

EXPERIENCING GOD

Reality 1: God is always **at work** around **me**.

Reality 2: God **pursues** a continuing **love** relationship with **me** that is real and **personal**.

Reality 3: God **invites** you to become **involved** with him in His **work**.

Reality 4: God **speaks** 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 believe** that requires **faith and action**.

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

(1) Adjustments Are Necessary

Faith → Action

Action = Adjustment + Obedience

You cannot stay where you are and go with God.

Luke 1:26-38

(2) Kinds of Adjustments (see discussion question #2)

God is interested in our absolute surrender to Him as Lord.

(3) Obedience Is Costly

Luke 9:23

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

(4) Total dependence.

John 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Discussion Questions

1. What success or comfort could tempt you to resist Christ's invitation to go do something else? What apparent failure is discouraging you from trusting God's call to join His work?
2. What area of your life would be the easiest to adjust to God's will? What area would be the most difficult or significant to adjust if God required change? (see list below)

Examples

- In your circumstances (job, home, finances, ...)
 - In your relationships (family, friends, business assoc)
 - In your thinking (prejudices, methods, your potential, things that you have let define you)
 - In your commitments – to family, church, job, plans, traditions
 - In your actions – how you pray, give, serve
 - In your beliefs – about God, His purposes, His ways, your relationship with Him
3. What has been the most significant sacrifice in your life? How did God prove more satisfying than whatever you sacrificed?
 4. How has God's presence changed your life?
 5. How can you join God at work right where you are?
 6. How have you experienced God in the last couple of weeks?

Next week's Memory Verse

2 John 1:6

And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.