

GOD WITH US

His People. His Dwelling Place.

Marked by His Presence - Ps Louis Els

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll **recover your life**. I’ll show you how to take a **real rest**. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it.” The words of Jesus in Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG). Sometimes God calls us to ‘take time out’. This is a time of **rest** and **reflection**, which leads us to a fresh **encounter** with Him.

In this time He gives us a fresh perspective and deals with areas of our lives where we have let pride in. Anywhere we are relying on our knowledge or strength, instead of God, pride has taken over. Encountering God through rest and reflection **allows Him to expose lies and pride**, leading us to repent and be restored.

When we encounter God it leads us to repent. Repentance is a lasting change of mind. This consistency of belief doesn’t come from head knowledge, it comes from experiencing truth in our hearts. We experience truth by **spending time with the one who is truth**. As we encounter God, it leads us to choose His ways over the world’s. (1 Cor 7:9-10)

An encounter is a significant moment of entering into a relationship through an authentic experience. If we don’t encounter God, we become victims, hopeless, and full of excuses. The God that lives in us is greater than - do we take the time to truly know this God? What can discourage us when we know Him? **Our intimacy with Him fills us with hope, truth, and confidence.**

Presence speaks of the nearness of a person. **His presence is not an atmosphere** that gives us goosebumps - it is a being with attributes: glory, majesty, holiness, love, mercy, hope, freedom. **Encountering Him gives us more than a good quality of life.** It fills us with grace, mercy, long-suffering, and hope - regardless of the circumstances.

There is a journey of REST and REFLECTION that leads us to REPENT and ENCOUNTER the living God who restores us and gives us hope.

Reflection

1. Are you tired? If you had a whole day free of commitments, what would you do with it?
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart. Is there anything He is calling you to repent from?
3. What can you do to encounter God in your day-to-day this week?
4. Read James 4:8-10. How does this scripture apply to your life?