

A Second Look at the Father; Surrendering to His Presence

Overview: The book is divided into four sections.

Chapters 1-4 Learning to Recognize God's Presence

Even believers wonder where God is from time to time. This first section directly answers the questions brought up by humanity. *Where is God? Is God present? How can I anchor to more than feeling.* God is a combination of holiness and compassion. These love attributes are designed within us, yet we are drawn to one and struggle grasping the other.

Chapters 5-7 Understand God's Presence

The book continues by helping broaden our questions to *Why God chooses to present Himself this way.* This section shows how believers often play God against Himself. Most religious debates and controversies today boiled down to followers putting holiness above compassion or vice versa. Ultimately we learn this is childish and understand we must pursue more than a 'God on paper'.

Chapters 8-11 Surrendering to God's Presence

Once we see the bigger picture of God, we find that all have room to grow. Every example we find in scripture tells the story of an individual that was challenged to surrender to God's compassion or His holiness. The book takes common and extreme examples to show the reader step by step how surrendering to love works on a spiritual level.

Chapters 12-14 Living in His Presence

As we surrender to God, we find this isn't a single experience. It's a lifestyle and God continues to encourage us as we follow. People use the phrase 'walking on water' often. I explain what it's like and how to experience it as we close the study.

Chapter Summaries

1) The '...And?' Factor

This chapter serves as an overview of the issues we face when trying to understand God's presence in our lives. Ultimately the problem lies with our necessity to tie all God related issues to our physical needs. We have to understand that God is Spirit and those who worship Him must approach Him in spirit and in truth.

2) The God of Love

As we begin this study we must examine our understanding of God. The Bible teaches us that 'God is Love'. Many times people reverse the thought to 'Love equals God'. When we insert our own definition of love we are in danger of redefining God to what we think love is. Instead we must let God define love and follow His lead as He

begins to broaden our definitions and understanding of who He is .

3) **The Greatest Command 's' ?**

Christ answered the Pharisees question with two answers; Love God and Love your neighbor. Now that we have defined love we will consider our target subjects. It doesn't take long to realize that these two commands may very well be the hardest thing God will ever ask of anyone. This chapter reveals how all believers are in danger of becoming self righteous.

4) **The Anchors of Love**

Love gives us two anchors to hold onto. His compassion reflected in the empathy He shows toward us. The blessing and comfort of God provide a spiritual anchor if we choose to accept it. The holiness of God provides an anchor of physical proof so many long for as God makes good on His promises. These proofs are given in hindsight.

5) **Stepping Into His Presence**

As we begin to grasp the Holiness of God, we feel the need to step away from Him. Just like the children of Israel looked to Moses we look to others searching for someone to approach God on our behalf. This chapter helps us recognize that God is very aware of our needs when standing before His Holy presence.

6) **The Answer That Changes Everything**

As God leads us on our journey He waits patiently for our questions about His identity. He continues to reveal His presence to us as we grow. The beginning of this journey should start with 'who God is'. Sadly when people ask questions, believers often skip 'who God is' and jump straight to 'what you must do'. This results in a lot of people half way following a God they do not know or understand.

7) **2D Laws or 3D Life**

As we consider God's word, we must also consider the way we approach it. If people are just searching for a list of do's and don'ts, then they are going to walk away from the Bible struggling to make sense of gray areas. On the other hand, when we approach the Bible as God's Nature we understand He's designing something within us and the lines bend to form something more than just law.

8) **Surrendering to His Holiness**

This chapter approaches the compassionate-natured believers with God's holiness. How do we surrender our will to the Holiness of God. Why do we need to? Here we look at some case studies like the prodigal son and begin the process of surrendering to God's presence.

9) **Surrendering to His Compassion**

As we continue the account of the prodigal son we find a second case study in the older brother. This chapter approaches the holy-natured believers with God's compassion. Many believers must grow by surrendering to the compassion of God. Other examples like Jonah help us understand why people struggle with God's mercy and grace.

10) **Boundaries Turned Inward**

Most people know exactly what they '*should do*' to set their lives in order. They know the person they want to become. Yet it seems there are obstacles and challenges that continue to serve as stumbling points in our efforts to draw near to God. Have we done this to ourselves by setting boundaries in place that God didn't intend? What happens when I set compassion or holy boundaries on myself? We discover surrendering to compassion and holiness has many faces.

11) **Walking in Humility**

One final anchor is discovered in Humility. This trait ties holiness and compassion together. We are given peace instead of pride while balancing our lives in Him. A beautiful lesson found in the life of Peter. Micah 6:8-9 helps tie the process together.

12) **Walking on Water**

What is the end product? Let me describe for you what following God is like. Once we learn to walk humbly with our God the transition from the boat to the waves is only a step. But walking on water isn't just the thrill of stepping out of the boat. This journey lasts much longer than a thirty second stroll on the sea.

13) **The Shadow of God**

A final thought on what the whole of humanity sees but doesn't realize. God's fingerprints are everywhere and the new website is building a tool to bring the latest in apologetics and more to one location. The Shadow of God section of the site will promote viewers to buy the book, and readers to explore the website.

Closing Thoughts: Notes to Challenge and Encourage

This section will contain notes to readers who struggle with finding balance in God's nature. Notes to the holy minded and compassionate hearted. An invitation to the broken will be given as well.

