

I Want MORE

Sunday, March 12, 2023

10:30 AM

Last we began a new series - I WANT MORE and concluded with the thought...

Let's take time during this series to truly consider what we want more of; to search the scriptures and be encouraged by what they promise is available to us; to make room in our lives so that God can pour out what we ask of Him; to count the cost and be willing to pay the price; to petition God - asking, seeking and knocking - until we cultivate a hunger, thirst and desire that can only be filled by God.

Our key texts are...

Matthew 5:6

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Psalm 63:1

1 You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.

Psalm 42:1-2

1 As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?

We laid the foundation with 4 important questions that we will need to continue to consider during this journey

1. Do I BELIEVE MORE is AVAILABLE?
2. Do I DESIRE MORE in MY LIFE?
3. Am I WILLING to MAKE ROOM for MORE?
4. WHAT will I ASK God for MORE OF?

Today I want to begin to answer that question with this desire...

I WANT MORE OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Join me as we look at 4 different characters in the Bible who had a desire for **MORE of the PRESENCE of God**. I would like for you to make notes for each one as we read these passages of Scripture and then I want to open it up to talk about what the Holy Spirit is showing you from each story (like we do on Wednesday Nights in our Bible Study) before I wrap things up with a few final thoughts.

Story 1: MOSES

Exodus 33:12-18

12 Moses said to the Lord, “You have been telling me, ‘Lead these people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, ‘I know you by name and you have found favor with me.’ 13 If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people.”

14 The Lord replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

15 Then Moses said to him, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. 16 How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?”

17 And the Lord said to Moses, “I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name.”

18 Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”

Exodus 34:29

29 When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord.

Story 2: DAVID

2 Samuel 6:1-9

6 David again brought together all the able young men of Israel—thirty thousand. 2 He and all his men went to Baalah[a] in Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the Name, the name of the Lord Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim on the ark. 3 They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart 4 with the ark of God on it, and Ahio was walking in front of it. 5 David and all Israel were celebrating with all their might before the Lord, with castanets, harps, lyres, timbrels, sistrums and cymbals.

6 When they came to the threshing floor of Nakon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. 7 The Lord’s anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down, and he died there beside the ark of God.

8 Then David was angry because the Lord's wrath had broken out against Uzzah, and to this day that place is called Perez Uzzah.

9 David was afraid of the Lord that day and said, "How can the ark of the Lord ever come to me?"

1 Chronicles 15:2-15

2 Then David said, "No one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, because the Lord chose them to carry the ark of the Lord and to minister before him forever."

3 David assembled all Israel in Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the Lord to the place he had prepared for it. 4 He called together the descendants of Aaron and the Levites:

12 He said to them, "You are the heads of the Levitical families; you and your fellow Levites are to consecrate yourselves and bring up the ark of the Lord, the God of Israel, to the place I have prepared for it. 13 It was because you, the Levites, did not bring it up the first time that the Lord our God broke out in anger against us. We did not inquire of him about how to do it in the prescribed way." 14 So the priests and Levites consecrated themselves in order to bring up the ark of the Lord, the God of Israel. 15 And the Levites carried the ark of God with the poles on their shoulders, as Moses had commanded in accordance with the word of the Lord.

Story 3: JACOB

Genesis 32:24-31

24 So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. 26 Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

27 The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

28 Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel,^[a] because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome."

29 Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."

But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” Then he blessed him there.

30 So Jacob called the place Peniel,[\[b\]](#) saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.”

31 The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel,[\[c\]](#) and he was limping because of his hip.

Story 4: PETER

Luke 5:1-11

5 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. 2 He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

5 Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” 9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

All of these men, Moses, David, Jacob & Peter had experienced a measure of the presence of God. But they wanted more.

How about you?

They each found out what it was like to receive more of God's presence in their lives.

Here's what the Holy Spirit has taught me concerning their experiences...

In order to receive More of the Presence of God...

1. We must be **WILLING** for God to do a work of **CLEANSING** in us

Remember our key verse...

Matthew 5:6

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Scripture makes it clear that our sins separate us from God and that He will not allow sin to dwell in his presence.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

9 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

God had to make a way for Moses to be able to live in his presence, so he covered him with his hand and put him in the cleft of the rock

David wanted to bring the presence of God to Jerusalem to dwell, but did not take time to treat God with clean hands according to the laws that God had established. He repented of his sin and when he again went to bring the Ark of God to Jerusalem, did so with a clean heart that followed the plan of God

Peter recognizes his need of cleansing as he cries out "I am a sinful man" "Go away from me"

Similarly, Isaiah recognizes his need of cleansing as he comes into the presence of God

Isaiah 6:1-7

6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with

two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

5 “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

God honors our desire for more of His presence by making a way and cleansing us for our sin that we might live in His presence. (1 John 1:9)

Psalm 24:3-6

3 Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?

4 The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. 5 They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God their Savior. 6 Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob.

This is the work of repentance, to understand our need of God's cleansing blood and to willingly allow Him to do that work in our lives.

2. We will probably **WRESTLE** with the **CHANGES** He wants to make in us.

As God cleanses us, He changes us. But change is not easy.

We see this in Jacob's life. Jacob was a trickster, a deceiver. Yet he had encountered God at Bethel as he fled from Esau's anger on his way to his mother's home in Harran. There he vowed to serve God, but the changes in his life were not immediate. It would be over 2 decades later as he left Harran with his wives and family to return to his home that once again He had an encounter with the presence of God. But this time he would be forever changed. A physical change, YES, but so much more than that as it was revealed by the change in his name.

The presence of God will change us.

He will not overpower our free will. When we ask for the presence of God it is not we who shape Him but He who shapes us.

The willingness of the cleansing work of God must carry over into the changing work of God

The presence of God changed MOSES. (His face was radiant because he had been in God's presence)

The presence of God changed Peter (I will make you fishers of men)

The presence of God will change you... Do you still want more?

Wanting more of God is different than wanting more from God

3. God will **CHALLENGE** us to **WALK** out those **CHANGES** in our everyday lives

It's not just about an encounter with the presence of God... It's about living in that presence everyday of our lives.

When Jacob walked away the next morning it was with a limp that would stay with him the rest of his life.

Moses on the other hand, reminds us that the changes that God makes will only be temporary if we don't dwell in his presence. His radiance would fade, until he once again got in the presence of God. So Paul tells us that he would put a veil over his face to hide that fact.

Thank God we have access to the indwelling presence of our Savior and the fullness of The Holy Spirit. But this too the bible says we can quench if we fail to accept the challenge of Jesus to pick up our cross daily and walk out the changes He has brought to our lives.

Jesus not only offered his cleansing to Peter, Jesus not only changed his purpose... but Jesus challenged him to follow him...

And Peter did just that... So did the others who were there that day. They left their nets and followed Him.

They weren't perfect... They wrestled with the changes that God was making in their lives; but they trusted in His cleansing work and accepted his challenge to walk in His presence every day

WILL YOU?