

Face to Face with God

God told Moses in Exodus 33:20 that no man can see my face and live, and yet The scriptures say in **Deuteronomy 34:10** that Moses knew God face to face.

Exodus 33:11 God spoke to Moses face to face as a man speaks to a friend.

Face as defined in Strong's Concordance: accept with a desire to know, highly regard with a mutual sense of friendship and respect, favor

Friend as defined in Strong's Concordance: associate (partners, co-worker, ally, teammate) a close companion or acquaintance, brother, lover

It is possible to honor God for who he is, and yet feel distanced from him, or unaccepted by Him because our knowledge of our sin keeps us from being friends with him.

Isaiah 29:13 This people draws near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but their hearts are far from me and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men.

When our eyes are on our performance it is impossible to see God face to face because the knowledge of sin produces a sense of separation

Isaiah 6:3-8 when Isaiah saw the glory of God, he said, "Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts."

An angel touched a coal to his lips and purged his sin and iniquity. Then God said, who will I send, and Jeremiah said, "Here am I send me."

Moses told God that he needed to know what God knew about him before he could do what God was asking him to do because he had that same “who am I” attitude that Isaiah had.

Exo 33:12 *Moses said to the Lord, See, You say to me, Bring up this people, but You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You said, I know you by name and you have also found favor in My sight.*

Exo 33:13 *Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.*

Who are you going to send with me? I can't do what you have asked me to do without help.

Exo 33:14 *And the Lord said, My Presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.*

The word **Presence** comes from the same Greek word that the term face to face does: *mutual acceptance with a desire to know someone, regard with a feeling of friendship and respect, favor*

God says, I will go with you as your friend and associate. I am here to help you do what you can't do by yourself

The word **rest** according to Strong's Concordance means: with comfort and peace, to be confederate (join together with one in order to carry out a plan)

Isaiah 40:31 says that they that wait (join together with) upon the Lord will renew their strength. They will run and not be weary, and walk without losing heart.

God wants to work together with us. He sees us as a friend that he respects and wants to help. He does not expect us to do things alone.

Moses knew that he could not do what God was requiring of him without His help because all he had to do was look at his past.

Exo 33:15 *And Moses said to the Lord, If Your Presence does not go with me, do not carry us up from here!*

Exo 33:16 *For by what shall it be known that I and Your people have found favor in Your sight? Is it not in Your going with us so that we are distinguished, I and Your people, from all the other people upon the face of the earth?*

The fact that God goes with us, that he is our friend who associates himself together with us is what makes us stand out among all of the rest of the people on earth.

Exo 33:17 *And the Lord said to Moses, I will do this thing also that you have asked, for you have found favor, loving-kindness, and mercy in My sight and I know you personally and by name. [Rev 2:17]*

Exo 33:18 *And Moses said, I beseech You, show me Your glory.*

Exo 33:19 *And God said, I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim My name, THE LORD, before you; for I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy and loving-kindness on whom I will show mercy and loving-kindness. [Rom 9:15-16]*

It is impossible to see the face of God without losing heart unless the sin issue has been resolved.

Exo 33:20 *But, He said, You can not see My face, for no man shall see Me and live.*

God hid Moses in the cleft of a rock so that he would not die.

Exo 33:21 *And the Lord said, Behold, there is a place beside Me, and you shall stand upon the rock,*

Exo 33:22 *And while My glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by.*

Psalms 18:2 The Lord is our fortress, and our rock and our deliverer.

The rock is a type and shadow of Jesus. Jesus took care of all the disqualifying factors that cause us to feel separated from God.

2Co 4:6 *For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ*

We see the face of God through Jesus and the world sees the face of God through our face.

Isa 60:1 *Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.*

Isa 60:2 *For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.*

Isa 60:3 *And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising*

We can't compare ourselves with one another or even with ourselves. We can't compare ourselves with God.

2Co 10:12 *For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.*

Because all have come short if the glory of God.

2Co 10:13 *But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us*

But we can see the face of God when we see ourselves the way that He sees us, and realize that He is our source and companion.

2Co 10:17 *But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.*

This takes a coming to the end of ourself!

Moses had a knowledge of God from the time he was a small boy. I am sure his mother was a good teacher. Head knowledge is not enough. He had to learn things firsthand before he could really experience God. He had some failures. He tried to do some things on his own, and it cost him. After he killed the Egyptians who were harassing the Israelites, he had to run for his life. He spent 40 years in exile before God spoke to him through the burning bush.

I learned some things in life the hard way. I tried to teach my children through my mistakes. That is a natural response because we want them to avoid the pain we went through. It is good to teach others what we know. We can learn from the mistakes of others. But, ultimately, one way or another before any of us can see God face to face, we have to personally come to the realization that if we want to experience His glory, we have to let him hide us in the cleft of the rock.

Jer 9:24 *But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.*