

Seeing GOD Through Ordinary Eyes



BSSF-2

Seeing GOD Through Ordinary Eyes

By
Lee Bee Teik

BYTE SIZE SOLID FOOD SERIES

For the Ordinary Believer



A Reconre Publication

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About the “Byte Size Solid Food Series”

Why Byte Size?

A byte is a unit of information storage in computer chips. It is already an accepted means of messaging technology since the late 20th century in Malaysia. *Byte size* also has the same sound as *bite size*, which is to imply that the BSSF Series is to reach readers with small chewable and digestible amounts of the teaching of God’s word. Reconre prays that you will have an enjoyable meal as you ponder on His word while reading through the series.

Why Solid Food?

Living in a developing nation has its advantages and disadvantages, if hindsight assessment of more developed nations may be a guide. We are glad to discover more of God’s creativity through mankind. However, in our hectic rush to advance in technological research, we may forget the One who alone has endowed us with the means to use and enjoy the fruits of our research. Therefore, this series of small books are the result of an effort to feed not only the minds but also the hearts and souls of readers so that they may fulfill God’s vision of remaking them into His image. For this, we need the solid reading and meditation of His word from the Bible, and not only the drinking of the milk of the first teaching on our new birth in Christ.

The writer to the Hebrews reminds us in 5:11-14...

“We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

Reconre hopes that many other home grown writers and publishers will surface to contribute their solid food through the written word so that God’s people in Malaysia will not remain or become spiritually anaemic. That the pen is mightier than the sword still holds true, I believe.

Finally, let us proclaim with Jude in Jude verse 24...now,

“To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only wise God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore. Amen.”

Lee Bee Teik

Publication Officer

Reconre Ministries (Reconre Sdn Bhd)

How to Use this Book

- Start from the front of the book and read sequentially
- Take your time. Do not rush through the meditations.
- Pause to ponder in between sections.
- You may use it for Personal/Group Study or during your Quiet Time alone with God.
- If used in a group, meet weekly or at regular intervals to share, pray and apply what you have learnt together.
- Suggestion for Personal Reflection:

Set aside 30 minutes or more [depending on your current spiritual needs] to meditate on what you have read. Talk to Jesus, our Friend of friends, about the day's reading. Better still, take a few days off from work and ponder on His word with Him by Your side. If you need a venue for this purpose, contact the staff of Reconre Sdn Bhd in Malaysia at reconcilor@reconre.org

Shalom

Come,

Let us Read...

Let us Listen...

Let us Ponder...

Let us Pray...

Let us Love, Trust & Obey...

JESUS!

Seeing God through Ordinary Eyes

“Who are You, Lord?”

To know God is the reason for our existence. *Christianity is knowing the living God.* However, as believers, let us not forget that Christianity is not mere knowledge *about* God. It is also about entering into an intimate relationship with God. From this angle, knowing God *means enjoying eternal friendship with the eternal Father of all mankind and with His beloved Son, Jesus (1 Corinthians 8:6; John 17:3).* The Holy Spirit has been sent to help us re-enter into and develop this relationship once we have been born again into God’s family. Being made in God’s image, we are able to respond to and even enjoy Him forever, even if our present knowledge of Him is imperfect. We are actually living our earthly lives trying to find out more about Someone who is relevant to us, even if many of us do not yet know Him up close. Let us journey on as we ask and ponder on the question:

“Who are You, Lord?”

Truly, each pilgrim who knows Him, even if slightly, will have much to share, given the opportunity. Is this true for you?

Pause

Saul asked in Acts 9:5, *“Who are You, Lord?”*



Os Guinness shares in his book, *God in the Dark*, that the view many people (Christians included) have of God is out of focus. He is either a “god all wrong” or “a god too small”.

We held to the “*god all wrong*” view before we became Christians, a view shaped by a world that does not acknowledge the existence or relevance of the true God. It is based on non-biblical presuppositions.

On the other hand, the “*god too small*” view is mainly due to wrong teaching about God that distorts the true character of God. Perhaps this is to be expected as such instruction comes from imperfect human beings, although they may be Christians. For example, I once heard a pastor who commented that he would rather be an atheist than a follower of

liberal theology. What did he mean? As an *atheist*, he could simply enjoy the world – because he believes there is no God to whom he must be accountable; man came to be by accident and will fight for his own survival. As a follower of *liberal theology*, however, even though he may be a Christian, he can neither enjoy the world nor God...because he chooses which portions of Scriptures he wants to believe in...and it can get pretty hard to know what to choose at times.

Intentionally or unintentionally, during much of our waking hours, we live our lives according to what we believe about God, even though all our problems arise from the fact that we will not let God be God. We would like to usurp His position, if we could, like our ancestors, Adam and Eve tried to do so. However, the man who has met with the living and personal God, as revealed in His Son Jesus, finds his longing fulfilled as his restless heart is filled with the Holy Presence and Love of God.

Nevertheless, for many people, the thought of God stirs up in them, consciously or subconsciously, a sense of restless discontent, fear, irrationality and/or irritability. When a conflict surfaces in our lives, we wonder if it is because God is untrue to His word or has forgotten us. Is He not who the Bible says He is? Since He has shown Himself to us in history in the person of Jesus Christ His Son, why do we, over 2000 years later, still *not* experience Him enough to trust Him more? Who is God, really, at gut level? Is He great and reliable enough for us to put our lives in His hands? When we kneel before Him in the privacy of our room, do our feelings for Him and what we believe about Him coincide or are they at odds with each other? Are we

schizophrenic in our relationship with God; we believe in Him but our feelings for Him are rather detached and He does not seem to be relevant to our mundane existence?

Generally, some of us may not know Him personally yet. We might have heard about Jesus from songs and jingles sung whenever Christmas comes around. What we hear and sing in those songs make us feel warm and good. However, if God is for real, then we must meet with Him to see what He has to say about our beautiful but severely damaged world; we want to ask Him why He has not yet put right all the wrongs we have experienced down here. We are like the Athenians in Acts 17:16-23; we acknowledge there is a sort of greatest being or highest power out there but we do not know His name, and so we call Him *“The Unknown God”* in our heart of hearts.

However, I would guess that most of us are more like Saul the religious Pharisee and scholar, or busy Martha. We often think we already know Him enough until a crisis hits us and makes us stop and ask Him,

“Who are You really, my God?? If You are really who the Bible says You are, WHY has this trouble befallen me? Why does my husband desert me? Why does my child embarrass me? Why does a Christian worker hurt me? Why can't I fulfill my dream for my career? Why do You make so many demands on me...etc. etc...?”

At such times, we do not ask questions for fun anymore; we ask because we need answers to life's dilemma! As Christians who have once committed our lives to the living God, we may feel betrayed by the One in whom we have

placed our trust...even though we still hold back from giving too much of ourselves to Him. Our faith in Him is usually not so much *childlike* (which is what Jesus said it should be), but *childish*. Life has been smooth and easy till now. We have made little effort to know Him better before this, resulting in our chronological and spiritual maturity developing at different rates and in disharmony with one another. Often, we view God as One who is distant and looking the other way; we think of Him as a police officer who leaves us alone to run our lives as long as we do not disturb our neighbour's peace.

I suspect all of us have this view of God now and then, if not most of the time. Let me try to persuade you from the gospels and personal experience, that though God is indeed holy and perfect, He is actually very approachable, forgiving, down to earth and concerned for us. He is looking for all means and ways to draw us to experience the reality of His abundant life...and it is a life that is much better than a happy retirement or a rewarding and exciting career in this IT age!

Pause

Reflection

“Who are You, Lord?”

“That God exists, that He is great and that He is near, is no secret to us. But where is the secret? Here it is: God was crucified; He allows Himself to be defeated; He has revealed Himself in the poor; He has washed feet; He is Jesus of Nazareth.”

[Adapted from “Why, O Lord?” by Carlo Caretto]

1. Read Acts 9:1-19; Genesis 15; Exodus 15.
2. Observe how God communicates with of His people.
3. Journal
4. Let us explore our relationship with the true God by asking ourselves four questions:
 - I Why do we, having been forgiven and reconciled with God, need to know Him increasingly?
 - II What are some things God has said about Himself and His relationship with us?
 - III What does knowing God mean to me, an ordinary believer?
 - IV What then shall I do?

I.

**Why do we,
having been forgiven and
reconciled with God,
need to know Him increasingly?**



Three Basic Reasons

1.

He created us in His image (Genesis 1:26-27) so that we can communicate with Him in the love that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit enjoy among themselves in the Holy Trinity (John 17). Since God has made us in His likeness (Genesis 1:26), only when He fills us can we be truly human. In other words, our identity and humanness can be defined only by our Creator God. It is therefore crucial that we know who God really is and welcome Him into our lives. David, the shepherd boy who became king of Israel, expressed his need for God and his total dependence on God by talking to Him about his roots and declaring that he could not run away from His tender and diligent care (author's comments in brackets):

"O Lord, You have searched me and You know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise

(sometimes we think no one knows where we are);

You perceive my thoughts from afar

(sometimes we think no one knows what we are thinking).

You discern my going out and my lying down;

You are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue

You know it completely, O Lord...

For You created my inmost being;

You knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

Your works are wonderful, I know that full well

(I'm sorry for complaining about my looks).

My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in the secret place.

When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, Your eyes saw my unformed body.

All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be. (I am certainly NOT “an accident”!)

How precious to me are Your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!”

2.

We are immersed in Him (like a fish is immersed in water) and cannot survive without Him.

Paul the apostle proclaimed in Romans 1:19-20, that God reveals Himself to us through what is commonly called ‘general revelation’. He said to the Roman believers:

“since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

The expressions of God’s eternal and great power and His divinity are all around us. If we were honest observers, we would bow down and worship the Maker and Designer of all there is in existence...from the tiniest, most exquisite cell in the universe to the majestic galaxies. He reveals His nature to all humankind, whether we acknowledge Him or not.

However, as Paul pointed out, we often hold back from humbly and gratefully admitting His existence because we do not want to place ourselves under His sovereign rule. Therefore, we use the rationalization put forth by His enemies to deny the possibility and fact of His existence with regards to the universe in general, and to us as individuals in particular.

Nevertheless, God has indeed spoken through His marvelous creation.

A.W.Tozer writes:

The whole universe is alive with God's life, and He is no strange or foreign God, but familiar Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose love has for these thousands of years enfolded the sinful race of men.

Always He is trying to get our attention, to reveal Himself to us, to communicate with us! We have within us the ability to know Him in increasing degree as our receptivity becomes more perfect by faith and love and practice....

The heavens and the earth were intended to be a semi-transparent veil through which moral intelligences might see the glory of God, but for sin-blinded men this veil has become opaque. They see the creation but do not see through it to the Creator; or what glimpses they do have are dim and out of focus.

(Renewed Day by Day, Daily Readings for One Year, Vol. 1, A.W.Tozer, June 20 & 21)

3.

God created us to love us and to show us His purpose for our lives, not to leave us alone.

God alone has gone ahead of us to make sure that the short-term and long-term plans for us have been sorted out though we often do not see beyond our day to day struggles of earthly life.

In Jeremiah 29:10-13, the Lord, after disciplining His people by exiling them to Babylon (part of modern Iraq), comforted them by saying:

“When 70 years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill My gracious promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Again, in this passage from Isaiah 43:1- 7, He reassures His children.....

But now, this is what the Lord says –

He who created you, O Jacob,

He who formed you, O Israel:

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

And when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned;

*The flames will not set you ablaze.
For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your
Saviour....*

*You are precious and honoured in My sight...I love you...
Do not be afraid, for I am with you...*

*Everyone who is called by My Name,
Whom I created for My glory,
Whom I formed and made."*

Reflection

Why do we need to know God more... and more?

1. God created us - Read Psalm 139

- Do you believe that God created the world, including you? If you do, why?
- If you do not, what do you think of the *theory of evolution*?

Does it hold water, even in the strictly scientific sense?

How much of the total knowledge in the universe do you have e.g. 1 %, 0.1%, 00000.1%?

Even if you were to believe that your current knowledge of the universe is 0.1% of the total sum of knowledge within the universe, would you take the risk of rejecting God's existence and relationship with you based simply on this tiny percentage of knowledge you think you possess?

2. We cannot live without Him.

Read Acts 17:16-31; Romans 1:18-32

- Journal

3. God loves us and is powerful enough to care for us.
Read Jeremiah 31:2-14; Jeremiah 29:10-13; Isaiah chapters 43 & 44; Luke 12:22-34.
- Take time to soak in His ability to take care of you till you see Him face to face and beyond...feel the security of His ownership, His Fatherhood, His constant and attentive love for you...just you and Him...always...

II.

**What are some things God
has said about Himself and His
relationship with us?**



1.

In Psalm 50:21, God says,

“...you thought I was altogether like you....”

God is not like us though we may like to think that He is.

He is actually a caring father to us though we still do not trust Him completely yet (Deuteronomy 1:31-33, 32:6-8 and 1 Samuel 7:14-16). The problem is on our side, not His.

2.

In John 14:5-9, just after Jesus started bidding farewell to His beloved disciples, He told them that He was the way, the truth and the life and that no man could go to the Father but by Him. At this point, Philip interjected,

“Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us!”

Jesus was hurt that Philip had still not learnt to listen carefully and, therefore, posed an unnecessary request. Hence His reply,

“...‘Don’t you know Me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me?’”

Sometimes we see Jesus as a superhero Who has no feelings because He is so strong. But we must always remember that

He is fully God and fully man...a mystery beyond our present discussion. As a human being, He feels and thinks as we do, sinless yet carrying our weaknesses. I am sure He had been attacked by germs at various points in His human life, just like we, too, have been attacked. That is why He is worthy to be our Saviour and Friend.

And from His reply to Philip, we can be sure that He wants us to know Him well.

Reflection

What are some things God has said and shown us about Himself?

Read:

- Psalm 50:21; Deuteronomy 1:31-33, 32:6-14;
1 Samuel 7:14-16
Journal
- John 14:5-9
Journal
- 2 Corinthians 4:4-6.
Journal
- Romans 1:20; Hebrews 1:1-3
Journal

Note:

If you do not know Jesus yet, please borrow a bible and have a quick read of one of the gospels (Mark/Luke/Matthew/John) for a close-up view of Him.

III.

**What does knowing God mean
to me?**



Many Christians often do not experience the truth about the fullness of the love of God at gut level and therefore are unable to show the same kind of love to others. Why is this so?

Is it because what we think of Him is rather detached from our feelings for Him?

Sometimes it helps for us to talk to God while on our knees. When we really try to communicate with God on our knees, we can no longer hide our true feelings about Him, because in that position, we acknowledge our utter need of Him in our lives. The question is, *“How much time do we spend on our knees so that the Holy Spirit’s assessment of our real feelings for Him will surface to our conscious mind?”*

Could it be, then, that we are the ones who create the hindrances to our having the right view of God by our refusal to treat God as God?

Where do we get our first ideas about God from? How has He been relating to us? For many sincere Christians, head knowledge about God is rather different from what is really felt for Him. If we cannot *feel* the reality of what we *know* of Him, then how do we express His reality to others around us? Have we been regurgitating what we mentally know of Him, without a deep personal experience of Him, before a watching world?

Indeed, to know God is not only to see Him with our minds but also to feel Him with our hearts.

If we do not have a proper view and experience of God, we will not know what He wants of us. Unless we experience His goodness and mercy personally, we will have no spiritual victory in our lives because:

- i. we may be too scared of Him to come to Him for help
- ii. we may not trust Him enough with our lives and secrets
- iii. we may not know how to please Him and therefore live our whole earthly lives striving to find out how to please Him (Ephesians 5:8-10) i.e. instead of first listening to His instructions for us before we serve Him, we try to do things for Him in our own ways and with wrong motives. No wonder, many good willed believers repeatedly mess up others' and their own lives!

Consequently, we say to God and to ourselves,

“Let me get my job, family and housing secure first; then I will ask You what Your will for me is because I am not sure at all whether You will really take care of me...In fact, even if You will, I’m not sure whether You can do it because ...well...this world has been in such a mess since You created it!”

So, we keep Him at arm’s length till we are ready for His intervention (or interference?)!

A.W.Tozer put it this way...

The notion that there is a God but that He is comfortably far away is not embodied in the doctrinal statement of any Christian church. Anyone who dared admit that he held such a creed would be considered a heretic and avoided by respectable religious people; but our actions, and

especially our spontaneous utterances, reveal our true beliefs better than any conventional creed can do.

If we are to judge by these, I think it can hardly be denied that the average Christian thinks of God as being at a safe distance, looking the other way!

Sinful man is simply uncomfortable in God's presence.

(For instance, read Genesis 3:8-10).

As we go through some of God's attributes taught us in His word you may wish to pause after reading each attribute and ponder on that truth. For example, ask yourself,

"Do I really believe and feel that God is as described in Deuteronomy 32:6-14?"

What does Knowing God Mean to Me?

Let us ask ourselves: Do we really *believe* and *feel* that God is all He says He is in Deuteronomy 32:6-14? That:

32:10 He is caring?

32:11 He is like a mother eagle training its young to become independent and confident adults?

32:12 He leads us?

32:13 He encourages us?

32:14 He feeds us with food daily?

Do we really know God as:

- * A grateful sinner loving his Saviour, the historical Jesus, and not an imagined one?
- * A once desperate but healed patient following his Healer?
- * A victim thanking his Deliverer?
- * A child trusting his Father?
- * A servant submitting to his Master?
- * A student modeling after his Teacher?
- * A friend fiercely loyal to his true Friend....?

Do we really know the Jesus of Nazareth who...

****gave up His glory above as the Son of God, equal with the Father.**

****was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of a God-fearing teenage virgin called Mary, engaged to be married to carpenter Joseph and, due to the circumstances of His conception, probably grew up frequently scorned and taunted by neighbours and acquaintances as an illegitimate child...for your sake and mine...**

****at 12 years old, was fascinated by the first opportunity of brainstorming with intellectual priests in that awesome temple in the city of Jerusalem? He accidentally hurt His parents by a teenage natural desire to express His independence when His hormones surged in those passing turbulent adolescent years, with pimples and all.**

****as the eldest son of His widowed Mum in a close-knit Jewish home, must have tasted the burden of financial and emotional hardship. Caught by Joseph's early death as head**

of the household, the eldest son became the primary support for Mary in the care of a large family of boys and girls. He too learnt submission through discipline...not knowing how much submission He would need in years to come. Those who have witnessed once harmonious Asian siblings being torn apart in one generation (e.g. over the issue of inheritance after their elderly parents died) would appreciate how Jesus fulfilled the role of eldest son well. How He took care of His younger siblings demonstrates how the next generation can continue to be harmonious when the eldest son knows how to care for His younger brothers and sisters. Jesus was a good and faithful eldest brother indeed (deduced from how the family stuck together in a family crisis e.g. Mark 3:31-35).

******for whom marriage was out of the question because of His heavenly Father's vocation for Him, refused to be match-made. Many friends and relatives could have pestered Mummy Mary, demanding to know why her firstborn was reluctant to get married! They probably soon gave up as some gossiped as to why both cousins John and Jesus were both single at 30-31 years of age. However, He ignored their idle talk and persevered, knowing His Father's will had to be fulfilled by His obedience to the heavenly calling.

Yet, all along, He was so *ordinary* that cousin John the Baptist was so stunned when God revealed to Him that younger cousin Jesus was the Messiah. He kept proclaiming to his followers: "*Look...the Lamb of God.....Look...the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world!*" But it did make sense, as John recalled the purity in Jesus' humble and responsible life...it began to make real sense indeed (John 1).

******at 30, at a wedding dinner in Canaan, His Mum had to nudge Him as a sign that God's time for Him has come to show that He was God's anointed Servant, publicly. Well, hadn't He often prayed and God performed miracles for them several times at home when funds ran dry? Why not help save the poor bridegroom from serious embarrassment now?

******being committed to serving others, had His mother worried at times. Discerning Mary found relinquishing her good Son difficult and probably tried to counsel Him to take adequate food and rest when hampered by the demands of the crowds (Mark 3:31-32).

However, by then Jesus knew that He, having put His hand to the plough, could not turn back; His reply to Mary (that those who obey God are His mother, brothers and sisters) must have caused her heart to ache a while...but not as sharp as when her most dependable and loving Son was betrayed, slandered, slapped, spit at and finally murdered by those He came to love and save...

Yet, though under intense suffering in every part of His being, Jesus never forget His beloved mother, knowing that His siblings would not really bother. Had not He lived with them long enough to know? Therefore, He arranged for His gentle disciple John to take His place as son to Mary, who was actually His God appointed foster mother for His only begotten Son, who became man for us.

******till the end, He obeyed His Father's will. He finally suffered the wild onslaughts of the punishment for all our sins on His wounded body, soul and spirit. Forsaken even

by God His dearest and true Daddy, He died an unjust criminal's death for the love of you and me.

No wonder, after He was raised from the dead in glory and sits at the place of authority on the right of His Father, the writer of the book of Hebrews said of Him in Hebrews 2:11-18.....

“Both the One who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers [author: and sisters]. He says to God, His Father:

*‘I will declare Your Name to My brothers
[author: and sisters];
In the presence of the congregation I will sing
Your praises.’*

And again He says,

‘Here am I, and the children God has given me.’”

Reflection

What does knowing God mean to me personally and daily even though we may sometimes feel uncomfortable as we are aware of His presence?

Read:

- Genesis 3:1-10
Journal
- Hebrews 12:1-13
Journal
- Luke 9:23-26
Journal
- John 15:12-17.
Journal

IV.

**What then shall we do now that
we know that Jesus, the
resurrected Son of God, is by our
side, proudly presenting us to
God the Father and patiently
waiting for us to know Him
more intimately?**

Pause to Ponder



Let us respond to His amazing love by doing what Jesus did with His Father when He was on earth.

- Find a quiet place each day and spend time alone with Jesus. Give yourself an opportunity to listen to Him
- You may like to have cup of coffee, sit at His feet or kneel when necessary.
- Have a chat time with Him. I mean a regular set aside time and place apart from the times when we call on Him for special reasons. If you have not already found a comfortable way of meeting with Him, here are a few suggestions.

1. Know Him through His written word

Read a portion of Scriptures

Like putting food into your mouth...

Go through book by book:

sentence by sentence

paragraph by paragraph

noun by noun

...who, what, where

adjective by adjective

...what type

verb by verb

...what he/they do

adverb by adverb

...how/why did they do it

watch out for conjunctions ...for what purpose,

why, etc.

Note or underline words that stand out for you for that day.

Meditate on the words slowly...

Like chewing food.

Stop and think about its meaning to you in your current situation.

Write it down for the Lord and you to see and to obey.

Talk to God about what you read, may sing, play music for Him...

Like swallowing food.

Contemplate in the Lord's presence,...

Like digesting food...process out of your control/doing.

Let Him transform you.

Enjoy His companionship, adore and love Him.

2. **Know Him** through nature, music, song or dance

3. **Know Him** through the circumstances of each day e.g. in the kitchen, commuter train, office, market or car. Once, while walking the streets of Chow Kit in Kuala Lumpur, He enabled me to hear Him better when spiritually dry. How? Jesus was there, specially there among the unimportant in society, the rejected, the outcast, the struggling hawkers and the poor. As we walked, saw and felt, we lifted them up to the Father and let Him fill our hearts with His compassion. We became more aware of His presence in us and all around us in this land.

Gradually, if not already, we will feel as Job felt and expressed to God.....

"Previously I heard of You...now I see You face to face...."

...And you will never be the same again, even while doing the same things everyday. What fulfillment, what joy, what security and what delight...as all others and other things fade before your eyes in comparison with Him, Jesus, the King of kings, the Beloved Bridegroom of the church!

Finally, for those looking for the true God or those who have never read any of the 4 gospels before, try reading one of the gospels by tonight and find out for yourselves who God really is. Many have done that and been blessed with the knowledge of Him beyond their comprehension.

Pause & Ponder on the Words of the following Hymn...

I Stand Amazed in the Presence
[United Methodist Hymnal No. 371]

- I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how He could love me, a sinner,
condemned, unclean.

Chorus:

How marvelous! How wonderful! And my song shall
ever be:

How marvelous! How wonderful is My Saviour's love
for me!

- For me it was in the garden He prayed: "Not My will but
Thine."
He had no tears for His own griefs, but sweat-drops of
blood for mine.
- In pity angels beheld Him, and came from the world of
light
To comfort Him in the sorrows He bore for my soul that
night.
- He took my sins and my sorrows, He made them His
very own;
He bore the burden to Calvary, and suffered and died
alone.
- When with the ransomed in glory His face I at last shall
see,
'Twill be my joy through the ages to sing of His love for
me...

Reflection

What then must I do now that I know God wants me to know Him more intimately like when He takes time to know His beloved Father deeply?

i. Read:

- Luke 10:38-42; Mark 4:33-34; 6:31
Journal

- John chapters 14-16
Journal

2. What were some of my views of God when I was under 12 years old, a teenager, a young adult and now?
3. Which factors most influenced those views?
4. How did I live my daily life (in relation to others around me) and prayer life (in relation to God) according to those views.
5. Share some aspects of your discovery with your small group.

Pray for one another to know and obey God's will for you as you anticipate the coming grand finale of our earthly human history as shown in Rev. 19 & 21.

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