

*He really
is there*

DAY 1 - FOUND

Genesis 3:8-9

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

This, of course, is the account of God calling for Adam in the Garden of Eden just after he and Eve had sinned - they had eaten from the tree that God told them to stay away from. It seems like a tragic event which had serious consequences and set humanity on the wrong path.

However, even in this chain of events there is hope and encouragement. Firstly, there is the fact that God even asked the question! There were options open to him - he could have just wiped-out Adam and Eve and dismissed the "humanity project" as a non-starter! The fact that God asked, implies he still wanted relationship with his creation and was seeking to restore it.

This is supported by the fact that God was looking for an answer. He knew where Adam was, but he wanted Adam to know where Adam was! God was still looking for communication along with honesty.

Nothing has changed. God is still looking for each one of us. He continues to call out "where are you?". He wants that close communion with us - it's high on his priority list. The great thing is we can answer "here I am". If we are a Christian, then the blood of Jesus has washed us clean, and we can have a close relationship with him. We can experience his presence, and nothing can stop this.

He is calling to you today "where are you?". Answer in faith "here I am" and experience his presence.

PRAYER: Father God, nothing can separate me from your presence. Your blood washes me clean from all sin and I can experience closeness and intimacy with you today. I pray all things trying to block this to go as I enter in by faith, in Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 2 - FELLOWSHIP

1 John 1:3

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

Fellowship is a term that is used in the Bible and it can be defined in a number of ways, such as a friendly association or sharing similar interests as someone or being in their company. These descriptions would clearly indicate an ongoing experience or relationship rather than a “one off”.

We saw yesterday that we can be found by Christ, but today we must think about establishing that ongoing connection and association.

I recently tried to book a small holiday for my wife and myself but each time I pressed the “book now” tab it came back with “not successful”. I found this strange as the website I use is usually very reliable. Then, during a casual conversation with some friends a few days later, I learned of an issue they had with a passport. The passport was valid for ten years, but the boarder agency took this from the issue date and did not use the expiry date. This meant that there was not the three months required until it ran out. I then checked my wife’s passport and found the same issue. Wow - God had stopped us wasting a lot of money. The most amazing thing to me, though, was he also knew we were booking a holiday! We know in our head that God is watching over us but it’s at times like this that we really understand in our hearts that he is!

If God is with us all the time, he wants to foster and develop that relationship. He wants us to commune with him, call upon him, trust him and talk with him all the time. He wants us to walk in step with the Holy Spirit and to feel his presence at all times. This, of course, is how Jesus lived and he wants us to follow his example. And we can!

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I thank you that your death opened up the door to have constant fellowship with Father God. Help me draw upon this and cultivate it through prayer, faith and trust. In your name, Amen.

DAY 3 - FAITH

1 John 5:14-15

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him.

Two words are key in these verses: confidence and approaching. We have seen this week that God is asking “where are you?” and that we have the complete privilege of saying “here I am”. We can then live in “fellowship” with him. It follows, therefore, that we can approach him and that we can do it boldly and with confidence.

These verses then tell us that he hears us, and we can expect him to answer.

Such words should fill us full of faith. Let’s remind ourselves that God cannot lie, and he is ALWAYS TRUE TO HIS WORD, and that faith comes by hearing the Word of God. So, let’s meditate on this. Are you facing a situation where you need an answer? As children of God, we are not supposed to do it all by ourselves. We have the resources of heaven and the King to call upon. He is there for you so let’s:

Approach

Have confidence

Ask

Have faith

Amen!

DAY 4 - FRUIT

John 15:15-16

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

The fact that Jesus calls us friends here confirms again the closeness of the relationship he wants with us and the experience of his presence. This passage, however, links his presence with "fruit". This is a word we can use a lot so it would be good to think what we mean by it. Jesus often took imagery from farming as this would have been understood by the people he was talking to. Fruit can be defined as the visible and demonstrative expression of health and growth. It is also clear that fruit does not so much benefit the tree that bears it but the things that live around it.

So, the fruit we bear demonstrates the Kingdom of God to those around us. This can be either what they see in our character or in supernatural signs and answers to prayer. Either way we are "appointed" to bear fruit! This gives it some urgency and gives us some responsibility. As always, however, if we stay close to him, in his presence, as his friends, fruit becomes all the more abundant. Go for it!

PRAYER: Lord Jesus - I thank you that you have designed me to bear fruit and have given me all the resources to do so. Help me stay close to you as your friend so that fruit is a natural part of my development. Amen.

DAY 5 - FIGHT

Joshua 1:5-6

No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

Joshua had a pretty clearly defined mission. He was to lead the Israelite people into the promised land. There was only one issue - the people already in the land did not like that idea so Joshua's main calling was to fight!

Sometimes we can misrepresent the Christian life when we do away with the concept of fighting and striving. Paul said:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith".

(2 Tim 4:7)

He also compared the walk of a Christian to an athlete preparing to compete.

We can expect battles, therefore, and times when we have to hang in there and push through - just like Joshua. But also, like Joshua, God says "I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you". In other words, he will give us his presence and his attention.

We must never let go of this - he is always with us - we must accept this and act on it to see him come though. It was when Joshua won the battles that it was obvious God was with the Israelites.