

Experiencing God

Matthew 17:1-20

January 3, 2010

Why Do I Need to Experience God?

"Lord, have mercy on my son," he said. "He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him." Matthew 17:15-16

- **LIFE is What Happens in the Valley**

Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:19-20

- Faith is the **ACTIVE** Ingredient

How Can I Experience God? The **MOUNTAIN TOP** Model

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. Matthew 17:1

- Do **LIFE** with Jesus... **INTENTIONALLY**...
Come near to God and he will come near to you.
James 4:8

...up a high mountain by themselves. Matthew 17:1

- Sign Up for the **JOURNEY**... Go the **DISTANCE**
"Come, follow me," Jesus said... Matthew 4:19a
Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. Matthew 16:24

When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me." John 21:21-22

There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. Matthew 17:2-3

- **Mountaintop Moments Occur ALONG THE WAY... ENJOY Them!**

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. 2 Corinthians 12:2

...a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" Matthew 17:5

- Learn to **LISTEN** to Jesus... in the **WORD**...
Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17

When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. Matthew 17:6-8

- Don't Succumb to **FEAR** or **BOREDOM**...
The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit. John 3:8