where he described what it was like to talk with her and to hold her, when unbeknownst to Mary, there was a knock at the door, and it was George. He was alive! Her mother said, "Come with me. Let her see you. This is unbelievable!"

So George went upstairs, and there was Mary reading that letter, and George looked into her eyes and grabbed her. They both knelt and just sobbed, holding each other. He had been missing in action, and now he was safe at home. What a talk they had! They didn't stop talking for days. They just talked, and they barely moved.

Your family is so vital. Mom, dad, children, brother, sister, husband, wife—each one is so vital, so sacred. People have board meetings, business meetings—all very important. Likewise, we ought to have family meetings where everyone gathers around the table and shares how much each one means to one another. Gather around the table regularly and share how much you love each other and tell them why. Try it out. You will love it.

But even more importantly, instead of being occupied with all the pressures of life, we need to have meetings with God.

He Pulled Us Out of a Horrible Pit

Moses was in the wilderness, backslidden, and God was there too, addressing him from the burning bush: “Moses. Moses! Take off your shoes. The place where you are standing is holy.”

Moses repented and recovered, and at last, he was ready to go forward in the plan of God. God would have to continue to convince him that because of mercy and grace, he was worthy. But Moses was now ready to go.

What a meeting that must have been, that day when Moses began to discover that he would still be used mightily by God to lead the entire nation of Israel out of bondage. The backsliding was over. Forgiveness was complete.

Then we have Isaiah, a prophet who didn't know God (Isaiah 6). But after the king whom he loved died, Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up, and the glory of God filled the temple. He saw the seraphim with wings that covered their eyes and their feet—wings of obedience, wings of action, ready to obey. The wings were the only visible part of the angels, because they were only used to glorify God in obedience and to speedily execute His will.

Then the smoke filled the temple, and the

temple began to shake. It was time for Isaiah's meeting.

"Woe is me! for I am undone. I am a man with unclean lips in the midst of a people of unclean lips." "Woe is me," Isaiah said, because he was getting ready to meet God.

Then the angel took a coal from off the altar with the tongs, touched his lips, and purged his iniquity. The Lord said, "Who will go for us?" and Isaiah said, "Here am I; send me."

Isaiah had finally met God.

Prepare to Meet God

Get ready. Get ready for the privilege of meeting God. Never mind all the distractions and all the pressures and all the details of your life. Daily, get ready to meet God.

In John 4, there was the woman at the well, and Jesus said, "I thirst."

Immediately she said, "I have water here."

Then He said, "I have water to give you, and if you drink of it, you will never ever thirst again. It will be a well of water springing up into everlasting life." And Jesus said, "Now, go get your husband," to which she replied, "I have no husband."

He said, "You're right. You have had five

husbands, and the man you're living with now is not your husband."

That immoral woman was meeting God. *She was meeting God.*

When a man or a woman or a teenager finds a place and a time to wait on the Lord and the presence of God comes in, there is a meeting with God. You can't explain it. It is so rich. It is so deep. It is so real. Those meetings have meant everything to me.

Recently, before we went on our weekly outreach, the presence of God came in for a solid hour after the prayer meeting. The Spirit of God flooded that place. It was overwhelming, unexplainable.

In John 5, a man who had been sick for thirty-eight years was waiting for someone to place him in the pool of Siloam for healing. But he had no one to put him in the water where, supposedly, an angel stirred up the water and he could get healed. Jesus said to him, "You have been this way for thirty-eight years. Would you like to be made whole?"

The man said, "Yes, I certainly would, but there is no one to put me in the water."

Jesus said, "Will you be healed? If so, just take up your bed and walk."

And he said, "I will."

There, a man met God for physical healing.

God is waiting to be gracious. Meet with Him. Get to know Him. Get ready for a great blessing when He comes into your midst.

CONCLUSION

In Genesis, we find Moses, a backslider who could not hide from God. In Isaiah, there is a prophet who felt unworthy because he really didn't know God. In John 3, a religious man, who did not know the way, inquired of Jesus, who told him, "Except you be born again, you cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven." In John 4, Jesus met the immoral woman. In John 5, He met with the man who had been sick for thirty-eight years.

Over and over again—whether it was Rebekah, Rachel, Joshua, David, or Peter—we read about people meeting God. In those meetings, He touches their lives and their personal walk with Him.

God said to Moses, "You know, I am with you to deliver you, to lead you, and to guide you" (Exodus 3).

It is beyond our natural ability to comprehend. God is here. We feel so unworthy. Yet,

God is here, and He is calling us by name.

Heavenly Father, Thank You for making a way for us to know You. Thank You for being so willing to come to us as a man, to show us the way. Thank You for giving us Your Holy Spirit to lead us there. Our hearts' desire is to meet with You on purpose each day, to have Your mind and Your thoughts in every situation through Your Word. Continue to draw us to Yourself. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.