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# Encounter(ing) God

## 3 Responses to God's Presence Part 12

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### Review... Truly encountering God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

- 1) Contrast “Knowing About” and “Encountering” God
  - a. Knowing – *aware and informed*
  - b. Encountering – *revealing (seeing) and transforming – MEETING!*
  - c. The image of God you carry around in your heart and mind affects the way you live your daily life.

**Moses says, “Show me Your glory” – God shows Moses His character!**

**If we want to know what's glorious about God – it is Who He is!**

#### Exodus 34:6-8

And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." *So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.*

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### Responding to God's Presence — review

- Moses encountered God, made haste, bowed to the ground, worshiped!
- 3 Responses to God's Presence from 2 Samuel 6; the Ark; God's Presence
  - **Irreverent familiarity producing death** – last week – *watch it if you haven't.*
  - **Passionate worship producing blessing** – today
  - **Mockery producing barrenness** – next week
- King David moving Ark to City of David, didn't consult God on how to handle His Presence. Uzzah, who had grown up with the Ark in his home for 20 years, grabbed hold of it when he wasn't even supposed to touch it, and died on the spot.

**Application** – *Irreverent familiarity with God's Presence killed Uzzah. He got “used to” God, responding his own way, handling God how he wanted, NOT how God commanded. That Irreverent Familiarity produced physical death in Uzzah – produces spiritual death in us.*

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### How David responded to God

After this tragic event, David responded in 2 Samuel...

- **2 Samuel 6:8-15**

And David became angry because of the LORD's outbreak against Uzzah; and he called the name of the place Perez Uzzah to this day. David was afraid of the LORD that day; and he said, "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?" So David would not move the ark of the LORD with him into the City of David; but David took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months. And the LORD blessed Obed-Edom and all his household. Now it was told King David, saying, "The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness. And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep. Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.

- David's initial response toward God anger and fear — anger for God's excessive judgement, and fear of how to move Ark in the future. He put it in Obed-Edom's house.
- God's Presence in Obed-Edom's house brings undeniable blessing, it does!

**IMPORTANT — David realizes the problem isn't with God, it's with them, and how they responded to Him with Irreverent Familiarity. Now it's time for an adjusted response.**

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## **Seriously**

**Seriously** — after hearing of Obed-Edom's blessing, *David demands a serious heart adjustment*. They must sanctify themselves, consult God. **1 Chronicles 15:12-14**

- They had to go to the Word and discover how to properly respond to His Presence!
- Imitating the world's way with a new cart was well-intentioned but disobedient.
- Doing it their own way with Irreverent Familiarity produced death.

**It was time for a serious, biblical response to God's Presence — it is the same for us!**

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## **Personally**

**Personally** — remember, David's dancing and whirling was met with disdain by his wife Michal. David's response to her was...

- **2 Samuel 6:21**  
So David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD..."
- "I wasn't responding like I did for anyone but the LORD — not you, not the other leaders, people, handmaidens, no one — it was before the LORD."

**IMPORTANT** — Our response to God's Presence must be personal and biblical. It must be for an audience of One, between me and my God. We can't be concerned about other people's opinions, approvals, objections.

## Humbly

**Humbly** — David also told Michal...

- **2 Samuel 6:22**  
... and will be humble in my own sight.
- humility is seen in David stripping down to his linen ephod. He removed his royal robes, he abandoned his title, his reputation, and others' opinions of him...
- he's just like everyone else, a humble, needy, worshiping man — *unhindered by the trappings of personal prestige and or people's opinions!*

**LISTEN:** as we learn how to respond to God's Presence — He has 3 words for us — **Strip it off!**

- "Do you know who I am?" **Strip it off!**
- "I am somebody!" **Strip it off!**
- "Do you know what people might think, say?" **Strip it off!**
- "Do you know what it might cost me to respond seriously, personally, humbly?"

**Some of us are just a humble "strip it off" away —  
from a significant spiritual breakthrough!**

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## Serious, Personal, Humble Response

***I'm convinced that a serious, personal, humble response to God's Presence is worshiping in spirit and truth***...

- **John 4:23-24**  
But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
- It's spirit because we're seriously responding to God and His ways!
- It's truth because there is no phony, showy pretense-personal humility!

***LISTEN: serious, personal, humble, spirit and truth response — produced Passionate Worship and Blessing! There's an extravagance involved... 2 Samuel 6...***

- **Gladness** — vs.12, festive glee — 100's choir members, singing, playing, God party, this time it's rooted in the Word and ways of God — church should be like that!
- **Sacrifice** — vs.13, confession — first 6 paces oxen and sheep; final paces 7 rams/bulls. Six is number of man, started our own way in the flesh. Seven is number of completion, finishing in the Spirit!
- **Dancing with all his might** — vs.15 — so as his very joints were too loose
- **Shouting** — vs.15 — strong expression of worship, faith, victory
  1. *yawdaw* — to hold out hands
  2. *todaw* — to extend hands

3. *bawrak* – to kneel in adoration
4. *hawlal* – to shine, rave foolishly
5. *zawmar* – play music with fingers
6. *shawbach* – to address in loud tones
7. *shawkhaw* – to prostrate in homage

- **Generosity** – vs. 18 – piece of meat, cake of raisins for country!

## Passionate Worship that Produces Blessing

- David's response to God's Presence — **Serious, Personal, Humble** — OURS TOO!
- What it produced — extravagance, gladness, sacrifice, confession, dancing, shouting, hand raising, kneeling, prostrating etc., OURS TOO! If you get too wild, becomes inappropriate, we'll lovingly and respectfully cool you down — I'd rather cool a zealot than warm a corpse!
- **Close** — near the end of that glorious day and event, David still isn't done. He writes a lengthy Psalm... 1 Chronicles 16... here's some of it...
- **1 Chronicles 16:7-14, 23-26**

On that day David first delivered this psalm into the hand of Asaph and his brethren, to thank the LORD: Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore! Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth, O seed of Israel His servant, You children of Jacob, His chosen ones! He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth... Sing to the LORD, all the earth; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is also to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and gladness are in His place. Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Give to the LORD glory and strength. Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth. The world also is firmly established, It shall not be moved. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; And let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns." Let the sea roar, and all its fullness; Let the field rejoice, and all that is in it. Then the trees of the woods shall rejoice before the LORD, For He is coming to judge the earth. Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. And say, "Save us, O God of our salvation; Gather us together, and deliver us from the nations, to give thanks to Your holy name, to triumph in Your praise." Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting! And all the people said, "Amen!" and praised the LORD.

**Family — let's increasingly be a church  
that responds to God's Presence  
with Passionate worship  
that Produces blessing —  
blessing God  
and one another!**

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## Discussion Questions

1. What did David and his priests do to make the serious heart adjustment needed to receive the Ark?
2. Have you ever tempered your response to God because of your concern for the opinion of others?
3. What would be the hardest thing(s) for you to “strip off”?
4. Do you realize that Passionate Worship leads to extravagance in our lives?

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*We've added a new feature (at the suggestion of one of our members), that we hope you will enjoy. Following this page is an additional one entitled "NOTES," for printing your own personal notes.*

# NOTES