

**“How Do We Get In Touch With God?”**  
Psalm 27:4; Hebrews 11:6; Matthew 17:1-9  
February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
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Last Sunday, we explored the meaning of eternal life. Our life goes beyond biological being. So do not degrade yourself as material. Your life is not an accident in the form of a large single cell. God created you with ‘His ultimate life purpose’ so you have God’s image in you. In other words, God has placed the ‘authentic self’ in you. Christian spiritual disciplines such as Sunday worship and prayer are the ways to assure you know God, get closer to God and eventually help all of us realize that we are all children of God through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. By this grace, we have assurance of faith that we have promise to receive eternal life. The pursuit of seeking ‘God’s purpose or authentic self’ doesn’t mean that you need to be like someone else such as religious celebrities or successful people in the world. Rather God desires you to be yourself understanding who you really are, fully grasping your profound life purpose and meaning. You are the ultimate end itself in God’s eyes. You are so precious, special and perfect as you are as God’s masterpiece. Remember that God didn’t create you a penguin, but a ‘human being’ after Him. Therefore, the aim of our spiritual life, practices and disciplines is to discern and find out God’s purpose in us and to get closer to our Creator, the maker and our loving spiritual parents like Father and Mother. This morning, we’ll explore how we will get in touch with God.

I’ll challenge you with three specific spiritual ways to deepen your relationship with God: First, increase your humble desire to know God; second, rediscover Sunday worship as your spiritual routine; and the last, the power of prayer to connect us with the living God. I have a short video clip to share with you. Let’s watch it first.<sup>1</sup> Don’t get me wrong. I am not showing off my sons, but focus on their desire to experience rain! Look at their faces how joyful they are! Their eagerness, excitement and joyfulness to get closer to rain is the key to understand our humble desire to know and experience God! It is the same with our spirituality. If you want to feel warm from campfire, you should get closer to fire, right? In the same way, if you want to get wet in the fountain, you should go in the water. Otherwise, there is no way that you can experience it.

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<sup>1</sup> Last week on Monday, when we had heavy rain and storm, my two boys didn’t go to school because of President Holiday. They were so bored at home. Even in the midst of the rain, I took them out to our church campus and tried to find something fun like ‘water splash’. I found a spot for having fun between the church parsonage and Little Methodist Church campus. The gutter water was falling down like a small cascade. My boys were super excited to get wet.

When God created the universe including us, God placed His holy purpose. God gave us reason and intuition to perceive God's presence not only in the beautiful nature but also in our daily lives. Christian spirituality is all about our spiritual awareness to feel God's touch and signs around us. For example, Mary Ellen, one of our church members shared her spiritual perception on her dogwood tree in the backyard of her house. Have you ever heard about a legend that the dogwood tree had been used as the timber of Jesus' cross? Mary Ellen shared with me her grandson, Bryce's story. It touched all our hearts and we have been praying for his leg surgery and good recovery. Her grandson, Bryce had to fight his muscle cancer when he was diagnosed at the age of 3 years and a half. I am personally grateful that he is with us today. A little later, we will have an opportunity to hear about his faith testimony how he could handle his life challenges in his faith and prayer during his battle with cancer. Mary Ellen reminded me that when she watched her dogwood tree's blooming every year in the end of March, the image of flowers blooming is overlapped not only with the glorious image of Jesus' resurrection from the cross but also her grandson Bryce's resilient recovery and cure from his suffering and pain.

Second, the rediscovery of Sunday worship as a place to experience God. I hope you renew your perspective on your understanding of Sunday worship. Attending Sunday worship is not merely a means for deepening your spiritual experience. Rather, God is manifested in the process of worship and worship is a rehearsal of human experience with God and dress rehearsal to experience Heaven and your eternal life. If you are curious about what God, heaven or everlasting life is like, your worship experience will tell you an answer. If you enjoy worship as a dynamic, relational and spiritual relationship with God and full of joy, that's what you understand about the mystery of the divine one. Worship is truly a shadow of God's holiness and a miniature of heaven. If you do not feel spiritually inspiring, joyful and exciting in our worship, we need to improve our Sunday worship experience. Truly, our Sunday worship should be a showcase of heavenly banquet and an expression of our spiritual salvation in Christ.

Lastly, power of prayer connects us with the living God. Now, I invite Mary Ellen and Sandy's grandson, Bryce, to come forward and share his story of faith. His faith and prayer life are very inspiring to us. He was challenged by his circumstances but he never gave up his faith. Rather he deepened his trust in God daily through his prayer practice with God. Please welcome him!

(Bryce's faithful testimony)

Many times, we do not look deeper into our daily experiences or encounters as God's visible signs and even experience of suffering and pains. Don't get me wrong. I do not mean to say that every suffering and pain are God's intentional work and plan for you. But remember this. In the Bible, God doesn't say that we should *understand* all things. Rather the Bible always encourages and challenges us to *trust* God. Pastor Rick Warren says, "Why am I having such a difficult time? One answer is that life is supposed to be difficult! It's what enables us to grow. Remember, earth is not heaven!" Our church member Sandy Milne shared his perspective on life. He says, "Life is like a deck of cards. You never know what you're gonna get. We never know what we're gonna get. The Lord deals you and not all hands are equal and what the Lord gives you is not as important as what you do with what the Lord gave you." In a sense, life seems to be unfair. Sometimes the cards may seem unnecessary, but all the while they are filling our hand and keeping us in the game. We do not know God's full plan, but we can learn, grow and hopefully find the meaningful message out of our suffering and difficult time through our spiritual reason and intuition. God wants us to find God's hidden meaning from our personal experiences. Here is another spiritual wisdom from Pastor Rick Warren, "The more you pray, the less you'll panic. The more you worship, the less you worry. You'll feel more patient and less pressured. It is true to all of us. If you sincerely meant that prayer, congratulations! You are joining the family of God as a child of God. Now you are ready to discover the living God and God's purpose in you."<sup>2</sup> May God bless you and your spiritual life! Amen.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/711.Rick\\_Warren](http://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/711.Rick_Warren)