

## Knowing God By Experience

**Exodus 3:1-14**

Defining moments – Have you ever had those moments in your life that drastically changed the trajectory of your life from that point forward?

Examples from my life... Church Camp 1999, Seeing the job posting for BRC, My first youth mission trip with the teenagers from this church.

**These defining moments happened because God was/is active in my life & He is bringing about His good purpose in & through my life! Romans 8:28**

What about you... What God moments have you had in your life, moments that were unmistakably God's presence & power at work in & through you?

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**This whole "Discipleship Go" initiative is intended to help us not only come to know God better, but to experience Him in our lives in very real ways!**

We serve a God who is present with us, and at work all around us!  
The question is do we recognize it/Him, & will we choose to join Him?

Consider Moses and his encounter with God in Exodus 3.  
This was a defining moment that changed the trajectory of his life forever!

Moses was going about his business - keeping watch over his father-in-law's sheep. He wasn't in church, or on a mission trip, but **God showed up!**

**"He came to Horeb, the mountain of God"** - Was this the mountain of God b/c God dwelled there, or b/c it was the mountain where God met w/Moses?

**What's important is that God showed up in Moses' life & got his attention!**

**Vs. 2 - "The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the bush. He looked, & behold, the bush was burning, yet it wasn't consumed"**

When Moses noticed a divine presence, he turned aside to investigate it.  
And vs. 4 tells us that **"when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush."** It's interesting the order of these details!

Moses was given eyes to see & b/c he responded the way he did, God spoke to Him & Moses experienced God in a way he never had before! **There is a difference between knowing things about God & experiencing God in your life!**

Let's play a game – the A.B.C.'s Game, using God's attributes as the category  
Example: **Revelation 22:13** - A - Alpha, B – Beginning...

Which of the attributes of God that were shared are most meaningful to you?

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Why did you choose those attributes? 3 categories of attributes:  
Incommunicable vs. Communicable Attributes vs. Experienced Attributes

What attribute of God did Moses learn that day on Mount Horeb?

**I AM WHO I AM – I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE!**

What Moses would come to learn about God it that He would be whatever they needed Him to be to bring about God's good purpose in their lives!

**This name for God, this attribute of God, is one that Moses had to experience!**

God would be everything for them – the power - plagues, divine presence - before Pharaoh, provision - in the desert, protection – at the Red Sea!

It was through experience that Moses came to know God as the great I AM!

It was also through experience that I came to know God years ago as the one whose ways are beyond my ways, who is the one who provides for His people, & that He is ever-present in my life & in the world around me!

What if Moses didn't turn aside to investigate that bush that was burning but not consumed?

- Would God's plan to deliver His people have been thwarted? **No!**
- Would God have just used someone else instead? **Maybe!**
- Would Moses have missed out on this divine experience with God? **Yes!**

What if I chose not to pursue a path in ministry back so many years ago?

- Would God's plan for BRC have been thwarted? **No!**
- Would God have just used a different pastor to lead you? **Maybe!**
- Would I have missed out on the experience of God's divine presence & His work in my life through those defining moments? **Yes!**

The Scriptures reveal much about who God is & how He works in the lives of His people, but **there's a world of difference between knowing something about God in your head & experiencing the reality of God, & His work, in your life!**

We can come to know God by experiencing His presence in our lives - Communion!

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