

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Psalms 16:11 ... "You will show me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

It may be difficult or seem unusual to picture God as a stalker, but that is kind of what he is. God has been stalking you, pursuing you, and trying to get your attention from the moment you were born. He is relentless, meaning that he will not give up trying to capture your affection and devotion until it is too late for you. It will be too late if you die without saying "Okay God, I know you want me, so here I am. Come and live in me and teach me to obey and serve you."

Christians, including pastors, have different ways of expressing the process of saying "yes" to God. Some say they found Jesus, but Jesus was never lost, or in hiding, or avoiding them. Some believers say God found them, but that is also wrong because we are never out of God's sight or presence between the moment we are born and the moment we die. I would never criticize a believer for saying that God found them, or that they found God because it is not important. What matters is that you and God make a connection.

When celebrities are stalked by photographers and fans, they wear disguises or avoid going out in public to keep from being seen. Their wealth is often spent on security personnel, alarm systems, walls, and gates. Average people who are not famous, can go to the beach and enjoy themselves even if they have little money, while celebrities are often trapped and unable to enjoy themselves in public, even if they are rich. But, God sees everyone; rich and poor, famous or unknown, believers and unbelievers. You cannot hide from God and you will make yourself miserable if you try.

If you are trying to run from God, you lost that race before you started. If you are hiding from God, you are ignoring that he can see you at all times. If you are trying to avoid him, he is right in front of you. If you think you have escaped his gaze, he is right behind you. If you do not know him personally and are struggling under the weight of your sins, he is right next to you, offering you salvation and hope. If you have rejected God or said "no" to his offer of salvation, he did not wander off; he is still in your presence; waiting; listening for the one prayer that you can use to connect to him, the prayer of repentance.

It is not necessary for you to travel about looking for God, and God is not looking for you. You have been in his presence since you were born. When you are good and when you are bad, God is there and sees and hears everything. When you treat others poorly, disrespect your parents, steal, lie, cheat; God is there to witness it all. You can hide, run or ignore him, but he will not go away. So, why not stop trying to avoid God, and simply agree to let him into your life and make his presence known to you so you can enjoy him, his blessings, and his promises?

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