

Draw Near With Me, Go Far Together: *Building & Teaching a Close Walk With God*

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Spiritual Reading Practice

Read

Read/Study/Ask Questions/Research to Gain Understanding

Moses Asks to See God's Glory

Ex. 33:12 Moses said to the Lord, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' **13** If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."

Ex. 33:14 The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Ex. 33:15 Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. **16** How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

Ex. 33:17 And the Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."

What does Moses ask of God? In what manner does he ask? What is God's response?

Ex. 33:18 Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

Ex. 33:19 And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

Ex. 33:21 Then the Lord said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. ²² When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

What else does Moses ask of God? In what manner does he ask? What is God's response?

Ex. 34:1 The Lord said to Moses, “Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. ² Be ready in the morning, and then come up on Mount Sinai. Present yourself to me there on top of the mountain. ³ No one is to come with you or be seen anywhere on the mountain; not even the flocks and herds may graze in front of the mountain.”

Who actually wrote the 10 commandments (both times)? What is the significance of who actually wrote on the two stone tablets? How does God ensure that the receiving of the Law is absolutely holy (literally, “set apart, special”)?

Ex. 34:4 So Moses chiseled out two stone tablets like the first ones and went up Mount Sinai early in the morning, as the Lord had commanded him; and he carried the two stone tablets in his hands. ⁵ Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. ⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

Ex. 34:8 Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped. ⁹ “Lord,”

he said, “if I have found favor in your eyes, then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance.”

How does God describe his name (here translated as “the Lord, the Lord”)? What is God teaching/telling Moses about Himself?

What have you learned from your initial reading of the passage? What questions do you still have?

Meditate

5 Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. **6** And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, **7** maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

Reread and repeat the text out loud to yourself, memorizing it, allowing it to speak to you and your daily life and thought and feelings. Ponder it and ruminate on it as you take it into yourself. Chew on it and let it all sink in. Ask questions. Apply it. Let God’s Word work on your heart, on your mind, on your feelings, on your thoughts and memories, on your point of view and the way you see things. Allow the Word of God to change you, to speak to you. It’s ok if there are things that are challenging or difficult...allow yourself to wrestle with the text...soon your mind will calm and you will find yourself talking to God as you...

Pray

Pray about whatever naturally comes to mind. Pray about the text. Talk to God about what you are learning, feeling, thinking, and experiencing. Share yourself fully and completely with God in prayer. This is not rote prayer...this is not “saying a prayer.” This is sharing with God, talking to God, pouring out your heart to the God who loves you. This sharing with God might be in the form of thoughts, feelings, images, conversation...there are many different ways of sharing with God. Give back to God what you are receiving in reading and listening and prayer.

Contemplate

When words begin to fail, simply let them go. Rest silently in the presence of God. You may have moments where you feel moved to speak, that’s okay...talk to God. Then just be with God without words. Allow yourself to sense God near you and within you and around you. Be with God as God is with you. Feel the Father’s love. Feel the Son’s concern. Feel the gift of God’s presence within you through

the Holy Spirit. Be with the Father, be at peace in the Son, and be filled with the Spirit.

Share

Share your experience or something that you learned about God or about yourself with another person. Draw them into your experience with you. Allow them to ask you questions. Use this time of sharing as a way of inviting another person to share in your experience of God. If you feel positive, then encourage and build up the other person. If you feel challenged, share that and open yourself to allow the other person to encourage and build up your faith. In either case, let yourself be drawn closer to God and to the other person as you share.

Recommended Texts for Learning and Practicing Spiritual Reading: Psalms, Proverbs, I John, James, Ephesians, Romans, I Corinthians 13

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