



I Want to See You # 1

Hello everybody. Welcome to “Notes from the Presence.” For the next 9 posts, I will be doing a series of short articles on the seeing realm. This is the story of my journey into that realm. The first few articles will be foundational, and then I will segue into my personal testimony. I promise not to be safe with these posts. I plan to write some things that I have told virtually nobody - things that could, and no doubt, will label me as a heretic or an extremely strange person by some. But, I have come to realize that I have no apologies to make for the encounters that the Holy Spirit has brought me in to. In the end - if even a few are encouraged and inspired, it will all be worth it. Stick with me - as the posts go by, we will build, build, and build.

I recently watched a television show about Internet dating. There were several couples that had dated online for a few months, and this show was all about bringing them together for the first time. These couples flew from different parts of North America to a mutually agreed upon location to have their first face-to-face meeting. Up until this point in time, their communication had been strictly through electronic media such as e-mail, Facebook, Insta, Twitter, and Skype. They had shared words, ideas, and pictures. It was most interesting to watch them meet for the first time. Each couple was the same; there was a distinct awkwardness when they initially saw each other. After they had been together for a few hours they were interviewed individually. They were all very nervous as they gave their answers and thoughts on how things were going so far. After spending an entire weekend together, they were interviewed again. Out of the five couples chosen for the television show, only one couple decided to continue their relationship. Without fail, the overall sentiment was that during the electronic communication process, there was much falsehood communicated. In other words, they were able to say things to each other in writing that under the scrutiny of a face-to-face encounter, simply didn't hold up.

Although I don't usually recommend cyber relationships as an effective dating method, I am not saying that online dating doesn't work. I do know of a few couples that have met this way, gotten married, and have a wonderful life together. I also know a few more cases where it has amounted to a complete disaster. What I am trying to say is; there is no substitute for a face-to-face encounter with somebody you are intending to get to know. It doesn't matter how many words have been spoken, either in writing, or over the telephone, eventually you are going to have to "see" that person. This sequence of events is how each and every human relationship works, and the more time you spend in face to face encounter with someone, the better you will know them. However, when it comes to our relationship with God, somehow we think things should be different. Let us look at some scripture in Genesis.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. (Genesis 3:8)

Even though this passage is in somewhat of a negative context, I would like to point out the stunning image presented at the beginning of the verse. Adam and Eve were accustomed to meeting with God face-to-face and from these words we can assume it was a daily encounter. I have often tried to imagine what God would have sounded like walking in the garden. I wonder if it would have resembled the thundering sound of T-rex stomping about in the movie "Jurassic Park." At any rate, the man and his wife met with God. They knew what He looked like, what His personality was like, and the sound of His voice. My point is, without a face-to-face encounter, much pretension can enter a relationship.

I have come to believe that there are numerous places in the Bible that speak to God's desire for us to be able to see Him. In the original environment He placed us in - the Garden of Eden - He was there ... both seeable and knowable, and I believe that He is leading us back to that garden once again. This is not just a fairy tale fantasy - it is reality at it's very basic core - face to face with the One who laid it all down on the line for us, and who wants to know us intimately. If you are ready for this journey, join me again in our next article. We will be talking about the different sets of eyes we have (there are more than 1), and how to find them.

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real – and He was the word at the beginning.