

THE MANIFEST PRESENCE OF GOD

by Walter Beuttler

CHAPTER 1: The Importance of the Manifest Presence of God

Several years ago, the Lord asked me to shut myself in with Him. I found a place where I could be totally alone with the Lord, in fasting and prayer.

Sunday afternoon, I realized that I had spent 48 hours in prayer, fasting, and seeking the Lord, with no results. I had neither felt nor received anything, nor was I aware of His presence. I knew the Lord wanted to speak, but He did not do so.

Then I said within my heart, "It takes God a long time to speak." No sooner had I said this, than the Lord spoke to me in a voice that was as clear as a bell, and as sharp as a razor. This was a voice which was not audible, but a voice that I heard. He said, "To hurry God is to find fault with Him."

The Lord said I was criticizing Him because I thought He was too slow. I apologized and asked Him to forgive me. As soon as I did this, the Lord walked through the door into the room where I had been waiting upon Him. I did not see or hear Him, but it was so real that sight could not have made it any more real. The Lord walked in, and His presence followed behind Him, which was as a Royal Dignitary walking to His Throne with a long robe following which spread throughout the entire room.

The Lord came and stood to my left, approximately an arm's length away, and He stayed there for four hours. During this time, He taught me from His Word on the subject of "Knowing God." I was given Scripture after Scripture, which I found and read. Then each Scripture would marvelously unfold so I could see its beauty, depth, and purpose.

The next summer, I was in Bangkok, Thailand. As I walked along the street, I saw a lotus bud lying on the side of the road. I picked it up, pulled the petals back and delighted myself at the beautiful arrangement of the lotus within. This was as the Lord did, as He marvelously unfolded His Word in all its beauty and fullness. Our knowing Him is very near to the heart of God. This is a "knowing" that includes the knowledge and personal experience of the "manifest presence of God."

At six o'clock, the Lord turned, faced the door and said, "And the Lord left him to try him." With that, His presence collected from all over the room, and followed Him as He left.

These four hours of "personal teaching" from a "personal Christ" on the "true knowledge of God" were beyond anything I could have anticipated. I did not know that later He would send me into more than one hundred countries to share what I had learned during that time.

In sharing the experience that followed this visitation from the Lord, I am very carefully choosing each word. This is the absolute unembroidered truth, recounted as accurately as I know how.

The Lord had said that He “left him to try him.” In school, we teach, and then give a test. I thought that since the Lord had been teaching me, He would test me on what I had learned. I waited, but nothing happened, so I thought I would go to bed. It was only eight o’clock, but I had slept very little since Friday.

Then Satan walked through the door into the room, as if the door had not been there. I was standing by the bed and recognized him at once. He entered precisely as the Lord had entered, and stood where the Lord had stood. Behind him followed a satanic presence, like a regal robe of a sovereign, which spread throughout the entire room exactly as the Lord’s presence had done. I was not aware that I had any fear as Satan spoke. His voice was not audible, yet it was a clear distinct voice that I heard.

He said, “The Lord did not visit you.” I answered out loud, “Yes, He did.” Next, he said, “The Bible is not the Word of God.” I responded, “Yes it is.” Then he said, “The Lord did not teach you,” and I replied, “Yes He did.” Following this exchange, he said, “Why don’t you deny God?” I said, “Why should I?” He responded, “Because God is not a real God,” and I said, “I know He is real.” Then he said, “You are not saved,” and I said, “I know that I am saved.”

After this, he said, “You are praying too much,” and I said, “No, I am not.” Then even stronger, he said, “You will lose your mind because you are praying too much,” and I answered, “I am not praying too much, and I will not lose my mind.”

This went on for some time while I stood by the bed. Then it seemed as if the room began to turn, and I was in the center of a merry-go-round that went faster and faster. Then he said, “See, you are losing your mind.” I said, “No, this is only an illusion - nothing is moving - you are trying to deceive me and make me think the room is moving when it is not.”

This was a very serious matter, as I began to see triangles, circles, squares, trees, rocks, and mountains, as everything moved around in the room. Then he again said, “Are you ready to deny God,” and I said, “No, I will never be ready.”

I firmly held my ground as he attempted to cause me to deny all that the Lord had taught me. Then he turned and went out through the door. As he did, the whole satanic presence collected, and followed him like a regal robe out of the room, and I was again with the Lord.

I noticed that it was now ten o’clock, and thought I would now go to bed. Then Satan walked in the second time and stood where he had been, and again his presence followed him and filled the room. This time, everything seemed to be much stronger. We went through the whole thing again with one difference; there was a tremendous power that came from him. When he spoke, “Are you ready to give up?” It came with an authority that was frightening.

I noticed that I was weakening. I could tell that my answers were no longer as resolute as they had been. He kept hammering away to cause me to give in, and I resisted until I had no more will to resist. Finally, I said within myself, "I can resist no longer," and threw myself on the bed, seemingly in defeat.

Just as I struck the bed, I felt something stir within me. I knew it was the presence of the Holy Spirit. I now concentrated on this presence that was inside of me. Satan was still there, but I ignored him and concentrated on this presence of the Lord. As I did this, the presence began to slowly expand and sing. It was not me that sang, but the Holy Spirit within me. I clearly heard Him sing the chorus, "Isn't He wonderful, wonderful, wonderful, isn't Jesus my Lord wonderful."

As the Holy Spirit continued to sing, His presence became larger and stronger. I listened, and presumably the devil listened also, but said nothing. I was occupied with what was going on inside of me. Finally, His presence reached my throat and I joined in and sang with Him. Satan still had nothing to say, as I sang out loud while the Holy Spirit sang within me.

Then the Holy Spirit stopped, and I waited. He (the Holy Spirit) spoke and said, "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, then the Spirit shall raise an arm in defense against him." With that, Satan turned and quickly left, and the glory of the Lord filled the entire room. The Holy Spirit came to my defense at the very moment I had become too weak to resist. Now it was midnight. The next day, I returned home.

You may wonder, why did this happen? For four hours, the Lord had been teaching me things about the knowledge of God, and about His personalized manifest presence. The enemy sought to destroy the very thing the Lord had given me. The one thing the devil hates is for us to personally know God. He does not want the Lord's people to experience the "personal manifest presence of God" in their lives.

I believe the reason the devil tried so hard to defeat me is due to the vital importance of this message concerning our "personally knowing the Lord," and the "reality of His manifest presence."

CHAPTER 2: The Error of Uzzah

Note: During 1951, a revival was experienced in the Bible School where Walter Beuttler taught. The Lord used this move of the Spirit to put into practice the things He had taught him during the visitation he had received, as described in chapter one. The following is Brother Beuttler's account of some of the Lord's dealings in the outworking of his calling to a ministry to the nations, which came during this visitation.

During this revival, the Lord awakened me each morning at three o'clock. This meant I stayed up the rest of the night, sitting in His presence so I would be ready for the services. During this time, the Lord gave the outline for the services during that day.

During a Friday night service, there was a mighty move of the Holy Spirit, and some of the students seemed to be going beyond what the Holy Spirit was doing. Because I was in charge, I put my hands on the fellows who were having these manifestations, which to me, seemed so out of place. In restraining them, I did so in a wrong spirit, as a reaction to what was happening. As soon as I did this, the moving of the Spirit stopped and I knew I had killed the meeting. It was as though a blight struck the meeting - it was finished. I dismissed the service and went home.

That night, at two-thirty, while still asleep, I was awakened by a man's voice singing audibly in my bedroom. I looked in the direction of the voice, and I saw the Lord standing there. He was dressed in white garments, looking toward me, as He sang. I heard Him like I hear a man's voice, and I saw Him, as I would see you. This has happened only once in my life.

I sat up in bed as He sang two stanzas. Apparently I was awakened just as He began the first stanza, which had to do with sin and forgiveness. After this, I went to my chair and sat there, waiting before the Lord. There was an unusual presence of the Lord, as I mused over the song that He sang.

I was considering the second stanza, and seemed to push away the thought of the first stanza, which had to do with sin.

When I realized what I was doing, I said, "Lord is something wrong?" I heard the answer right away, "The error of Uzzah."

In the Old Testament, Uzzah had touched the ark of God and died. The Lord was saying, "You committed the same sin as Uzzah; you touched the ark of God." I did not die because Jesus had died in my place two thousand years before, but it was sin nevertheless. I said, "Lord I am sorry, I did not mean to stop the moving of the Holy Spirit." The Lord knew that, but neither did Uzzah intend to stop the progress of the ark.

I told the Lord that I did not know what I should do. At once I received the answer; "On Sunday morning, during the communion service, you are to make a public confession to the whole student body for what you did, and ask the students forgiveness." I squirmed when I heard this. I knew He meant it, and that there was no way out. I said, "Lord, I do not know how I can do a humbling thing like that, but I will do it."

Sunday morning came, and as the bread was distributed, my heart suddenly began to pound so hard I thought it would jump out. I knew this was the signal to obey what the Lord had told me. I stood up and said, "Students, I have a confession to make." You could have heard a pin drop in the silence. And I could hear their thoughts, "Brother Beuttler, confess?" I told them exactly what had happened and said, "I ask your forgiveness."

As soon as I finished, one of the students gave a powerful utterance in prophecy. "Because you have done this thing, (it was obviously addressed to me), and have humbled yourself in the sight of this congregation, the Lord your God will lift you above your fellows and make of you a city set on a hill."

When I heard this, I dropped between the seats and wept. As I did, the Lord spoke to me saying, "Go and teach all nations." If I had not humbled myself that morning, I do not believe God would have sent me around the world to carry the truths that Jesus taught me, and which Satan had challenged, while seeking the Lord in the motel room.

Teach all nations? Where would I go, and on what? Bible School teachers did not receive salaries, especially in those days. We were as "poor as a church mouse." A few weeks later, the Lord spoke, "Get a passport." I thought, "Lord, I have no money to go anywhere." Later, the Lord again said, "Get a passport." I thought, "How could I go?"

Then after several days, the Lord spoke a third time. This was strong and clear, "Get a passport." I hesitated again and said, "Lord, why spend money for a passport, I cannot go anywhere." About two weeks later after speaking at a church, a lady said, "I have an airplane ticket to go to Europe and I cannot go. I felt I was to give it to you. Do you have a passport?"

I said, "I will get one right away." She responded, "It takes four weeks to get a passport, and this flight leaves in two weeks." I stayed home, keenly feeling my disobedience to the Lord.

The Lord said nothing about traveling for the next nine months. I would say, "Lord, when am I to go?" There was no response, but I did get my passport. Then I felt it was the time to go, and began to look for someone to give me a ticket. Different ones would shake my hand and say, "Praise the Lord, Brother Beuttler," and I would think, "But where is my ticket?"

The Lord bore witness that this was the time to go, but still there was no ticket. Finally, an individual asked me, "How are you going?" and I replied, "By boat." He said I would hardly get there, and it would be time to return. I explained that air travel was too expensive. In response, I was told that the difference would be given to me.

About halfway across the Atlantic, the Lord spoke to me saying, "I have sent you on a journey." I was so pleased to know I was in the will of God. Since I had not known where to go, I was going home to my family in Germany. My mother was unsaved and was sick, so I thought I could talk to her about salvation and pray for her, which I did.

My sister told her pastor I was visiting, and I was asked to speak. The Lord woke me up early in the morning and gave me the message. The pastor asked me to come back the following night and I agreed. Again, the Lord woke me up, and as I sat in His presence, He gave me the message.

This went on day by day for a week. Then on Sunday morning the pastor said, "Before you speak, I want to say something." I thought I was in trouble, because I had spoken on the Holy Spirit. Instead, he told the congregation that for many months, he had been praying that the Lord would give them the deeper things of the Spirit. He began to cry, and said, "Just think, God sent a man from America to answer my prayers."

The Lord was indeed confirming the call that He had given me, and this was the beginning of my ministry to the Nations.

CHAPTER 3: Divine Appointments

The trip to Germany where I ministered in my sister's Church was the beginning of a ministry that reached around the world. The pastor had said, "Just think, God sent a man from America to answer my prayers."

While this was taking place, the Lord had something further in mind. One morning, He spoke to me. These words stood within me exactly as I am saying here. "About the middle of the afternoon on New Year's Day, go by air to Amsterdam." I responded, "Lord, New Year's Day is a holiday and I would like to spend it with my mother. I have been away for many years."

Again the impression became strong. "Go to Amsterdam by air on New Year's Day in the middle of the afternoon." Again I said, "Lord, I have never been in Amsterdam and I would like to spend New Year's Eve with my mother, as this is special in Germany."

The Lord spoke the same a third time. Then I remembered the time I had been told by the Lord to get a passport. I said to myself, "Beuttler, are you going to miss God again?" Then I said, "yes" to the Lord.

I went to the airport at Stuttgart and asked about a flight to Amsterdam on New Year's Day. They told me there were no flights that day. I went to KLM and they told me it was a holiday and that absolutely nothing would be flying to Amsterdam on New Year's Day. Now I was in trouble, as I had taught much on "Divine guidance," and I was stumped.

I went outside into a miserable mixture of rain, snow, and sleet, and stood on the sidewalk. I shut my eyes and spoke to God, "Father, do you know the airline schedules?" There was no answer, and I was almost in panic. I thought how can I ever again teach people about "knowing the will of God," if I make a mistake like this?

Then a thought came, "Go to the American Express Company and see what they say." I will never forget the man at their counter. There was a huge book of airline schedules, and he went back and forth through it. He asked the second time where I was going. Again, he went back and forth in the book. Then he asked which afternoon I wanted to go. Again, he went back and forth in the book.

He said, "You are fortunate. There is a special non-stop flight going from Stuttgart to Amsterdam on New Year's Day at 4:10 in the afternoon." The Spirit so strongly bore witness within me that I shouted, "That is it!" I purchased my ticket and on New Year's Day, I went to Amsterdam.

When I arrived, I had no idea as to what I was to do and stood there, feeling nothing. So I prayed, "Father, this is the airport in Amsterdam and I am here. Unless you speak, I will go into the city, check

into a hotel, and tomorrow morning at eight o'clock, I will go to London." I had an appointment in London on that day. I still heard nothing, so I went into the city and found a hotel room.

Before I went to bed, I said, "Father, I am here in the hotel. I am going to bed now, and if you do not tell me what I am to do, then tomorrow morning at eight o'clock I will go to the airport and fly to London."

In the morning I was up early and prayed, "Father, I am still in Amsterdam and I am getting ready to go to the airport." The Lord did not speak. So I went to the airport and bought a ticket for a British European Airlines flight to London.

I went to my seat on the plane, and at eight o'clock we were ready to depart. We sat there, and the plane did not move. About fifteen minutes later an announcement was made, "Will all passengers please return to the terminal building as a heavy fog has settled over the airport and it is too dangerous to take off."

I went into the lounge and suddenly, an enveloping presence of God came upon me. Oh, what a presence this was. Within and without - I was in a cloud of God's presence. A spirit of worship and prayer came upon me, so I found a comfortable chair in a corner and sat there. There was such an intense presence that I sat in an attitude of worship and prayer and lost track of everything.

After some time, I thought I should check and see about the flight to London. I was amazed that it was now one o'clock in the afternoon and that I had been sitting there all that time. I walked over to the window and the fog was still so heavy that only the barest outline of things could be seen. They had cancelled all flights and nothing was coming in or going out.

As I stood there, two men were in front of me. One worked at the airport and the other appeared to be a passenger. The airport worker said, "We do not understand this fog. There is no fog anywhere, except at this airport." At first I thought nothing of it, but later the understanding came.

I stood there and figured how many dollars I was wasting per hour while sitting at this airport, doing nothing. Then the presence lifted and I felt empty, confused, and alone. I felt that I had somehow failed the Lord. I walked some and noticed a long table, like a dining room table. No one was there, so I went to one corner of it and sat down.

The following details are very important. I sat there wondering where I had made my mistake. Then I looked to my left and a man, immaculately dressed in a black suit, was walking toward me. He appeared to be an unusual man as he walked very erect, yet not stilted. His bearing was regal and he was an unusually good-looking man. I wondered who he could be. I thought he must be a member of a royal family.

Then he sat down just opposite where I sat. Paying no more attention to him, I closed my eyes and spoke to God, "Father, where am I?" I felt I had gone astray and wanted the Lord to let me know what had happened. For no reason that I can explain, I then looked at the man opposite me. At that very

moment, he lifted a book from his attaché case. He opened it before me as though he would read it. I saw the title of the book, which said, "I AM leading you where you do not wish to go." Then he closed the book and returned it to his attaché case, as though he had changed his mind. I had my answer from God.

A waiter came and asked us both if we would move, as they needed the table to feed some passengers. I went one way, and this "man" went out of the building into the fog, and disappeared. Since this incident, the Lord has twice born witness to me (once publicly and once privately) that he was the Angel of the Lord whom God had sent to the airport to bring me back into His will.

As I continued to walk and look for a seat, I apologized and asked the Lord to forgive me. Then His presence returned. All I wanted was to sit in His presence as I had before, but my chair was taken. I noticed a nice comfortable chair next to a round table. There was a black man sitting on one side, and the opposite chair was empty. I quickly sat down before someone else got it.

As I shut my eyes to let my spirit go up to commune with God, this man interrupted me. He said, "Sir, tell me your secret." I opened my eyes and found him leaning across the table toward me. I said, "What secret?" He said, "Sir, I have been watching you as you sat in that chair all morning. What was that light on your face?"

I said, "What light?" He responded, "You had a light on your face, and I wondered to myself if you had what I am seeking. Sir, if you have what I am seeking, will you please tell me your secret. I am a businessman from East Africa, and I was brought up in the Mohammedan faith. But, Mohammed has never given me peace. I need my sins forgiven and I do not know how. I desire true peace."

He told me that he had tried many different religions, but had not found what he sought for. Then he said, "I have given up all religions and every day for many years I have prayed one prayer. 'Oh God, if there is a God, show me the way to true peace.' Sir, do you know the way to true peace and if you do, will you please tell me your secret?"

During this time, the Lord put within me what I should say. I shared with him the story of my conversion in New York, when I had looked for peace. Now, at this airport in Amsterdam, it was my privilege to lead this man to Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

The fog had continued to be so thick that nothing moved. As I finished my testimony, and for the second time used the Scripture, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved," an announcement was made, "We will depart in ten minutes. The fog has lifted." I finished my testimony and we said good bye.

The Lord heard this man praying in East Africa and in His providence brought him to Amsterdam. He also brought me to Germany and gave me the time I should go to Amsterdam. When we were both there at the same time, He used a fog to close the Airport so He could answer this man's prayer. And when I lost my way, He sent His angel to turn me back into His presence. Then, He brought us together

in that busy airport. As soon as the testimony was given, God lifted the fog and the planes were flying again. He went his way, and I went to London.

This is a testimony of an “outworking of the personal knowledge of God” that I had received while praying in a motel room. Again, Satan had tried to destroy it, but it was saved through the intervention of the Angel of the Lord.

If we will allow ourselves to be led into this area of the “knowledge of God” and “His manifest presence,” we will have experiences, which will confirm the Scripture that Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love Him.” I Corinthians 2:9b.

This is quoted from Isaiah, which reads:

“For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside You, what He has prepared for him that waits for Him.” Isaiah 64:4.

If we will give ourselves to God and His purposes, things we have never seen, heard of, or even imagined, will be waiting for us “in His presence.

CHAPTER 4: Face to Face

“And Moses said to the LORD ... Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found grace in Your sight, Show me now Your way, that I may know You, that I may find grace in Your sight: and consider that this nation is Your people.

“And He said, My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.

“And he said to Him, If Your presence go not with me, carry us not up from here. For wherein shall it be known here that I and Your people have found grace in Your sight? is it not in that You go with us? so shall we be separated, I and Your people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.” Exodus 33:12-16

In this passage, Moses said, “so shall we be separated.” The idea being that the “distinguishing mark” between the Lord's people and other nations was to be the “presence of God.” So also today, the presence of God should distinguish His people from all others.

Moses knew this people and was reluctant to lead them into the Promised Land, as they were a stubborn and rebellious nation. Therefore he asked, “Show me now Your way that I may know You.” We can learn to know God through His ways - what He does and how He accomplishes it. Moses understood that, as we watch God at work, we learn something about His character and His nature.

The Lord's ways differ from ours. Some time ago, Hattie Hammond told me something that I will never forget. She had been in a large convention. A young man spoke and she said she had never heard anything worse than the way that young fellow condemned the people. Yet when he finished, the power of God fell and the people stood and worshipped as the Lord poured His Spirit out upon them. She was surprised and questioned the Lord, "How can You bless a harangue like we just heard?"

Then the Lord explained that He was not blessing one word of what the man had said, but He was pouring the "Spirit of rejoicing" upon His people to help them "forget" what had been said.

I thought, the next time I rejoice for the Lord's blessing after I speak, I will consider that maybe He is just using His eraser. A word such as this teaches us something about God.

There is such a thing as "the personal knowledge of a personal God." We can come to know Him, and begin to understand His ways through the "manifestation of His presence" as He makes Himself known to us.

Moses asked that he might come to personally know the Lord. He was not speaking about an intellectual knowledge of God. We do need to know and be informed, but Moses sought to have a personal acquaintance with a personal God, through a personal experience.

My daughter had many books about Queen Elizabeth and sought to learn all she could about her. One year, I was able to take her with me to France. We stopped in London on our way to Paris. Because she was so fond of the Queen, I took her to Buckingham Palace to see the royal guard.

She said, "Daddy, do you think we will see the Queen?" She was very disappointed when I told her it was not possible. The Queen was there, but because of a lack of relationship, we were unable to personally meet her. Although my daughter could share all kinds of things about the Queen, she still did not know her.

But the Lord is available, and He desires us to "experientially" know Him.

"And the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend." Exodus 33:11a

Moses had this personal relationship with the Lord, and the Lord was available to him. Here is a man so intimate with God that we are told that God spoke with him "face to face." This means directly, not in a round about way through a vision, dream, or a prophet. Yet though Moses knew the Lord personally, he still prayed, "show me now Your way, that I may know You." In other words, Moses desired to know the Lord even better.

In a morning Chapel service, I spoke to the students about seeking God. Afterwards, I was challenged by someone who said, "Why do you exhort these students to seek God when they have already found Him?" This person did not understand the personal knowledge of God. My answer to him was that the students "need" to know the Lord even "more." There is no limit to the disclosure of God to our hearts.

There were three areas in which Moses had a special knowledge of the Lord. First, he had an intimate relationship with the Lord.

“And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like to Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.”
Deuteronomy 34:10

Second, he experienced intimate communion with the Lord.

“And the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.” Exodus 33:11a

Third, he had an intimate privilege.

“With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the Lord shall he behold: wherefore then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?”
Numbers 12:8

Notice that the Lord is very concerned about how we talk about those who are His personal friends.

Concerning this privilege, the Lord said, “and the similitude of the Lord shall he behold.” In my study, I use different translations to gain understanding, as they throw different rays of light on a particular subject.

The jewels of the kings and queens of England are kept in the tower of London. Among them is a huge diamond that I have carefully looked at. From one view, it appears to have a yellow sparkle. From a different angle, it is green. From another, it is red or blue. There are different colors, but it is the same diamond. These translations are to me as this diamond.

In the King James Version the term, “the similitude of the Lord” is used. In another version, “the form of the Lord shall he behold.” A different translation reads, “the shape of the Lord shall he behold.” Even though God is a Spirit and does not have a material body, He has a localized appearance. The Lord gave Moses the privilege to behold this similitude, likeness, shape, and form of God.

Jesus prayed, “And this is life eternal, that they might know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent” (John 17:3). He desired His disciples to know God.

“For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.” Hosea 6:6

In the days of Israel, the Lord was more interested in their “knowing” Him than in all their “sacrifices” and “gifts.” In Jeremiah 24:7, we have a pertinent statement: “And I will give them a heart to know Me.”

In the final analysis, the true knowledge of God is a “matter of the heart.” This involves an inner “capacity” and “capability” to enter into a personal relationship with God.

This is my prayer for all of us,

“Lord, give us a heart, the capacity and the capability, to know You in personal experience.”

CHAPTER 5: Glory about Him

“But let him that glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD which exercise loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth; for in these I delight, says the LORD.” Jeremiah 9:24

The Lord “delights” in those who know and understand Him. This speaks of a humble, grateful appreciation. I can relate to this through an experience with my daughter.

I had just returned from a ministry trip to South America, and I usually brought a special present for my daughter. Because I had not done so this time, I said to her, “I am so sorry that I do not have something special for you.” She responded, “Daddy, that's all right, you are my best present and the nicest daddy I ever had.” This all the more caused me to want to buy something very special for her.

The Lord desires us to “glory about Him” in simplicity and in gratefulness. He evidently agrees with the statement, “Joys not shared are only half enjoyed.” The Lord loves to enter into our joys, and when we glory about Him, His heart is touched, as He has feelings too.

God has an emotional nature, and He expresses emotions. He has a social nature, and He enjoys our fellowship and rejoices with us, for His Word tells us, “In these things I delight, saith the Lord.”

Some years ago, I attended a Bible Study. At the end, the pastor asked me to close in prayer. I was so filled with the “Spirit of rejoicing” that I was unable to pray or dismiss the meeting. All I could do was shout, “Hallelujah.” The Spirit of this worship spread over the people and almost everyone began to praise the Lord.

When it again became quiet, there was a prophetic message, which said, “God is pouring out His Spirit of rejoicing upon His people because one who had been a sinner has repented, and there is so much joy in heaven that the Lord is sharing this with His people so that He and they may rejoice together.”

When I was a student in Bible School, I was talking to the son of a high official in the denomination to which I belonged. He came into the room and asked, “What will you do when you leave school?” I had no home, as my family lived in Germany, and could only reply, “I do not know.” Then he asked what ministry I thought I would have. Again, I could only say, “I do not know.”

Then he said, “I am glad I am not like you. I know people at the top, and I will have a big church.” When he left the room, he slammed the door and it felt like a shot from a gun going through my heart. It really hurt because I had nowhere to go. Later, I dropped to my knees and prayed a very simple prayer, “Father, did You hear what he said?”

As I prayed this, in a flash of revelation, the Lord quickened these thoughts to me. "It is true that he knows people at the top. But it is also true that I am your Father, and that I am at the top of all those who are at the top. And, I am your personal superintendent." I lifted my hands and said, "Father, thank You for being Who You are. This day I acknowledge You as my personal superintendent." Years later, while I was in Rio De Janeiro, I was told that this fellow was working as a butcher, and he did not receive the big church he thought he would have.

God responds to simple sincerity. In New Guinea, they know how to touch the heart of the Lord. In very poor English, they pray, "Oh, Papa God, You nice fellow upstairs. Me no any good but You nice Papa God." The Lord responded to the sincerity of their heart and the simplicity of their prayer.

For example, when I was a youngster in Germany, I had always desired to see the Azore Islands. I do not know why, but they had captured my boyhood imagination. Many years later, I had made many trips to Europe, but never by way of the Azores, as only first class passengers were routed this way. I was to go to Rome, so I laid my itinerary before the Lord. I felt His witness that I was to go, so I arranged my ticket.

A short time before I left, I noticed in the newspaper that the airlines were routing Tourist Class travel to Europe by way of the Azores. I thought, how often I have wanted to stop at the Azores and now it is possible. Yet, I felt that I was in the will of God with the route I had already chosen. I prayed as I had before. I said, "Father, did You by any chance read this newspaper article about the Azores?"

Some would say this is foolish, as God knows everything and does not need to read the newspaper to find out. I know this very well. But I also know that the Lord hears and responds when I come to Him in this simple, practical way. This speaks of "relationship," and of "intimacy."

I added to my prayer, "Father, I have wanted to go that way for so long, and now I am going the other way. I just wonder what You think about this." The Lord responded, not in words, but a witness as though He were saying, "If you would like to change your route, I have no objections." I just knew I had His permission and blessing to change, so I did.

When I returned to the school in the fall, I told the students about this, because I was really pleased. I thought God was so considerate in allowing me to change my route. It is amazing what God will do for us. When we respect His wishes, He will have regard for ours.

As soon as I had finished telling the students about this, a girl gave an utterance in tongues and one of the fellows interpreted it. The word said, "God is pleased when He sees that He can please His children. For He loves to please His own and He rejoices in their pleasure." When God saw that I was happy, then He was happy.

"But let him that glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me...for in these things I delight, saith the LORD." Jeremiah 9:24

One time I was going to Africa, and I looked at the route I would be taking and noticed Thebes on the Nile River in Egypt. I thought it would be nice to see the ancient ruins of Thebes and the temple of Karnak with its famous columns. I knew that I had nothing to do there, but as I looked at my map, I received a witness. The Lord quickened to me that I could stop at Thebes.

It was such a thrill to see the fulfillment of prophecy there. The plain where this powerful, beautiful city once stood was now just a vast open area. After I returned home, one of the teachers said to me, "What did you see?" I said, "There was nothing left on the west side of the Nile where the main part of the city stood."

He then told me that he had wondered why I wanted to stop there, as he knew I would not see anything. I responded that I had seen much. I knew that this was where this great city was located, which was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. God had said that He would remove it from the earth.

What I saw was the tremendous power of Almighty God, the veracity of His Word of Prophecy, that He could obliterate such a huge city. I saw the might of God in an empty place.

"At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent, and have revealed them to babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in Your sight." Matthew 11:25-26

Notice, that the Lord deliberately withholds some truths from those who are "wise and prudent." This is not necessarily those who are educated, or knowledgeable. Rather, this refers to those who "feel" that they know it all. The problem with them is that they do not know enough to know that they do not know. Thus, they are "unteachable."

The Lord "hides" the precious, special things from these, such as the knowledge of His presence. The babes to whom He reveals these things are those who are simple, humble, lowly, and willing to learn. Their spirits are "open" to His manifest presence.

The Word tells us, "No man can come to Me, except the Father which has sent Me draw him" (John 6:44a). Due to sin, there is no desire for God in the fallen human nature. Whenever a person has an interest in God, it is due to the "activity" of the Spirit of God.

If God gives us a hunger for Himself, this desire has been produced by the Spirit of God, because that for which we hunger is capable of being attained. The very hunger that we have for more of God is not only God's call to get us to move in that direction, but it is also the guarantee that we can attain to that for which we hunger - if we will keep following in the direction of the hunger.

The attitude of heart that qualifies us is that we become as a "babe." When a baby becomes hungry, it manifests that hunger by crying. The child cries and is fed by the mother. The baby does not ask for a chemical analysis of what it is being fed. There is something within that corresponds to the hunger, and

the child just eats. But if an attempt is made to feed mustard to the baby, he will no longer eat. There is something there that does not appeal.

So it is spiritually. The Lord gives us a hunger and we may not know what we are hungry for, except that we have a sense of need and desire something from God. We may hear a message with truth that we have never heard. Though we do not understand it, within us, it is as with the baby. We eat and feel satisfied. We know this is a work of the Holy Spirit because we feel His witness and we feel good. We do not know how we know; we just know that we know.

So also, when an attempt is made to feed something to us that is not right, the witness is lacking and it does not set right within. We know that we should not partake.

Jesus said that except we become as children, we cannot enter the Kingdom. This is because we are moving beyond our capacity to understand. Thus the Lord releases the “deeper things,” only where there is this “child-like” faith.

It is only in this child-like faith that we are able to come to the Lord and express our love and appreciation for Him, even as my daughter expressed her appreciation for me, when I returned home without a present for her.

CHAPTER 6: God’s Deep Secrets

“Thus says the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD which exercise loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, says the LORD.” Jeremiah 9:23-24

God is infinite, but we are finite. Therefore, we cannot fully know or comprehend God. But in many of His ways, the Lord desires to be both known and understood.

“The secret things belong to the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.” Deuteronomy 29:29

There are two areas of knowledge concerning God; the things which are “secret,” which are known only to Him, and those things that are “revealed,” which can be discovered only under certain conditions.

The Godhead is an example of the secret things, which belong to God. The Lord has never revealed how He can be three, yet only one at the same time. We may attempt illustrations, but none are satisfactory. Also, the fact that God has everlastingly existed without having a beginning is beyond our ability to comprehend.

The Lord placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and told them that they could freely eat the fruit of all the trees, except one particular tree. Man is spoken of as being a free-moral agent, able to do as he wills. However, the Word of God does not indicate the absolute freedom of man. Rather, man is limited, "Of all these things ye may freely eat, BUT."

In the original intention, the freedom of man as a free moral agent was circumscribed; he was not totally free, rather he was limited as he had been created to be dependent. "You may go outside the circle of My will if you so choose, but if you do, such and such will take place." Therefore, man's freedom was relative rather than absolute.

Adam and Eve were under duress. If they went beyond the freedom given them, there was a resultant consequence. Also, the Lord has placed a limit on our knowledge of good. If we, with intellectual curiosity seek to go beyond the circle of Divine revelation, and attempt to press into things, which God has not revealed, we will get into trouble.

For instance, our pursuing the origin of sin- we may trace it back to Satan and find that there was pride in his heart. But what originated this pride? God must have created the capacity, or given consent that pride could develop in Satan's heart.

If we press this kind of rationale, we will find, before we become aware of it, that a question is raised concerning the holiness and integrity of God. We have placed the Lord in the position of being a defendant, with our being the prosecutor. This will result in infidelity, and in time, our rejection of God. All this may happen because we are pressing beyond the limits of that which belongs unto us.

In their curiosity, some Bible teachers have attempted to press beyond the limits of Divine restraint, and intrude into the things, which God has kept from man. For instance, how God deals with those who have never heard the Gospel. Many false and destructive doctrines have developed in this very way.

"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die." Genesis 2:16-17

Some years ago, I visited a particular lady. I kept ringing the doorbell, as I knew she was always at home. Finally she answered and said, "Please excuse me, as it took a long time for me to find the will of God as to whether I should open the door to you or not."

She said, "I believe in being spiritual, and I do nothing without first asking God. I ask Him about all my personal affairs, and even about what I should wear." This goes beyond the intention of God, as He has given us latitude - "of every tree ... you may freely eat, but..."

We do not need to ask the Lord concerning which dress, suit, or shoes, we wear. There are many things in the area of our daily lives in which the Lord has given us the sense and wisdom to simply make our own choice, but there is a limit - "But." Here, God established this limitation.

God can be adequately understood within the sphere of those things, which belong to us.

We must learn to respect the silence of God, and when God does not wish to explain, we should be content.

God shares some of His secrets with some of His people, but not everything with everyone.

We tell certain secrets to our friends, but the older we become, the less we tell, because we have learned. God is very judicious, but He does share secrets with some.

“And the LORD said, shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do.” Genesis 18:17

The Lord shared with Abraham the fact that He was about to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah.

“The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him; and he will show them His covenant.” Psalm 25:14

One year, I was speaking to a group of ministers in an old castle in the Pyrenees Mountain area of France and mentioned this verse. One minister said to me, “Do you know that in the French bible, this reads, “the intimate communion of the Lord is with them that fear Him.”

This fear speaks of a reverential respect. Thus, our attainment of an intimate knowledge of God involves our relationship to Him. In Matthew 11:25, the attitude, which will bring us into this intimate knowledge, is given.

“At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent, and have revealed them to babes.”

We must set aside our intellect and submit to the activity of the Holy Spirit in order to receive the understanding of His ways.

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.

“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.

“And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.” Ephesians 1:17-19

To receive the knowledge of God involves our having esteem for, and placing great value upon the knowledge of God. For instance, in Proverbs 2:4,

“If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures.”

Most all of the choicest things of God lie beneath the surface, and they must be searched out. These are not for the lukewarm, or the half-hearted, but for those who are earnest and have a heart appreciation of these things, and who demonstrate this by going after them with effort.

Some things are not obtainable without our contending to succeed, as in an obstacle course. For instance, Moses put the tent of the Tabernacle afar off.

“And Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it outside the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. And it came to pass, that every one which sought the Lord went out to the Tabernacle of the congregation, which was outside the camp.” Exodus 33:7

Moses did not make it easy or convenient, rather, he put it “out-of-the-way” so it would take an effort to enter. Those who truly sought the Lord gladly made the effort. This was in fact a way of separating the wheat from the chaff, the “earnest” from the “indifferent.” The Lord has a way of separating people.

One time I attended a service where the pastor understood the ways of God. When the altar service would begin, he would sit on the platform and do nothing for a considerable time, until many had left. Then he would begin to minister to those who were sincere in their seeking of the Lord, and, there were remarkable results.

Later, I asked him why he waited so long. He responded, “I wait until I know that only those who are truly seeking the Lord are present.” He knew that the earnest would stay, and the half-hearted would leave after a short time.

The Lord not only has a way of testing our earnestness, but He assesses us from the effort that we are willing to make. Only then will He begin to share the secrets of His presence.

CHAPTER 7: Knowledge of God

"If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; Then shall you understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God." Proverbs 2:4-5

We are to place a very high premium on the true “knowledge of God.”

Suppose a large sum of money was buried near us, which would be ours if found. We would not sit and think about it, but rather, we would begin to search for it.

The “treasure” of the knowledge of God that is “hidden within” the Word of God is of far greater value than any earthly fortune. And, it also requires that we search for it. This heavenly treasure is purposely hidden, because it is not intended for those who are half-hearted, or indifferent.

There are three tests concerning our qualification to partake of the knowledge of God; it is to be “highly valued, earnestly desired, and diligently sought after.”

Moses asked that he might understand the ways of God. "If I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You." Exodus 33:13b

The Lord responded to this desire, "My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest." Exodus 33:14.

The knowledge of God and His manifest presence are closely related.

One year, I had laid before the Lord my itinerary from Philadelphia to Los Angeles, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Manila, and Singapore. I did not know which way to go from there, as I had invitations which required completely different routes. I could go south to Australia and then back to the west coast, or westward through Europe to the east coast.

I said, "Father, I do not know where to go after Singapore." I then waited in His presence, and suddenly the Lord spoke. The words were, "I will meet you at the pyramids." I knew what He meant, and accordingly laid out the rest of my trip.

In due time, around 3:30 AM, we were approaching Cairo, on an Indian Airlines flight, and I wondered where the Lord would meet me. I said we, as I was alone, but not alone. There is a hotel near one of the pyramids where I stopped several times to rest. I had sat there alone for hours, looking out across the desert toward the pyramids. I thought that this was where the Lord would meet me.

As I watched the city lights in the distance, there suddenly came a strong manifest presence of the Lord. He had come to me before we arrived, and I entered into that lovely country, distinctly aware of His being with me. It was as the Lord had said to Moses, "My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."

To "experience" the "manifest presence of the Lord" is a marvelous reality, which quickens and renews every aspect of our being. It produces a "deep inner satisfaction" that cannot be explained, only experienced.

In John 4:24, Jesus said, "God is a Spirit." In Luke 24:39, He said, "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself: handle Me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as you see Me have."

When Jesus was born of Mary, a change took place in the Godhead. The second person of the Godhead, Jesus, took on a body. From that time, one member of the triune Godhead, has a body.

The first person of the Godhead, the Father, is also a person. He can see, feel, hear, and speak. He has a will and emotions. God has all of the attributes of personality, yet He does not have a body. Paul said, "Absent from the body, present with the Lord." When we die we are no less a person after our death than we were before our death.

Paul called this body a house. Thus we are not seen, but rather, the house in which we live. Someday, we will vacate it, but still live. This is important, as we must differentiate between personality and corporeality, or a material body. Therefore, I think of God as a person regardless of the fact that He does not have a material body.

Consider Numbers 12:8a. "With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold."

"Similitude" speaks of the form, shape, or likeness of the Lord. Thus, it can be said that even though God is a Spirit personality, He nevertheless has a form.

Some theologians say these terms are anthropomorphic. That is, the words that signify form are only used to convey the aspect of spirit being. But to apply this to the shape and form of God is to destroy much spiritual truth in the Word, which should be taken as literal.

For example, the revelation of the shape and form of God is explicit in the following passage of Scripture.

"And the Lord said, Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by: And I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back parts: but My face shall not be seen." Exodus 33:21-22

The Word tells us, "And there shall no man see Me and live." This refers to the face of God, "But My face shall not be seen." When Jesus said, "no man has seen God at any time," He is saying that no man has seen the face, or the full glory of God. But Moses saw other parts of God.

The Lord shielded Moses from seeing His face because, if in his curiosity, he turned to see the face of God, he would die, as he could not stand the revelation of the full glory of God. Notice that God speaks of His hands, His face, and His back. The implication is that God appeared to Moses in human form.

Although God is a Spirit personality with a non-material form, this Spirit form is similar to the human form. When God said let us make man after our own likeness and in our own image, He created man with a physical form like unto His general spiritual form.

"And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness." Genesis 1:26a

"And Adam lived a hundred and thirty years, and fathered a son in his own likeness, after His image; and called his name Seth." Genesis 5:3

Notice that the same terms are used concerning the form of God and of man. Therefore, it is logical to assume that there is a certain resemblance, as to form, between God and man.

The Word tells us that the pure in heart shall see God. As we come to the Lord in simple faith and trust, and wait upon Him, He will not only "reveal" His manifest presence to us, but He will make Himself "known" to us, in terms and ways we can understand.

CHAPTER 8: The Manifest Presence of God

"Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? says the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? says the Lord." Jeremiah 23:24

The Lord "fills" both heaven and earth. This is His omnipresence, which is the fact of His being present everywhere. This aspect of His presence may, or may not be revealed or felt. When it is revealed, it is simply a feeling of "presence," apart from the revelation of a person.

The manifest presence of God is more than this. It speaks of a presence in which the Lord reveals Himself as a person with personality and feelings.

"He that has My commandments, and keeps them, he it is that loves Me: and he that loves Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him" John 14:21

This is more than spiritual, or inner perception. It means that the Lord will make Himself known to us through one or more of our five physical senses.

Several years ago, the Lord had been awakening me during the night. Usually, at precisely 2:30, I would become aware of His being present. This meant that I was to get up and sit in His presence; a half hour, an hour, or sometimes through the rest of the night.

The next night, I would experience the same thing. This was a strong presence, in which worship would rise up from deep within me. One time, the Lord came and stood at the foot of my bed. Then He audibly sang a song that had a special meaning for me.

The Lord would come into my room in many different ways. Often, He would wake me up by knocking. When I heard this knock, I noticed that it would be exactly 2:30. Usually, I could tell the intention of the Lord by the way He knocked. If it was something urgent, the knock would have that characteristic. Sometimes it would be hardly audible and so delicate that I knew He had come as a lover for a time of fellowship.

I began to wonder why the Lord almost always came at 2:30. I knew that scripturally, no hour is more significant than another. I sought the Lord concerning this, and He gave me the understanding that I desired.

Long before, I had learned that there was a higher purpose for the night times than just sleeping. The Lord has revealed many choice truths to me during the long nights, as I spent time in His presence by waiting upon Him.

Then the Lord spoke this to me. "By 2:30, you have had enough sleep so you will be able to commune with Me for a time without falling asleep. And when we finish, there is enough time left for you to receive adequate rest for your day's work." Our Lord is very considerate and understanding. This caused me to love and respect the Lord even more.

This experience of an active relationship with the Lord in "waiting upon Him" requires more self-discipline than any other area of experience. I cannot stay up late to watch the TV, or for any other

distraction. Nor can I afford to socialize at night. When my time for bed comes, which is quite early, I excuse myself from whoever may be present, and go to bed. My appointment with the Lord is of far greater importance.

One night, I was awakened as the Lord walked away from the foot of my bed. I saw Him for only a moment. He was dressed in white glistening garments and I heard the rustling of these garments. The closest I can come to this sound, by way of description, is to say that it was like the leaves on a poplar tree. These make a rustling sound when the wind blows. At the same time, my room became filled with the presence of the Lord.

I looked at my watch and it was exactly 2:30. I had placed a chair next to the stove, where I could be comfortable. I sat there in His presence, until a quarter to five. Then I said, "Lord, do You mind if I go back to bed?" I waited, and as there was no answer, I returned to my bed.

After I fell asleep, two hands came over my shoulders and literally pulled me upright into a sitting position. I do not know how this could have happened, as I was in the room alone. I only know that it did, and that there is no possible human explanation for this experience.

Again, there was a strong manifestation of His presence. When this happened, it was five o'clock. I had been in bed for fifteen minutes. I stayed up in His presence until about seven o'clock. Then I said, "Lord, I must get ready for school," and did so. At this time, I had no indication of what the purpose of the Lord might have been.

That morning, the subject in my first class was the book of Hosea. This is a wonderful book, in which God gives us an insight into His broken heart. I had been teaching only about ten minutes, when I sensed an unusual presence. I pushed back my book and said, "Students, there is quite a presence here, let us pause and see what this means."

At once, there came a powerful prophetic utterance and the classroom was electrified. Hands went up, and worship began to flow out from the students. Oh, such a presence of God.

Then everything became quiet and a girl began to beautifully sing. Her voice went to unusual highs, and then deep lows. It was as if she were in an opera. Another girl followed, and then sometimes they sang together in profound harmony, or answered each other in the spirit. After this, we were given the interpretation. It was the expression of a love relationship between the Lord and His Church. Then the power fell again, and there was profound rejoicing.

The class time passed and the bell rang. It was time to leave the classroom, but no one left. Everyone was taken up in praising the Lord. Another class came, but could not enter as we were still there. As they stood outside in the vestibule, wondering what they should do, the Holy Spirit fell on them, and they entered into the worship. Another hour went by, and all of us were still there.

Again the bells rang, and the third class came. We were still in the classroom; the vestibule was still filled with the second class, so the third class stood outside the building, wondering what they should

do. Suddenly, the Holy Spirit fell on them, and they began to worship in a beautiful harmony with the others.

By noontime, the Holy Spirit had fallen upon the entire school. When dinnertime came, only a few out of several hundred were there. When Bible School students do not show up for dinner, there is one of three reasons. Either they are sick, in love, or there is revival. This was the beginning of a revival that lasted for ten days, in which God moved in a mighty way.

It had begun the night before, when I was literally pulled upright in my bed. I clearly believe that had I not rightly responded to this experience during the night, this revival would have been missed. It had its origin in my "waiting upon the Lord" during the hours of that night.

Our responding to the presence of the Lord, and waiting upon Him "in His presence, is of tremendous value.

CHAPTER 9: Spiritual Sensitivity

Often, during the night season, the Lord comes and instructs me about "spiritual sensitivity" and "responsiveness" to His presence. During one of these times, the Lord strongly impressed me with this Scripture,

"Do not I fill heaven and earth?" Jeremiah 23:24b

This has become such a reality to me that I have no problem in drawing nigh to the Lord, anywhere - at any time. No matter what environment I may be in, I know that the Lord is there with me.

I received a very practical lesson concerning this while on a trans-Atlantic flight. Suddenly, the plane turned and headed back. I looked out the window and saw what appeared to be a cloud coming from a wing. Then I saw the same thing happening in the other wing, so I thought the plane was on fire. Instead, gas was being dumped.

Then came the announcement, "We are having a slight difficulty and are returning to the airport. We will prepare you for an emergency landing on the water, should it be necessary. Please take off your shoes, remove all objects from your pockets and tighten your belt as firmly as possible. Be prepared to place a pillow over your face."

They said we would gently land on the waves and wait for help to arrive. They made it sound easy, but I knew it was very dangerous. I then said goodbye to each of my family and committed myself to the Lord. This was the fourth time I have done this.

I prayed, "Father, to the best of my knowledge, I am in Your will, and if this is the end, so be it; but Your Word says, Do not I fill heaven and earth? Father, if You fill heaven and earth, then You fill this

airplane, therefore You and I are in this together, so if we go down, You also are going down." As I said this, I felt an intense sense of His presence.

We did not need to land on the water, but made it safely to an airport. In those situations it is important to know that He does fill heaven and earth, and to understand what that means to us.

On another flight, I was over the Amazon Jungles in a plane that was having trouble. I sat by the window and watched as we came very close to the trees. The crew was serving sandwiches to keep the passengers occupied, but no one was eating them as they were watching the trees. Again, I had a profound sense that the Lord was in the plane with me and that He would bring us through safely.

Once again, on a flight in the same area, the lightning was extremely severe, brilliantly lighting the sky with one flash after another. I sat there and wondered where it would hit next. It was so comforting to be able to say, "Father, you and I are in this plane together. To me, His omnipresence has become very personal and real. It is not merely a theological fact, but rather, an intense reality.

Jesus said in Matthew 6:6, "Your Father which sees in secret shall reward you openly." The word "secret" tells us that although we may be totally unaware of His presence, He is there, watching and listening. This knowledge of the omnipresence of God is a tremendous help in prayer. We may pray, feeling no response or presence - absolutely nothing; but in confidence we can say, "Father, I know that You are here, and I thank You for Your presence."

Whatever we may be doing, or wherever we may be, we can abide and rest in His presence, knowing that He is with us. And often, when we acknowledge His presence, though we may feel nothing, He will come and confirm the fact that He is present.

This manifestation of His omnipresence, which I experienced, can be spoken of as the localized, personalized, manifest presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "Except you eat the flesh of the Son of man, you have no life in you." He was the visible embodiment of the truth of God.

If you will accept and eat these experiences that I share with you, the truth in these will also become meat in your spiritual life and experience. The Lord often uses my experiences as His way to impart His truth and life into others, who are spiritually hungry and desire to know Him.

These experiences are not just interesting stories, but the embodiment of the truth. They serve as illustrations, but they also are demonstrations of the truth so we may know how truth can be applied to our personal life experience. Also, it is important to know that there is a price which must be paid by those who would press onward into all that the Lord has to offer.

I had spent a weekend ministering in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Monday morning, I was at the railroad station reading the morning newspaper. I received a slight "check" in my spirit, and knew what it meant. This was a quickening of the Holy Spirit to call my attention away from what I was doing, to the Lord. I folded up the newspaper and said, "Father, what do You want?" At once I received a spirit of prayer and intercession, which lasted all the way to Philadelphia.

Each Monday night, I teach a class in Philadelphia, in connection with the Bible School where I am a teacher. When I arrived, I thought I would get a Chinese dinner, but again the Lord checked me. I knew that this meant that I was to continue praying. I returned to my room at the YMCA, and prayed until the time of the meeting.

When the time to teach came, I said, "The Lord is present tonight" and the power fell. At the end of that meeting, someone remarked, "When you came in, we could feel the presence of God walk in with you." I had spent all day in intercession, giving myself to the Lord. We had a marvelous move of the Holy Spirit for five consecutive Monday nights.

A pastor who did not like what was taking place, complained to the denomination to which I belong. Two officials came to my office at the Bible School. They said I was not doing any teaching in the night school, but was stirring up the people and that this was to stop. My response was that the Lord was pouring out His Spirit, and that needs were being met in profound ways. I added that I thought this visitation was a wonderful thing.

Then they said, "We are receiving complaints and we want you to stop it." I said, "But what if the Holy Spirit continues? I did not start this visitation, I merely cooperated with the Spirit and put no hindrance in His way." They responded, "We believe that He is finished working."

I asked, "But, how do you know; you were not there." Again they said, "We want you to tell the students that the Spirit is finished working, and that you are going on with the classes." Then they left.

A short time later, I was the speaker at a camp meeting, and the Holy Spirit wonderfully moved. Again the Church authorities came and said, "We want you to stop whatever it is that gets you involved in these so-called movings of the Spirit. We are being told that whenever there is one of these stirrings, you are in the middle of it." I had thought they would be glad that I had given myself to fasting and prayer, in obedience to the Holy Spirit.

That night I was unable to sleep for I felt very discouraged. My superiors were telling me to stop the moving of the Holy Spirit in the classes, and I was being criticized for having a move of the Holy Spirit in the camp meeting. I thought, "I will quit."

The next night, I quickly fell asleep. At that time, we lived in a cottage, which had three wooden steps leading to the front door. I was awakened out of a deep sleep by heavy footsteps walking up these three steps. Somehow, I instinctively knew that this was the Lord. I heard Him take hold of the knob of the door. This knob usually rattled, and I heard it rattle. I heard Him turn the knob and pull the door open, step through the door, take hold of the inside knob and close the door.

I heard Him walk through the dinette. He stopped at the door to my bedroom and then He spoke in a rich, deep, masculine voice. He had come to reassure me that He was with me and that He would protect me against all my enemies. I clearly heard this audible voice with my physical ear.

After that, He turned and walked through the dinette, turned the knob and opened the front door and then closed it after He left. I heard Him go down the three steps. This was a personal visit from a personal Christ, in a time of deep distress, when I was about to turn my back on the movings of the Holy Spirit. This visit gave me the strength and will to continue, and to pay the price for His presence.

Later, I met with the pastor who I felt had complained and he acknowledged that he had done so. I asked if he would be interested in hearing how this move of the Holy Spirit had come about, and he said he would. After I shared with him, he bowed his head and tears literally flowed down his face and he asked if I would pray for him, that he might have such movings in his ministry. The Lord had visited, and then vindicated me.

I then asked the Lord if there was a Scripture which would confirm that I had literally heard the Lord walking. In response, the Lord drew my attention to Genesis 3:8.

"And they (Adam and Eve) heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day."

This word "voice" literally means "sound" and is translated this way in the Hebrew Bible. Adam and Eve had experienced the personalized presence of the Lord.

I asked the Lord if there was another Scripture, and I was directed to I Samuel 3:10.

"And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for Your servant hears."

The fact of this personal visitation from the Lord is established in John 14:21.

"He that has My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loves Me: and he that loves Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him."

The Lord loves everyone, but this love is for those who "meet the conditions" He sets forth. The evidence, or reciprocation of this love is that He will manifest Himself to them. In the original, this word "manifest" means that the Lord will make Himself "personally real." Thus, Jesus is saying, "I will plainly show Myself to him."

The Pulpit Commentary, which refers to Thayer's Greek Lexicon, says that this word "manifest" is so strong that it can mean nothing less than a manifestation of the presence of God, perceivable by one of more of our human faculties.

Thus, it is possible for each one of us to "experience" the personal presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in our lives.

CHAPTER 10: Manifestations of His Divine Presence

Those who “set apart” quality time to seek the Lord and in anticipation, “wait” in His presence, will be given “revelations” and “openings” in the Word, and may be blessed with “movings” and “manifestations” of the Holy Spirit.

"The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him; and He will show them His covenant." Psalm 25:14

This "fear" is a worshipful reverence that moves the heart of the Lord to make known the "treasures of darkness." These are spiritual nuggets and principles, which are buried beneath the "letter of the Word" and can be known only by “revelation.” To be valid, there must be a Scriptural basis for these experiences. We should not move into areas which go beyond the text and context of the Word of God.

"He that has My commandments, and keeps them, he it is that loves Me: and he that loves Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him." John 14:21

For the Lord to “manifest” Himself to us means that He will make His presence “known” to us, through one or more of our physical senses. The following is a Scriptural example of this.

"For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host; and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us." II Kings 7:6

There were no horses or chariots, but the Syrians heard sounds as if they were there. Through this seeming "sound," the Lord gave the Syrians the message He intended them to have.

I have often heard a sound that awakened me, as if the Lord had audibly knocked on a door that was close to my ear. The Lord was “causing” me to “hear” the sound of a knocking, which conveyed the message that it was time to get up and wait on Him.

The fact that this knocking can be spiritual, rather than literal, is confirmed in the Song of Solomon.

"I sleep, but my heart wakes: it is the voice of my Beloved that knocks, saying, Open to Me, My sister, My love, My dove, My undefiled." Song of Solomon 5:2a

In Acts 2:2, another reference is made to sound.

"And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting."

Here, the presence of the Holy Spirit was made known to those who were gathered in the Upper Room, through the "sound" of a rushing mighty wind. This indicated the initial coming of the Holy Spirit to abide within the believer, which had been promised by Jesus, and for which they were waiting.

This was the Lord, "manifesting" His presence through the medium of “sound.” They heard with their physical ears the Holy Spirit come into their midst. This experience introduced them to the “personal presence” of the Holy Spirit.

Hattie Hammond told me that she heard, with her natural faculty of hearing, an entire (spiritual) orchestra playing during a visitation. Thus, on occasion, God may manifest His presence to us through a particular sound, which is perceivable to our human faculty of hearing, in order to convey a message to us.

This experience of our hearing an "indication" of the presence, or of the purpose of the Lord, should be a part of our spiritual experience. It will happen, or take place when, within the judgment of God, the occasion requires such.

Another way in which the Lord may manifest His presence to us, is through the faculty of "smell."

One time, during a move of the Spirit, a fragrance wafted through the Chapel. It was recognized as the "fragrance of the presence" of the Lord. The wife of the music director attended this service while he stayed home with the children. When she returned home, he asked her about the perfume she was wearing. He was smelling the fragrance of the Lord from the meeting, which still clung to her clothing.

We should be responsive to, but never strain after manifestations, as they are altogether a matter of "Divine discretion." The Lord should never be told "how" He should meet us; for the prerogative of how, belongs to Him.

Rather, we should "wait" in His presence, "open our spirits" before Him, and "respond" to whatever way He may move upon us in order to make His presence known.

I believe the Lord has given these manifestations to me that I might, as I minister throughout the world, let others know that these personal visitations from the Lord may occur, and then help them with their response to them.

I have been told by many that by sharing these experiences, I have helped them to understand various movings of the Holy Spirit which they had experienced. Once, after ministering from Revelation, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock," a lady said, "I have been awakened many times by a sound of knocking, and once I heard my name being spoken. I thought there was something wrong with me. Now I understand that this was the Lord, and that I am to respond."

"And there appeared to them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them." Acts 2:3

The Word tells us that these manifestations "appeared." Those present actually saw something that looked like flames of fire. Here, the Lord was manifesting His presence through the medium of "sight."

"Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian ... and the angel of the Lord appeared to 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 burned. And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I." Exodus 3:1-4

This bush only looked as if it were burning, as it was not consumed. This manifestation of the presence of the Lord was used to arrest the attention of Moses. The Lord was patiently waiting for him to notice and respond. When he did, the Lord spoke to Him.

The Lord may use a special means to attract our attention, and will speak to us only after we respond. This flame, which seemingly burned, was a Divine presence that is called, "the Angel of the Lord." The practical lesson here is the fact that there is such a thing as a manifestation of the Lord, which is perceivable to our human faculty of sight.

Israel had seen the presence of the Lord for forty years. By day they saw the Shekinah Glory of the Lord as a cloud, and by night, as the appearance of a fire. They were to follow this manifestation of the presence of the Lord, by moving when it moved, and staying when it stayed.

They were given these manifestations of the Divine presence that they might learn the principles of guidance, as they were led through the wilderness.

"Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." Luke 3:21-22

Here, the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in a bodily shape, like a dove. The Holy Spirit is a person with all the faculties of personality. He does not have a body, but He descended in a form that was like unto a body. He can take other forms to reveal His presence, as in the upper room; He used cloven tongues of fire to make Himself known. Thus, Spirit has form.

The Lord uses these varied manifestations as a means to make Himself known to us. Experiences such as these should be the norm for us, and not the exception.

It is important for us to understand that we are to look past whatever means the Lord may use to make His presence known to us, and respond to Him, as the manifestation of His presence indicates.

CHAPTER 11: Quickening Presence

"And Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it outside the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation."

"And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses."

"And the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend." Exodus 33:7a,9,11a

The "omnipresence" of the Lord speaks of His presence "filling" both heaven and earth. He is everywhere at one and the same time. But within His omnipresence is His personally revealed, "manifest presence."

There are two aspects to His manifest presence. The first is the Lord appearing to us as a "person" in which He makes known to us, through one or more of our five physical senses, a measure of His thoughts or feelings.

The second is the feeling of His presence as an "inner glow" which comes deep within us. This is a "quickenning presence" which causes us to become keenly aware of the spiritual realm.

"My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest." Exodus 33:14

I usually travel alone, but not alone, because of the companionship of the presence of God. Last summer, I had meetings in Bangkok and changed planes in Singapore. We arrived at the Singapore airport early and a man said he would make sure my luggage was put on the right plane so I could be free to get something to eat.

When we arrived in Bangkok, several other large jets arrived around the same time. Passengers and luggage were everywhere, since the airport was small. All the other passengers from my plane had picked up their luggage, but my suitcases were not there. I went to the Tai-Airways desk and told them that apparently my luggage had been lost.

I decided to go to the hotel and wait for them to call when my luggage was found. Then I felt to go back to the conveyor one more time to see if it might have come while I was at the desk. I looked, but found nothing. Almost an hour and a half had passed and everyone was gone. I thought I must reconcile myself to the fact that my luggage was lost and buy replacements.

Just as I was about to turn away, I felt the Lord's quickening presence. It was so strong that it seemed as if the Lord was standing to my left, by the conveyor belt. I had an inner sense of calm as I felt the Lord had come to stand with me.

We stood there together, at the conveyor belt. I thought, if the Lord has come to stand here with me, I should not leave, so I kept looking at the conveyor belt. This lasted about fifteen minutes as I stood there, thanking the Lord for His presence.

Just then, my luggage appeared on the belt. It had been mixed with the luggage of another flight. I was so delighted because the Lord had come and stood with me so I would not leave. After I picked up my suitcases, I discovered that the Lord was no longer there. He came to help me because He knew my things would come. "My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."

"Oh how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for them that fear You; which You have wrought for them that trust in You before the sons of men!"

"You shall hide them in the secret of Your presence from the pride of man: You will keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues." Psalm 31:19-20

Here, the presence of the Lord is seen as being a shelter in which we are protected and vindicated, concerning that which others may say or do.

A teacher in the school where I taught was very critical of my overseas travels. She heard that I was planning to go to Liberia and asked when I planned to go. When I told her the first week of June, she responded that this was not the time to go, and said I should have heard from the Lord.

When I told her that I had heard from the Lord, she declared that I had not heard, and that I should have had better discernment. She told me that this was the worse time to go to Liberia as it rains so much that no one would be able to come to the meetings.

When I arrived in Liberia, there was sunshine each day and a full moon each night. They told me that they had never seen such beautiful weather during this season. When I returned home, I was able to tell her that we had a rainless week and that the presence of the Lord had been with me in an unusual way.

As a result, her criticism was silenced. When the Lord speaks to us in His "quickenning presence," we can "depend" on what He tells us.

One time, the Lord told me to go to France. However, I did not want to go because the Germans and French were traditional enemies and my father had fought against France. I said, "Lord, I do not have money to go to France."

One evening during the summer camp meeting, the speaker said the Lord had told him to take up an offering for my travels. The amount of this offering was \$580. The price of a return ticket to France was \$552. Then I told the Lord my second excuse, "Even though I have the fare, I still cannot go, as I have no contact." A few days later, a pastor asked me to minister in his Church and told me that he would like me to meet his friend from France, who was visiting.

After I spoke, this man said, "Have you ever thought of coming to France?" Just then, a strong presence of the Lord came, and I knew that I was to go, and made the arrangements to do so.

When I arrived, I did not feel welcomed, as I was German. In fact, I overheard someone talking about me. Then I said, "Father, do you hear what they are saying about me?" When I said this, I felt a strong enveloping presence. It was the "shelter" of the presence of God. They still talked, and I still heard what they said, but now I had a fortress.

After the second morning meeting, I had come to know that they were not receptive to my ministry, and did not want me there. I felt very uneasy and told them I would like to go out for a walk. I had the feeling that they were relieved.

Although it was cold and raining, I went to a park and sat there shivering. I said, "Father, please let me go home as they do not want me or the message you gave me." There was such a presence, but I did not receive anything from the Lord. Then I went back to my cold hotel room.

Once in my room, I said, "Father, unless you do something I will find my ministerial grave in France." I thought of the tens of thousands of white crosses I had seen as I traveled through Normandy by train.

Early Sunday morning, the Lord woke me up and gave me a message that had to do with His personal visits to me. I said, "Lord, they will never receive this." After I spoke for about ten minutes, I stopped and asked my interpreter to tell the congregation that someone had an utterance from the Holy Spirit.

"Oh," she said, "we do not do this in France. This is not our custom." I responded, "Please do it anyway." She said, "It just is not done like that." I said, "Sister, the Holy Spirit has an utterance somewhere in the audience." We stood there arguing while they wondered what it was all about.

Finally she said, pointing a finger at me, "Brother says somebody has an utterance from the Spirit and should give it." A lady stood up and gave a beautiful utterance in tongues. A man stood up and gave the interpretation. In the interpretation, God confirmed that He had sent me to France, that He was giving them His word, that He was seeking to bring them into a new dimension of experience in God, and that they should receive the word.

With that, the Spirit of God fell, hands went up and this large crowd began to shout and praise the Lord. I heard a voice at the other end of the platform I thought I recognized. The pastor who had criticized and opposed me had his hands raised and was shouting praises in French as tears ran down his face.

He came over, threw his arms around me, asked for my forgiveness, and said "God has sent you to France, tomorrow we have a special outing for all the Churches, please stay and speak." This man was the leader of all my future visits, and opened many areas of France for my ministry. One year, they sent me to Japan, over the North Pole from Paris, and paid all the expenses.

It was the presence of the Lord that held me steady, a shelter to envelop me, protect me, and shield me from their words until God could break through and turn hostility into friendship to the glory of God. These experiences in His manifest presence are real and have a purpose.

CHAPTER 12: "When He Calls I Will Answer"

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me."

"To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with Me in My Throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His Throne." Revelation 3:20-21

One day as I sat before the Lord, He drew my attention to the above passage of Scripture. As I held this before the Lord, I began to see something on a higher level than I had before realized.

The Lord made known to me the "method" of His approach, in order to lead us into a feast with Him. The key to this is the word, "attention." If I came to your house, I would not casually open the door, walk in and say, "Hi, where is the refrigerator?" Rather, I would first knock on the door to get your attention. After you responded to my knock, all else would follow.

So also, in Revelation 3:20, the Lord knocks to attract our attention.

This knock may come in a number of different ways. For example, while on a trans-Pacific flight, I was thinking about some problems I would face when I returned home, when suddenly I felt a tug at my spirit, as something seeking attention.

Through experience, I recognized this as the presence of the Lord, seeking to come and commune with me. I immediately stopped what I was doing, and turned aside into His presence, where we communed together. I can testify that these times of fellowship with the Lord have been profoundly satisfying and wonderful.

One time when I was in Australia, the pastor asked if I would return during the Christmas season for their ministers' seminar. He said that he also invited another minister and would arrange the tickets. I then told him I would come if he would promise not to place us on the same flight. If the Lord requested my attention while this minister was sitting next to me, I would need to become totally unresponsive to him, and he might feel hurt. Therefore, I always seek to avoid this possibility; but if I must, I choose not to hurt the Lord.

The Lord often quickens within me a chorus, "When He calls I will answer." This is the Lord telling me that He is about to knock on the door of my heart. Therefore, I am very careful about what I do, so I can remain sensitive to hear and respond to His voice.

At times, this presence of the Lord may lead into a prolonged time of worship and communion with Him. Or, it may turn into intercession, which requires a turning inward to allow the burden to have its full outworking. It is important that we arrange our time so we can rightly respond, as the Lord may require.

While on a Pan-Am flight from New York to Dakar, I was sitting alone by a window. A lady across the aisle asked if I would change my seat and eat with her. But a short time before, I had felt this chorus rise up within, "When He calls, I will answer." I had to tell her that I could not do this. Another man agreed and they talked all evening. I would have missed a very special time of communion with the Lord, during which He prepared me for the ministry that was before me.

The Lord may knock through a "check of the spirit." This is an indication to stop whatever is being done and turn inward to listen for His voice. This has happened at home and my wife will say, "Why are you so quiet?" When I respond that I have something working in me, she immediately knows what I mean.

The Lord often speaks through alarm, or conviction, in a way that quickly arrests our attention. One year I had planned a stop in Baghdad to rest. I thought that while there, I would take a bus to the ancient city of Babylon. I woke in the morning with a presence and felt something alarming about it. I sat up in bed, and felt very uneasy in my spirit.

I said to the Lord, "What is wrong?" Suddenly before me stood the word "Baghdad." He never explained, but I knew at once that I was to remove that stop from my trip. Had I not obeyed, I might have become involved in some danger.

There is a price tag that is attached to this kind of walk. There have been times when I was with someone for dinner or visiting with them, and all of a sudden there came that nudge from the Lord, seeking my attention and I would have to excuse myself, and remove to a quiet place in order to respond.

I was visiting a family while teaching at a camp meeting. They had set out a very special meal for me. As we began to eat, suddenly that special nudge came in my spirit and I knew what it meant. As graciously as I possibly could, I excused myself and turned aside into the presence of the Lord. Later when I returned, the table was cleared and the food put away. I was never invited again.

There are times when the Lord asks that which is difficult for us.

While ministering in France, at the end of a service, a woman who may have been past ninety years of age, pushed a French coin into my hand. She said, "You have helped me and I want to do something for you." I knew she could not afford to give this coin, but I received it. The Lord had taught me long ago, "I will command the ravens to sustain thee." The ravens are God's ordinary nobodies.

The Lord had said to Elijah, "I have commanded a widow woman to sustain you." Elijah said to this woman, "What do you have?" She responded that she had some meal and a little flour and was going to make a pancake for herself and for her son, and then they would starve.

Elijah then said, "First make me a cake." I would like to ask Elijah, "How did you feel when you asked that poor widow woman to give you her last cake, knowing the consequence?" He was walking in obedience, therefore the Lord provided for the woman.

If I had refused to take that woman's coin, I would have deprived her of one of her greatest blessings from the Lord. But on my part, it took a humiliating experience. I had extra money with me, and this poor lady was giving me a small coin. Your obedience will kill you, but only then can the Lord raise you up.

There are those who do not understand my walk with the Lord. There is a price that must be paid, as friends may be lost. But I had made the determination that I would at all cost obey the Lord. It is not easy to keep such a commitment. The Lord may put our obedience to the test. We may be tempted to give in due to pressure from others, knowing that they do not understand.

In the Lord's time and way, He will vindicate us. In the meantime, the communion we have with Him cannot be compared to anything we might otherwise have.

CHAPTER 13: A Hearing Heart

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: If any man hear My voice, and open the door..." Revelation 3:20a

This does not refer exclusively to men, but to anyone who will hear and respond. Some time ago, in Australia, a Scripture in I Corinthians 14 was applied literally,

"The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man."

Women were excluded and told they must remain silent. Rather, this speaks of "opportunity." The only condition is that we hear and respond, which will result in a feast with the Lord as He "reveals" Himself to us in His "manifested presence."

This "experiencing" of the Lord's manifested presence is available to all those who love the Lord, and demonstrate that love by their obedience. Its outworking will depend on how developed we are toward spiritual maturity, the Lord's purpose for our lives, our spiritual hunger and capacity, or completely apart from us, the sovereign purposes of the Lord. Thus, it is not restricted to an isolated few or given because we are particularly holy.

We should rejoice when the Lord condescends to use us. If we ever think that we are special because the Lord is using us, remember the wonder that He has anything to do with us at all. If we become proud because we are being used by the Lord in any way, think of Balaam's donkey who prophesied to the prophet. If the Lord can use a donkey to speak, it is no great thing that He uses us.

His "knocking" on this doorway of spiritual opportunity indicates the Lord's singular desire to personally meet with us. Notice that the emphasis is on our "hearing and responding." Since this is the voice of the Lord knocking, "spiritual perception and sensitivity" is required for us to hear. Our "capacity" for spiritual perception can be increased in several ways - through teaching, by our feeding on the Word, by our fellowship with the Lord, and by prayer. It is very important that we seek to improve our ability to hear His voice

We should "guard" our "spiritual awareness" and never take this ability for granted. It is important that we never take for granted, not treat lightly the Lord's approach to us for fellowship. The Song of Solomon reveals a very high degree of intimacy between Solomon and the Lord. Yet toward the end of his life, Solomon turned so far from the Lord that his eternal state is left in doubt.

In Italy, there is a painting of Solomon, which shows him coming up in the resurrection before the Throne of God, in which the saved are on the right and the lost on the left. As Solomon approaches, there is an expression on his face, which indicates that he does not know if he belongs on the right or the left. There is one Scripture that gives a bit of a hope, where the Lord said to David, "My mercy shall not depart from him."

At the zenith of his seeking the Lord, the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, "Ask what I shall give you." Consider what your answer would be if the Lord were to say this to you. Our answer would be synchronistic with our true spiritual state, as it would reveal where we stand spiritually.

I can relate to this as I had a similar experience, but for a different purpose. Years ago, during a time of severe dealings, the Lord was grieved with me and took His Spirit from me for three days. Then after a time of severe disciplining, the Lord said, "Ask what I shall give you," and I responded, "There is only one thing I would ask, that I might have Your Spirit to return."

Solomon's response was, "Give me now wisdom." In the Hebrew, the idea it carries is: "Give your servant a hearing heart." There are two types of hearing - the natural faculty of hearing through our physical ear, and the inner spiritual faculty of spiritual perception.

God is a Spirit and Psalm 94:9 tells us, "He that planted the ear, shall He not hear? He that formed the eye, shall He not see?" The Lord has no physical faculty of hearing, but rather, a spiritual faculty of hearing.

Because we have these two diverse ways to hear, we tend to neglect our spiritual hearing. Therefore, Jesus emphasized our spiritual hearing, "He that has an ear to hear, let him hear." They heard what Jesus was saying with their physical ear, but He reminded them that there is a much higher level of hearing by which we should hear. Only then can we know what He is really saying.

In John's messages to the seven Churches, he repeated to each of them, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches." This is an appeal to the inner hearing of the heart, which was the request of Solomon.

When I retire at night, I often pray, "Give now Thy servant a hearing heart." I am asking the Lord to help me to discern when He is knocking on the door of my heart, so I might respond.

Many times, I have been asked, "How can I learn to better recognize the voice of the Lord?" The best way is through our "times of fellowship" with the Lord. Comparing Himself to a shepherd, Jesus said,

"The sheep follow Him: for they know His voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers." John 10:4b-5

These sheep were not "taught" how to recognize the voice of their shepherd. Rather, they came to "know" his voice because they spent so much time with him. The time we spend waiting upon the Lord is tremendously important.

Along with this, we come to "recognize" the voice of the Lord through our "spiritual experiences." The Holy Spirit will work with us and help us to learn the Lord's voice. Samuel is a good example of this. He had lain down to sleep and the Lord came and called Him. He ran to Eli thinking it was he who had called, but it was not. After he had come three times, Eli told him that it was the Lord who was calling him. Our translation says, "the word of the Lord was not yet revealed unto Samuel." But the Hebrew reads, "the voice of the Lord was not yet made known to Samuel."

The best way to recognize His voice and leadings is by association. As we wait on the Lord and gain experience through our responses to His presence, we come to recognize and understand the voice of

the Lord. A young child will usually cry when picked up by another. A newborn will not do this, but because the baby has spent much time with his mother, he has learned to recognize her.

If I were to spend time with you, you would come to recognize the sound of my voice. But if instead, someone explained to you the sound of my voice, it is most probable that you would not recognize it when I came into your presence.

There is a “progression” that we learn through experience that will lead us into His presence.

"Behold I stand at the door and knock" - attention.

"If any man" - opportunity.

“Hear” - spiritual perception.

“My voice” - recognition.

“Open the door” - response.

There is no substitute for spending time in the presence of the Lord. As year by year, we grow spiritually, we will more easily recognize His voice.

CHAPTER 14: Those That Seek Me Early Shall Find Me

“Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint.” Isaiah 40:30-31

Years ago, I always stayed up until past midnight and then slept until late in the morning. The Lord let me know that this was to change, for I was to rise early each morning to meet with Him. The Lord further revealed that there is a deep inner satisfaction to be found in no other way, and a reward that is received when we spend time with Him early in the morning.

“I love them that love Me; and those that seek Me early shall find Me. That I may cause those that love Me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.” Proverbs 8:17,21

Throughout Church history, most all of those who left a mark upon the Lord's people knew the value of rising early in the morning to spend time with the Lord. The Word of God also affirms that the prophets of old rose early.

Although the Lord had made known to me that He desired to meet with me in the early morning hours, I had a very difficult time changing my sleep pattern. I would set the alarm for six o'clock, since I thought this was very early.

When the alarm rang at six o'clock, I would push the button, turn over, and go back to sleep. Then after awhile, I did not even hear it when it rang. Finally I said to the Lord, "This will never do, as I am unable to get up." I told the Lord that He would have to help me to get up.

The next evening, I asked the Lord to awaken me at six. I did not set the alarm, as I knew this had not worked. The next morning I was awakened out of a deep sleep by a blue jay that made a terrible racket, very close to my window. I got up to look for something to throw at it. Then I looked at the clock and realized that it was exactly 6 AM, and I was out of bed. But I got back in bed and went to sleep.

That night, I apologized to the Lord, asked Him to please wake me up at six the following morning, and that I would get up. At this time, I was staying with an elderly couple that was very nice and exceptionally quiet. The next morning I was awakened by a loud argument between the two, right outside my door. I looked at my clock, and it was exactly 6 AM, but again I went back to sleep.

Once again that night, I asked the Lord's forgiveness and asked Him to wake me up at six o'clock the next morning. I was awakened by an automobile crash that was so loud that I jumped out of bed. I looked out the window, but could not see the cars, so again I went back to bed.

Again, I apologized and told the Lord that I was really ashamed of myself. I prayed, "Lord, I will not ask You to wake me up again at six. Instead, Lord, I ask you to make me get up, and stay up." The next morning, awakened with a terrible stomach pain, I ran for the bathroom. By the time I returned to the bed, I was wide-awake. I looked at my clock and again, it was exactly six o'clock.

Finally, I realized that the Lord was very determined that I was to get up at 6 AM to seek Him. From that time onward, I have always been careful to be in bed early enough in order to be up at six. It is of primary importance that we "promptly respond" when the Lord prompts us to come apart and wait upon Him.

To maintain an abiding walk in the presence of the Lord requires much self-discipline. Some years ago, I was teaching at a camp meeting. My wife was with me that year and we were together in the dining room for breakfast. I had ordered some pancakes and had asked for them to be made in a special way. The waitress seemed very pleased when she set them before me. As I sat looking at them, I felt a strong check in my spirit. My wife said, "You are not supposed to eat this morning." I responded that this was true, and she then said, "Then why are you sitting there, looking at them?" I felt embarrassed because they had been fixed special for me; but I left to go and wait on the Lord.

Being obedient to the Lord is not easy for any of us, but it is very important that we learn the value of "prompt obedience" in order to be available to Him. The Lord said to one of the prophets, "When you go, do not enter into any house, or eat or drink with anyone." The prophet was invited to eat and to rest, but he had to say no.

It is not easy for us to be obedient, knowing that others will not understand. This is the reason the Lord said, "If anyone hears My voice, and opens the door." This means that we may have to make changes in our plans in order to respond and be obedient.

"If you be willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land." Isaiah 1:19

For example, some who have an intercessory ministry may be called by the Lord to come apart to pray while they are still washing the dishes. The temptation would be to hurry and finish, and then pray. If this is done, invariably, there will be no anointing for prayer or intercession. The opportunity would be missed, as there must be an "immediate response."

If any one of us were to go to the home of a friend and knock on their door, and then we noticed that they were ignoring our knock and continuing in whatever they were doing, we would feel hurt and leave. When they would finally respond, we would be gone and probably never again return.

This experience can be seen in the Song of Solomon.

"I sleep, but my heart awakes; it is the voice of my Beloved that knocks, saying, Open to Me, My sister, My love, My dove, My undefiled: For My head is filled with dew, and My locks with the drops of the night."

"I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them?"

"My Beloved put in His hand by the hole of the door, and my bowels were moved for Him."

"I rose to open to my Beloved; and my hands dropped with myrrh, and my fingers with sweet smelling myrrh, upon the handles of the lock."

"I opened to my Beloved; but my Beloved had withdrawn Himself, and was gone. My soul failed when He spoke: I sought Him, but I could not find Him; I called Him, but He gave me no answer."

- Song of Solomon 5:2-6

When the Bridegroom came and knocked on the door to her room, she had already retired, and she made excuses as to why she could not respond. Finally, when she decided to respond, he was gone, and that which was intended was missed.

"I will come in to him, and sup with him, and he with Me." Revelation 3:20b

When we are obedient, not only will a need be met, but our prompt obedience will lead us into a time of intimate communion with the Lord. Because none of us easily come to this level of obedience, if we are sincere and truly desire His presence, there will be a progression in His dealings that will produce within us both the will and the ability to obey.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock." Revelation 3:20

This is the Lord's part. He lets us know that He desires our "total attention," that we might "enter into" and "experience" His manifest presence.

"If anyone" - This is our part. We are given the opportunity to choose to respond, which choice must be above all other things.

"Hears My voice" - If we are serious about personally knowing the Lord and having an ongoing relationship with Him, we must develop the ability to hear, or recognize His voice.

"And opens the door" - The Lord will knock, but we must open the door and invite Him to come within.

"I will come in to him and sup with him, and he with Me." - Once we have invited the Lord to come within, we will find a satisfaction and fulfillment that can be experienced in no other way, as we "commune" with Him.

We can easily see that this is a two way street, which requires an action on each side. Those who are wise will be "prepared" to arise early, "to enter" into His presence.

CHAPTER 15: To Him That Overcomes

"To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne." Revelation 3:21

This reveals the "requirement" for entering into a place of "responsibility," in relation to the Lord's manifest presence.

To be in this "throne relationship" with the Lord, requires of us a quality of "overcoming." We must overcome our thoughts, our desires, and our natural abilities. This means that we have submitted the totality of our being to the Lord, and in our daily life experience, we are rising above the pulls of the earthly.

Thus, to be an overcomer requires that we make this major decision, followed by many lesser decisions, in submitting ourselves "unconditionally" to the Lord. Do we choose to give our priorities to the Lord, or do we give priority to our other interests? Our response, or our failure to respond, shows where our heart really is. It is here that we will fail, unless we recognize that the term "over-coming" involves both pressure and conflict.

In chapter one of Mark, the Lord did not speak to Peter and Andrew while they were resting, or when they were mending their nets. Rather, He said, "Come and follow Me" as they were casting their net into the sea. Seemingly, this was not the right time for the Lord to ask this. Peter could have said, "Lord, I have just dropped my net into the sea and it will take awhile for the fish to get into it. As soon as I am done fishing, I will be with you."

But this is not what happened. The Word tells us that Peter straightway left the demands of his profession. He left his nets in the sea, fish and all, and followed Jesus. The Lord seeks for those who will respond in unquestioning, instantaneous obedience. If Peter had asked the Lord to wait until he had finished his fishing, the Lord would have gone on. Here, Peter's priorities were tested. His obedience had to overcome his professional interest.

By trade, I am a pattern draftsman. Both my grandfather and father were businessmen, which trait was imparted into my life at an early age. I received intensive training in Germany and then came to the United States at the age of twenty-one in 1925. Soon, I opened my own drafting office in New York City and worked long and hard, patterning drawings for the Patent Office in Washington.

I was alone in the office one Saturday afternoon when "suddenly," I heard a voice saying, "Go down to the street and testify of Me." I thought, this is the Lord, but I am very busy and I must get this work done, as it has been promised by a certain time."

I had hardly started back to work when the power of God so moved on me that it literally shook the pencil out of my hand. After awhile this manifest power subsided, so I picked up my pencil and went back to work. I sometimes wonder why the Lord was so patient with me.

Again, the Lord said, "Go down to the street and testify of me." I knew what He wanted, but again I said that I was too busy. And again, the power came down and literally shook the pencil out of my hand.

Finally, I came to understand that the Lord wanted me to put my work in second place and obey Him. I went down to the subway at Forty Second Street, and entered a subway car and began talking to the people who were near me about my experience of salvation. Then, I went from car to car testifying about the Lord.

As I entered a car toward the end of the train, a policeman was standing there. After I started speaking, I saw him scowling at me. Because I had to go past him to get to the next car, I became scared. In my heart I said, "Lord, I have to walk past him, please make a way for me." Then I walked into the next car without a problem, and testified. After this, I left the train and went back to work in my office.

Four weeks later, the Lord spoke to me about going to Bible School. I was able to obey, even though I was very fond of my work and was doing well. Because there was a conflict within concerning my obedience, the Lord prepared me so I would be able to pass the test that I would face concerning the giving up of my business and going to Bible School.

Also, we may face conflicts in the social area of our lives. I was once engaged in a week of being separated to the Lord in fasting and prayer. My wife and small daughter were talking and I heard my daughter say, "Mommy, doesn't daddy love us anymore?" My wife said, "He loves us. What makes you think that he doesn't?" My daughter responded, "He is always in there, and he never takes me for a walk." I had a very hard time not giving up what I felt the Lord had instructed me to do, and take her for a walk. The pressure I felt was intense.

Another time, when I was very busy, the Lord prompted me to go into the attic because He desired to talk to me. I had a desk there so I could study or pray. I thought I would go up for a few minutes, and then I would be free to do what I needed to do.

I went up and said, "Lord, here I am, what do you want?" There was no response from the Lord. Again I said, "Lord, I am available." I waited, but the Lord said nothing. Then I said, "Lord, will You hurry?" Not a word. Then I said, "Please, Lord, it is getting late."

Finally, I realized that I must wait until "I" become quiet, as the Lord had something special to say. Then the Lord spoke three words to me, "Desire spiritual gifts." I knew that I was to write an article on this subject. I sat down at the table and began to write. The words came in a steady stream. I could hardly keep up until it was finished.

I had to overcome all that I felt urgently needed my attention. "To him who overcomes" - This means that other interests must be "set aside" at the beckoning of the Lord. Even legitimate things that bring us into a conflict with the Lord's interests, which seemingly cannot be put off.

In order for us to be in this "overcoming" relationship with Him, the Lord requires the "right" and the "priority" to our time. When He deals with us, we must overcome all other interests and activities. We must say "no" to things in order to say "yes" to Him. This may be very costly, as it cuts across all the human drives within us.

Although the price of saying yes to the Lord is great, the price of saying no is greater still. Gradually, we will learn that it will cost us far less to say "yes" to the Lord than to say "no." Only then will we become the overcomer whom the Lord will lift into His higher purpose.

Notice, that there is a progression, which leads into the place where the Lord would have us.

"I stand and knock" - Attention.

"If any man" - Opportunity

"Hear" - Perception

"My voice" - Recognition

"And open the door" - Response

"I will come into him" - Communion

The "manifest presence" of the Lord is available to those who will respond in obedience to His desire to commune with them.

"Come, My beloved, let us go forth into the field; let us lodge in the villages. Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth: there will I give you My loves." Song of Solomon 7:11-12

Now, we are ready to enter into a cooperative relationship with our Lord - "let us go (together)." Apart from His manifest presence in our lives, nothing else will ever satisfy or be fulfilling. We were created for this.