

PURSUE GOD

Recently, while meeting with fellow Christian ministers, a subject came up which at one time or another affects all intercessors and servants of God. The subject was those times when it seems more difficult to enter into the presence of the Lord. We all elevate those times in our prayer lives when the voice of God seems so loud. When His direction for our lives is so clear that there is not a shadow of a doubt as to His will and direction for our lives. These are the times that we live for and look toward. These are the times that carry us through those other times which can only be described as "dry times."

But we all experience the dry times when it seems as though our Lord is not as close as we would like. Those times when it seems like a struggle to enter into His presence. There may be something that is keeping us from His presence. Something which He will reveal in time if we are persistent. But many times these are the times which the Lord allows us the chance to prove our desire to be near Him. Even when it doesn't "feel" like it, He is always near. He died for us and will never, ever, leave or forsake us. So, when He seems distant it gives us an opportunity to strive to be where He is, to pursue Him.

Is our love for Him a "good time" feeling? Is our love conditional upon easy access into His presence? It shouldn't be, and if it is then ours is not a mature love. Jesus said, "Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me." (John 12:26). We say that we will never leave Him even to the death. Are we willing to follow after our Lord even when it seems that He is traveling a little ahead of us, or a little too fast for us to keep up. Will we be like Peter and say that we will serve Him until the end, but deny Him as soon as we are not in His presence? Instead, use those times to show your love for Him by your dogged determination to find Him no matter the cost. Remember, Jesus said that we could not give up anything in this life for Him that we would not be given back a hundred times more both now and in eternity. (Mark 10:29,30). Are we willing to pay the price in time and effort to follow after Him until we find Him?

Recently, while going through one of these dry seasons, I went to a solitary place to seek the Lord. As I was praying I was tempted to feel alone or forsaken by Him. But I knew this was not the truth. As I continued in prayer, I had a realization that He was hearing every word even though I was not aware of His presence. I laughed and said, "I know you are there and you are hearing every word I am saying. If you think I am going to stop praising you for the love you have shown just because you are silent, you are wrong. Because I will commit my love to you even if I never hear your voice again." At that point I saw an open vision of the Lord standing with his back to me. Just at that moment He looked back over His right shoulder at me and smiled.

As He smiled, and just as our eyes would have met, the room was filled with the glory of the Lord. It seemed to go on and on, but I'm sure it lasted only a short time. I could in no wise lift myself up while this occurred, nor did I have any inclination to move from the presence of the Lord. Still He did not speak, but His love was over powering and well worth the pursuit.

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