

Experiencing God

There is a wonderful book by this name written by Henry Blackaby. The men in the Discipleship Program in the colony of Mercy study the workbook written in conjunction with it, and they love it. My thoughts today are turned to the difference between knowing God intellectually and experientially. I have met believers that have truly been believers for many (some 50 or 60 years) who after being introduced to the exchanged life have been really blessed to experience Christ in them, the Hope of Glory. The results are consistently amazing! “Why did it take so long to figure this out?” is the comment most frequently heard. How about you? Are you living the exchanged life where it is “no longer I who live, but Christ in me.” If not perhaps you too are missing out.

As I read the 119th Psalm this morning I came across this comment by Charles Spurgeon

Let Your mercies come also to me, O LORD-- Your salvation according to Your word. (Psalms 119:41 NKJV) ***“According to thy word.”*** The way of salvation is described in the word, salvation itself is promised in the word, **and its inward manifestation is wrought by the word;** so that in all respects the salvation which is in Christ Jesus is in accordance with the word. **David loved the Scriptures, but he longed experientially to know the salvation contained in them: he was not satisfied to read the word, he longed to experience its inner sense.** He valued the field of Scripture for the sake of the treasure which he had discovered in it. He was not to be contented with chapter and verse, he wanted mercies and salvation.

Spurgeon, C. H. (2009). The treasury of David, Volume 5: Psalms 111-119 (226–227). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

I like David love the Word of God but I must not love the Word for the sake of the book itself (some almost idolize the written word) but I must read it with the intent of meeting the Author. Jesus Himself said it best to the religious leaders in His day when He said; ***“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”*** (John 5:39-40 NKJV) It is that life that He places in us in the Person of the Holy Spirit.

What we need to do is get out of the way and let Christ live His life through us. Miles Stanford puts it this way; ***“Let a man renounce himself, and see himself as crucified with Christ, and soon another Himself—the Lord Jesus Christ—will take the central place in the heart, and quietly bring all things under His sway.”*** ***“It is a great thing to offer the Lord Jesus Christ as the Saviour to sinful man, but it is still greater to express Him in a world where He is rejected.”*** -J.B.S. ***“According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness”*** (2 Pet. 1:3).

So not only can we **experience** God today but we can **express** God by allowing Him to **exchange** His life for ours and live through us.

Jim Freed