

Confident Love

Encounter God: worship/thanksgiving, prayer, word, ministry/evangelism

Why Avoid Encountering God: Fear

Shame: unavoidable with Holy God (men's retreat encounter)

Is 6:5 undone/unclean Lk 5:8 separate/sinful

Control (Change): all have level of discomfort

"I'm not ready, just like Israel" story

(Ex 20:18-21) ¹⁸Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. ¹⁹Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." ²⁰And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin." ²¹So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.

plan: draw near, fear of God, not sin

withdrew, kept their fear, mediator, sinned (golden calf)

Encountering God is Easy – draw near to fiery, scary, Holy God (Jms 4:8)

Fear must be Overcome

Remedy: Revelation of His Love

(1Jn 4:16-19) ¹⁶And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹We love Him because He first loved us.

Know AND Believe God IS Love

Abide = stay in place of awareness of His love

No Fear because No Punishment (cross)

Our ability to Love Him depends on Revelation of His Love.

(Ep 3:17-19) ¹⁷that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— ¹⁹to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Grounding in Love not Optional, Prerequisite to Fullness

Context ~ (Ep 3:10-12) ¹⁰to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, ¹¹according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

He reveals His wisdom through us as we boldly/confidently access Him (Encounter)

Revelation of His Love prerequisite to Bold Confidence.

(Jn 7:37-38) ³⁷On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

Must Believe what Word says about God to get flow of river.

Experience/Wounds no excuse to question God’s character.

Must Thirst, Come to Him (Encounter)

Catch: Revelation of His Love comes through Encounter (Elizabeth story)

Risk, but leads to Confidence in Love

Challenge: Pray Eph 3 prayer for Revelation of His Love