

## He who comes to God

### Introduction

During January- we are focusing on the first part of our mission statement- Encounter God.

#### Encounter God, Love People, Share Life

Encounter God ... Identity

Love People ... Culture

Share Life ... Purpose

Out of this mission statement comes six areas that we are to focus on/build into ...

#### 1. Presence and Power

Any study of God's Word that does not lead to an encounter w/resurrected Christ- misses mark.

Jesus modeled for us how to live as His disciples-

#### **Luke 9:1-2 (NASB95)**

**<sup>1</sup>And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases.**

**<sup>2</sup>And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.**

Jesus- our example- He called us, commissioned us, and empowered us for life/ministry.

**We are called to live in His presence and walk in His power.**

#### 2. Healing

This is an area that has been spoken prophetically over us as a church for years.

#### **Mark 16:17-18 (NASB95)**

**17“These signs will accompany those who have believed ... lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”**

Healing is part of Jesus redemptive work on the cross and therefore part of our inheritance.

#### 3. Prophetic (supernatural) Culture

We are to provide an environment for the gifts of the HS to operate- individually/corporately.

I want to see God's prophetic voice released in worship/teaching/prayer/testimonies.

**Rev 19:10 ... For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”**

When someone gives a testimony it releases a prophetic word others- take a hold of.

#### 4. Culture of Honor

**Honor is where you celebrate who a person is without stumbling over who they are not.” – Bill Johnson**

We are the best thing God ever created because we have been made in His image/likeness.

God sent Samuel to anoint a king for Israel ...

**1Sam16:7 God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”**

We want to see people by the destiny God has for their lives- not by their short comings/failures.

Gossip- enemy of honor- looks at peoples flaws and ignores- high calling of God in their lives.

#### 5. Prayer and Worship

We both communicate/commune (relationship) with God through prayer/worship.

**Jam 5:16 ... The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.**

Prayer is both- tool/doorway into a relationship.

**Jn 4:23 “... true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.**

God is seeking those who will worship Him.

**As we worship God we are building a spiritual stronghold of confidence in the goodness and greatness of God.**

6. Faith and confidence in God and His Word

**We will never act inconsistent with how we view God, ourselves, others, and our circumstances.**

What we know/believe about God must be informed by God's Word.

I want to build on this sixth area this morning.

**He who comes to God?**

Recently came across an article by Bobby Conner- shares a prophetic dream he had.

He felt God gave him a warning for the church to avoid dangerous cloud- forming on horizon.

The cloud was so small Bobby wondered how it could be dangerous- that cloud was DOUBT.

**Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.**

Coming to God speaks to me of ...

- >not just knowing about Him, but
- >experiencing- reality of His life alive in us.

In other words- He who wants to Encounter God must believe that He is and He is a rewarder.

P Tony/I- talking about this w/respect to healing-

- >what role does our unbelief play?
- >how much has our rational culture affected our faith/confidence in God/His Word?

Wall Street Journal recently published an article: Science increasingly makes the case for God (Eric Metaxas).

Immediate push back- because we live in a culture that values rational thinking over faith.

**Doubt always leads to unbelief and fear.**

For doubt to become effective we must allow the doubtful thoughts to remain in our minds.

This is how a small cloud can become dangerous  
**Isaiah 26:3–4 (NASB95)**

**<sup>3</sup>“The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in You.**

**<sup>4</sup>“Trust in the Lord forever, For in God the Lord, we have an everlasting Rock.**

Perfect peace is not a state of mind- it comes out of knowing/communing w/God/relationship.

12 spies Moses sent into the promised land ...

**Numbers 13:1–2 (NASB95)**

**<sup>1</sup>Then the Lord spoke to Moses saying,**

**<sup>2</sup>“Send out for yourself men so that they may spy out the land of Canaan, which I am going to give to the sons of Israel ...**

God said- land was theirs- His promise to them.

**Num 13:32 So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great size.**

10 of the spies brought back a bad report- they doubted God's Word that the land was theirs.

**Doubt always erodes away the promises of God in our lives.**

The people allowed their natural eyes to overrule what God had spoken to them.  
What God had asked them to see through eyes of faith was erased by what saw w/natural eyes.  
God had told them, "Take the land! It is yours!"  
They began to doubt God's Word and it released unbelief and fear into their hearts.

**Whenever doubt and unbelief cloud our vision we lose sight of our inheritance.**

**Bobby Conner**

The land God had given them was one flowing with milk and honey.  
There was great provision in the land, but they looked at- giants- lost sight- God's promises.

**They chose to base their reality on what they saw rather than basing their reality on the promises of God. Bobby Conner**

Doubt led to unbelief and fear and forgetfulness concerning the past goodness of God.  
We must quickly rebuke any thoughts that arise in our minds oppose/contrary to God's Word.  
Doubt is an enemy we must quickly destroy.  
As it says- Heb 11.6- to come to God we must believe God is/He rewards of those- seek Him.  
God rewards diligent seeking of Him that is built on confidence in God and His Word.

Look at a story in the NT (2 Cor 10.3-5) ...

**Matthew 14:25, 28-31 (NASB95)**

**<sup>25</sup>And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea ...**

**<sup>28</sup>Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."**

**<sup>29</sup>And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.**

**<sup>30</sup>But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"**

**<sup>31</sup>Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"**

Peter- a man- was supernaturally defying the laws of gravity and walking on water.  
Peter stepped out of the boat in obedience to the Lord's command.

If we are willing to follow the Lord's commands and believe in His promises-  
we can also overcome natural limitations.

What caused Peter to begin to sink?  
He looked away from God's word/promises and looked at his natural circumstances.

As Peter focused on the wind/waves it opened the door for doubt in his heart.  
As a result of his doubt- which led to unbelief and fear- Jesus had to rescue him.

What can we learn from Peter?

**We must be careful not to allow the challenges of everyday life to keep us from holding onto God's Word.**

As with Peter, we must avoid focusing on the adversity or the difficulty we are facing.

Jesus cursed a fig tree- the next day the disciples passed it and saw it had withered ...

**Mark 11:22–24 (NASB95) (Jam 1.6-8)**

**22And Jesus answered saying to them, “Have faith in God.**

**23“Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him.**

**24“Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.**

For our prayers to be powerful/effective- must be prayed in faith, w/o doubt- in a Living God who wants us to come to Him.

He rewards those who diligently seek Him in faith.

### **Conclusion**

We fight doubt with faith and faith comes from exposing ourselves to God’s Word.

Two stories I want to leave us with- first story ...

John- Baptist- in prison-sends message to Jesus-

**Mat 11:3-5 (NASB95)**

**3 ... “Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?”**

**4Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you hear and see:**

**5the blind receive sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up ...**

John was a great man of faith but here, in the middle of adversity- struggles w/doubt.

Jesus- reinforces his faith by pointing to- miracles  
Second story ...

**Acts 16:25–26 (NASB95)**

**25But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;**

**26and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened.**

Paul/Silas struggled as well in their adversity but they drove back their doubt with prayer/praise. There is great power in prayer/praise in adversity. Remember ...

**Hebrews 11:6 ... he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.**

God honors and rewards diligent seeking of Him that is built on faith in God and His Word.

**Chelle’s picture on Christmas Eve**

Num 13.2- God had given them the land- take it.