

EXPOSED TO GOD

We have to pay attention to the means of grace that the lord has made available.

“Attend to the means of grace” was a Wesleyan phrase that was the watchword of the early Methodists.

What is grace? What are the channels by which grace comes?

Grace is the provision the lord has made for us on the cross and is administered by the Holy Spirit to us. It is the empowering presence of God to bring us into the image of God, through the principle of transference which comes about by exposure to the Glory of God.

Church attendance, communion, singing psalms, worship, prayer, meditation, waiting on the Lord, reading the Word, prophecy, the word of exhortation—all are means of grace. Grace comes to us as we become aware of the presence of the Lord.

If we are tempted to become isolated from other believers we may be cutting off the lifeline that brings the grace of God into our life and keeps the blessing flowing. Before we know it, our whole being becomes cluttered and the blessing is stopped.

How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? Hebrews 2:3a. This was written not to sinners, but to Christians, and was promised before by the Lord and confirmed by signs and wonders through the hands of the apostles (verses 3, 4).

All of this came to us, so how will we escape if we neglect it? There is no escape, but only a fearful judgment begins when we neglect the great salvation. Salvation has come to us, not to the sinner. they

never had anything to neglect. They hear the gospel and if they repent they are saved. If they hear the gospel but do not repent, they are condemned already (John 3:18). It is already set. They pass from death into life by believing. Once they become a believer and have that salvation, it becomes very necessary not to neglect it.

The Spirit of God draws us, enlightens us, grants us repentance and faith, but unless we are continually exposed to the Spirit of God, our spirit will not grow to the place where we will not fall away from God.

We have to expose ourselves to God as much as we can but this is not legalism “I must be very careful to read so many chapters in the Bible every day and to pray so much to keep the lifeline open.” people can do that and still get nowhere because they are doing it as a legalistic routine. We grow, not so much by our efforts as by exposing ourselves to God.

Just as Moses exposed himself to the Lord, so we too *are changed into the same image from glory to glory even as by the spirit of the Lord.* II Corinthians 3:18. We do this with an unveiled face.

Reading the Scriptures does not do much good unless we expose ourselves to the Lord and the revelation of the Lord in them. It is through that exposure that we are changed. We do not strive in an activity of self to refine, purify or inspire ourselves to more noble efforts, but rather strive to partake of the divine nature that we might escape the lust that is in the world.

The more effort we put forth in the flesh the less we accomplish. We can become very religious but still be defeated. We do not strive to

be religious, but strive to be spiritual: drawing from the Lord and becoming a *partaker of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust*. II Peter 1:4.

What is of God within us grows as it is exposed to the Lord; so we simply open up and expose ourselves to Him. We are changed from glory to glory by exposure to the revelation of the Lord.

We read the Scriptures for a revelation of Him. The more we are exposed to Him and He is exposed to us, the more we change. We are changed through exposure, through revelation, not by the inspiration of the flesh to produce or do something.

Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4). When we read the Scriptures we are exposing ourselves to the Word and to the Lord. We continue reading until there is a revelation of the Lord to our heart. Whether it is one verse or a thousand, we read and feed until the Lord has become real to us.

In the measure that we have received a revelation, in that measure we will walk in God that day. When we pray, we do not try to be a special advisor to the King. Prayer is coming to the Lord finding out what He wants. It is exposing ourselves to His will and becoming His channel. Prayer is wrong when we approach it from the wrong angle.

Remember the Pharisee who came to the Lord and said “God, I am thankful that I am not as other men are. Like that publican over there.” The publican was smiting his breast, “God, be merciful to me a sinner” (Luke 18). Prayer is linking ourselves to God until there is nothing separating us from Him. That means an exposure to God,

because His Spirit is communicated; we catch it like the measles. We Come to God and say, "Here I am, Lord." We Wait before Him and expose ourself to Him; then He happens to us.

We have to learn how to let God happen to us. We have to seek him intently and fully to break through the barriers that hinder us from laying hold of His willingness.

"Sometimes we go along and without knowing it slip into the ruts of old disciplines and rituals. Then the word comes through the apostolic ministry and imparts that life and vision to us so we can break through the barriers that limit us from laying hold of God's willingness."