

BEYOND THE VEIL

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE STRUGGLING TO
FIND GOD'S PRESENCE**

Connecting with the Lord is an issue for so many Christians. Sometimes we get so focused on what we are doing, that we forget about Him for hours on end; or rush into His presence with a shopping list of requests, and then hurry out again without actually being with Him. It is so easy to spend time reading and thinking *about* Him, but not actually *meet* Him; or to worship easily with an anointed gathering, but struggle to feel near to Him in the front room at home. And sometimes, when the world seems very dark, we just feel cut off.

GOOD NEWS

The Holy of Holies was the place in the Temple where the Presence of God rested. One priest was allowed into the Presence once a year. Everyone else was separated from the 'throne room of God' by a veil. As Jesus took His last breath, the veil in the Temple was torn in two. Ordinary people (like you and me) now have access to the Holy of Holies, and the Presence of God, through His amazing sacrifice.

We have been invited to step ‘behind the veil’. One way of doing this—especially for those who are struggling for one reason or another—is to try taking short breaks at intervals during the day, and use the steps outlined below. You could even set your phone timer as a reminder.

SEVEN STEPS BEYOND THE VEIL

KNOW: This is important. If you are going to press beyond the veil to an encounter with Jesus, you have to know you have a 24-hour-access invitation paid for by His shed blood. Whether you are having a good day, feeling spiritual or full of faith (or not) does not come into it. If there is something specific on your conscience, you can simply drop it at the door by confessing it, and receiving God’s promised forgiveness; otherwise you can enter freely [Hebrews 10:19–22].

In addition, did you know you are highly favoured? The literal translation of Ephesians 1:6 is ‘He has made us highly favoured in the Beloved’, and it’s the same word that was used about Mary in Luke 1:30! There are no special Christians who get the goodies, while the rest have their noses pushed up against the window pane. We need to know that Jesus’ presence and blessing are available to all who enter in.

STOP: Then you need to get off the treadmill. You need to just stop, lay everything down, including your thoughts, relax and become very quiet inside.

TURN: Turn the gaze of your heart upon the Lord. (As a young Christian, I used to picture a door in my chest opening towards the Lord! Foolish, I know, but it worked for me!) Thank Him for being with you right now.

There isn’t one-size-fits-all when it comes to experiencing God’s presence. Everyone is made differently, and you will have your own unique encounter. It may be a little frisson of excitement, a feeling of peace, sudden tears, or some other physical sensation, or something completely different. And it takes practice ‘tuning in’, rather like finding a radio frequency.

BREATHE: Take several slow deep breaths through the nose and exhale slowly. Let God’s peace settle upon you. Both the Hebrew and Greek words for ‘Holy Spirit’ also mean ‘breath’. Paul wrote that ‘in Him we live and move and have our being’ [Acts 17:28]. With each breath, invite the Holy Spirit to fill your whole body.

ASK: When you feel that sense of connection and filling, start to speak out your praise and thanksgiving for His many blessings. Then you can ask for more... more of Him... more revelation... more of awareness of His presence...

WAIT: Just wait quietly and expectantly in the Lord's presence, allowing His grace and love to wash over you, and let your love flow back.

RESPOND: Finally, respond with thanksgiving for His promise to be always with you [Matthew 28:20].

And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. [Hebrews 10:19 NLT]

Truly my soul silently waits for God; from Him comes my salvation. [Psalm 62:1 NKJV]

Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. [John 7:37]

We wait in hope for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in You [Psalm 33:20-22].

Why not take the opportunity to step behind the veil today?
He's waiting for you...

You can find more help in Experiencing God's Presence and Psalm 91 in the Foundations section of the website, and in Spirit-led Encounters: The Rhythm of Devotion in the Kingdom Living section.