

SEVEN REALITIES OF EXPERIENCING GOD

Reality #1: God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.

Reality #2: God is always at work around you.

Reality #3: God invites you to join Him in what He is doing.

Reality #4: God speaks to you by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.

Reality #5: God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action. Hebrews 11:6

The writer of Hebrews declares that faith is an essential ingredient in knowing and experiencing God. With your faith you must believe that God is active in your life and rewards you with His presence as you diligently seek Him. This is critical to believe, because when God invites you to join Him in His work, He has a God-sized assignment for you. This assignment can't be done on your own. If God is not involved, it can't be done!

1. When God speaks, your response requires faith. Hebrews 11:1

Faith is confidence that what God has promised or said will come to pass. Faith says, "The God who called me to this assignment is the one who will provide for its accomplishment."

2. Your faith must be in a person.

Your faith does not rest in a concept or an idea. Faith must be in a person — God Himself.

3. True faith requires action. James 2:26

A. What you believe about God will determine what you do.

If you have faith in the God who called you, you will obey Him; and He will bring to pass what He has purposed to do. If you lack faith, you will not do what He wants.

B. What you do reveals what you believe about God.

When God reveals what He has purposed to do, you face a crisis — a decision time. God, the world, and the devil can tell from your response what you really believe about God. What you believe about God will determine what you do and how you live.

Reality #6: You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.

Luke 9:23

One of the biggest problems in experiencing God in our lives is that we want God to speak to us and give us an assignment, but we are not interested in making any major adjustments in our lives. To get from where you are to where God is will require major adjustments.

These adjustments may relate to your:

- **Thinking** (prejudices, methods, life goals, ideas, desires)
- **Circumstances** (job, home, finances)
- **Relationships** (family, friends, business associates)
- **Commitments** (to family, church, job, plans, traditions)
- **Actions** (how to pray, give, serve)
- **Beliefs** (about God, His purposes, His ways, your relationship to Him)

Reality #7: You come to know God by experience as you obey Him, and He accomplishes His work through you.

John 14:23

After God has taken the initiative to involve you in His work, you must believe Him and adjust your life to Him. Only then do you get to the place of obedience. Obedience is doing what is commanded. You must obey Him first. Then, He will accomplish His work through you. You come to know Him intimately by experience.

1. Here's your sign.

Exodus 3:11-12

When we hear God invite us to join Him, we often want a sign (an affirmation): "Lord, prove to me this is you, and then I will obey." Most frequently in Scripture the affirmation comes *after* the obedience not before.

2. God does not give up on you.

Jonah

You may be asking, "When I disobey God's will, does God give me another chance?" I am comforted to know that God often gives a second chance. There is certainly no guarantee of this, but God's grace is amazing!

3. God is interested in developing your character.

In your relationship with God, you have the choice of what decision you make. Sometimes you may make a wrong decision. When you do, the Holy Spirit causes you to recognize that your choice is not God's will, and He guides you back to the right path. God's commands are not to limit or restrict you but to free you to experience the most meaningful life possible.