

A WORD IN SEASON SERIES
"EXCERPTS FROM THE WRITINGS AND
MINISTRY OF BROTHER SAM GREENE"

Face To Face Communion

Complete Edition ISBN: 978-1-937199-00-5
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*The following is taken from the Brother Sam's book,
Face To Face Communion...*

As I was going about my duties as a pastor and teacher recently, these words kept coming up in my spirit, "face to face." Solomon said in Proverbs 27:19, "*As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man.*" But I do not want to talk about a face to face relationship between two people. As I searched the Scriptures, God unfolded to me His desire to be "face to face" with His people. Seven times those words are used in relation to God and to a person. Seven is the number of perfection. Therefore this word is a perfected living word from God. He wants a revelation birthed in our hearts today about beholding Him face to face.

The word "face" is the same word translated "presence" throughout the Old Testament. The Hebrew word literally means, "a turning of the face towards." Therefore, when God's manifest presence is in a place, it literally means He has turned His face towards you.

Man has been able to peer into the magnificence of God's universe. This past week, as I'm writing this, astronauts have gone to the Hubble Space Craft to restore it. The increase that is going to

come from this ability to look at the universe is beyond anything that they have ever known before. The universe is still expanding. When God said, "Let there be light," that word is still reverberating throughout the universe. The reason I bring that up is we forget how infinitesimally small we really are compared to the vastness of the universe. Isaiah says "the nations are just a drop in the bucket; a single drop is an entire nation." What is a city then or a country or a town or a street or a house or a person?

We need to understand who we are and what we are in the greater scheme of things. But yet we don't live with a heavenly perspective. We live in a selfish world that revolves around our little lives. We can never get beyond our own lives. I pray that as you read this you might have your eyes opened and that you might see the hope of your calling. I pray that God would enlarge you so that you could see that this thing called life is not just about you or me, but that we could see that this whole universe and that the whole world we are involved in is authored and controlled by a sovereign, loving God who has a great purpose He is working out. What seems so hard to us and long is really just one little moment in time. The day you and I step into eternity, you and I will realize that all the things that we were so upset over in this life were absolutely foolish. I pray that God helps all of us to see something big today and to behold a higher plan and purpose and to behold the One who is the author and creator of it.

You were not born to be famous. You were not called to be a great minister. You were not saved to go to heaven. God has been waiting for a people. He tried it with spirit beings (angels) and they rebelled against Him. He created man and man rebelled against Him. He created a nation and they rebelled against Him. He chose a tribe and they rebelled against Him. Every time He thought maybe one or two would hear Him, He would come to his own and His own would not receive Him. How bitter a pill that must be for God to swallow when His people treat Him as nothing? He was despised and rejected. We hid as it were our face from Him. However, Deuteronomy 32:9 states, "*For the Lord's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.*" David says in Psalms 73:25-26, "*Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.*" You see every now and then a

man like Abraham, Moses, Joseph, or David or a woman like Deborah, Anna or Priscilla will realize that all they are going through is simply part of a great plan. They realize their little part in it is so small and that it is not about them. They learn to become selfless instead of selfish. They learn to understand that God the Father's heart is so pure, wonderful and full of love and everything that He does comes from that heart of love. He always has our best interests at heart.

If we are ever going to fulfill and catch the prize of the high calling and finish this race, then we are going to have to think like Him. We are going to have to talk like Him, walk like Him and act like Him. We also cannot think that God is a man as Numbers 23:19 states, "*God is not a man that He should lie...*" For most believers, the only God that they know is the image in their own minds. They limit the Holy One of Israel by their lack of revelation or faith. His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts, but yet people consistently limit God because they think He thinks like them. God doesn't think like us. He is God. Some people would say, "I just don't understand how God can forgive?" That is none of your business. We are nothing but a little tiny piece of sand, and we are hardly even that. God is much bigger than our finite, carnal minds. Others say, "Can God provide a table in the wilderness?" He can if you can see how He sees. When there is no way, there is a way in God. When all seems lost, there is hope because Christ in you is the hope of glory. When everything seems against us, He says "I will!" The will of God is that He will never, ever leave you nor forsake you. So by the grace of God, let the Lord expand your spirit by the grace of truth.

In the Scriptures I share in the complete version of this book, God found people He could speak face to face with. In the seven passages I will share, every one of them reveals something that happens as we can have face to face communion with God.

What does it mean when you look into the face of another person? When you look somebody right in the eye there is a vulnerability that takes place. You are allowing that person into the space of your existence. You are allowing them to see who you really are. For most people, it is a hard thing to do because of insecurities,

embarrassment or fear. We do not want most people to really see who we are.

We do the same with God when we come into His presence. Matthew 15:8 states, *“This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.”* The minute God begins to get too close, people get nervous. The minute the Spirit of God begins to touch upon our lives and what He wants us to be delivered of, we draw back, we curse the messenger, and we find another place where we can sit quietly and never be bothered. The angels know, God knows and you know that you will never grow until you go back to where you left Him.

After years of breaking, I can say to you today that I am just barely on the verge of understanding face to face communion. Allowing Him to look into every part of my life without fear or insecurities, I find something so wonderful. He has allowed me to look into His heart. Once having looked into His heart, you are changed forever. When you can see into God’s heart, you will never act the same nor talk the same. It makes you want your life to mean something. I want to leave a legacy when I am gone that when my name is mentioned, somebody thanks God that I lived. I am telling you today that there is a way to go into the glory of God and look into the heart of the one that has been hidden for so long. He has been hidden Himself because people could not bear to look at Him because they were so full of sin. But now God has a remnant of people all over the earth totally devoted to Him, who love Him, and who love His presence. They are all about His kingdom and His people. Because of that they are actually starting to become like Him. They don’t think selfishly anymore. They put other people first. They absolutely read their Bibles, worship, pray, fast and intercede. They give cheerfully. This people God is going to give Himself to totally. I cannot understand why someone would scream against this revelation. This can only make you a better Christian.

Let’s begin in Exodus 33: 9-11:

“⁹And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses. ¹⁰And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand

at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door. ¹¹And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle."

Jesus said to his disciples many times, I no longer call you disciples but friends. You see the thing about a friend is a friend sticks closer than a brother. A friend is willing to forgive you even when you are wrong. A friend is someone who will be there for you at the very worst moment in your life. Also a true friendship is reciprocal.

When I don't understand what God is doing in my life, I am not going to charge God foolishly. I am going to give Him the benefit of the doubt that He knows more than I do about the situation. I will wait to see why I am going through what I am going through. In doing so I will not throw up any walls that God can't penetrate. I will remember He knows "*the end from the beginning*" (Isaiah 46:1), that He is the "*Alpha and Omega*" (Revelation 22:13), and especially remember the revelation of His sovereignty that "*Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right*" (Genesis 18:25).

Our walk with God is a proceeding walk, season by season, line upon line and here a little, there a little. Scripture reveals to us that our walk with God is from glory to glory, from strength to strength, from faith to faith and from vessel to vessel. This is how God teaches us to walk the narrow way. This is the path of the just. It is the highway of holiness that is leading us into His glory, in face to face communion with Him. It is the rungs on Jacobs's ladder. It is the secret of the stairs in the Song of Solomon. Every stair is a season and time in our lives. At the end of the ladder, at the end of those stairs, at the end of that highway, at the end of that path, there is a heavenly door. In Revelations 4:1 we see this. "After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter." This door is also seen in Matthew 25:10-13 in the parable of the 10 virgins:

"¹⁰And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. ¹²But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. ¹³Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

Also, Isaiah 6:3-4 states:

"³And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. ⁴And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke."

We are the ones that open that door, not God. God has already broken through the veil. This last door we have been given the key to, but we must walk up every step, climb every rung of the ladder, go through every season and deal with, revelation, faith and strength. Only the Bride goes through that door. To everyone else the door is shut. Those that don't go in through the door do not lose their salvation. They lose the prize that they were aiming for, to have face to face intimacy with God.

God did not create the world as we see it. This is a fallen world filled with fallen people. Lift up your eyes and see this world afar off. If you live in the daily grind of life, you will never, ever be happy. You will only have fleeting moments of peace. Lift up your eyes! Colossians 3:1 states, *"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God."*

As I behold Him, I leave behind all the stuff around me, all the physical pain, all the emotional pain, the depression, the sorrows and the debts. I want to leave all that and move into a relationship with the One who created me from the foundations of the world. I want to be lifted up from this earthly experience and fulfill what I was born for, to give God a place of habitation face to face. Every time Moses went into the glory of God and came back, the people asked him to please cover his face. The glory had changed him. His face was bright, shiny, and radiant with God's glory so that he had to put a veil over his face. I can understand why people are leaving the ministry every

day. When God is in a room how could anyone be thinking about anything other than Him? I don't even know why some people are still walking with Jesus? But I will not let it discourage me because I have seen the other side. I have been to the mountain and I have seen His face. There is nothing on this earth that can compare to that glorious experience.

When you are face to face as a friend, you are speaking to your friend, like Moses did with God. However, when the people saw Moses, they asked him to please put a veil over his face because they couldn't look at him. Because walking among them was a man whom God called his friend, who had face to face intimacy with Him. Each time it was from glory to glory and from strength to strength. Moses did not even know this about himself (Exodus 34:29 – *“when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him”*). You and I do not even see this but other people do. He does not want us to see it because then we will be concerned about where we are at. People do not really like to be around people who are truly free because then they are reminded that they are still in bondage. People do not want to be around people who are walking in holiness because just their very presence brings shame and embarrassment to them.

I am telling you that there are a people all over the world that God is raising up that are not tolerating saving their life anymore. Every day when they get up they say, “Today Lord, I am going to do everything I can to walk free from sin. I do not want to displease you. All I want to do is bless you and honor you with my life.” They are committed to reading His word and to praying. We all understand about having jobs and being busy and having issues and challenges, but that is how an overcomer overcomes. We overcome in our situations in life. There are people all over the earth who are doing this same thing. The sunflower is a flower that rises early and then it opens up its blooms to face the sun. Then as the sun goes down the sunflower closes up again. It is all about the Son and seeing Him and allowing His light to shine in us and change us into His image.

It is all about Him and His purposes, and not our little lives. Can you hear this word today? Thank God we have jobs. Thank God we have families. But if this is all you are about, then you are a lost person. No wonder your soul is troubled about many things. You

have put your emphasis on too many people and not on your precious husband, Jesus. We blame everyone but ourselves for the things in our lives. But every now and then the Lord speaks and we have a “kairos” moment. The veil is pierced in our lives and we see God. Without realizing it, the minute you see Him your face begins to change. The Bible says that Moses’ face shone and he knew it not. Lift up your eyes and shake yourself. That thing you think is so important is really not so important compared to eternity. It is like dust. If you are beholding God, everything else disappears. In the face of Jesus Christ, as I behold Him, He is not mad at me. He is trying to help me to get there so that everything else can find its place. If you will seek Him, you will find Him. If you seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness, all of these things shall be added to you face to face.

Today, the God of the universe, whose name is Jesus, is speaking to you. Arise and hear His voice! If you are in pain physically, find His face. I promise you, the pain will disappear. You will see that love that is so great when you sit face to face in communion with Him. It is so high that this earthly realm hardly even matters any more. I am not saying to be irresponsible with your life, but I am saying find out what is first in your life. If you can’t find Him, then grab a hold of my hand and let me take you there. Follow me as I follow the Lord. I can take you there. Ultimately, a people are going to walk through that door and forever have communion with their God as a bride and bridegroom. A natural marriage can be so bittersweet. Sometimes if we think of God like that we would shudder. When I look at my wife today I know why God gave her to me and I see how much I need her and how faithful she is. I also see how far short I have failed as a man and a father. But I am not condemned. I am resolved to change by the image in front of me as I behold God. We were created in the image and likeness of God. The Hebrew language says, “the exact duplicate in kind.” We will never be God but we will be as God. Anything less than that is not enough. Have you ever had an encounter with God? Have you actually lost earthly things for a period of time? Deep has called unto deep today and now we have a choice. Let us heed this calling!