

Isaiah 55:6

Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near.

I believe that one of the greatest dangers that a person can make, is to take for granted the presence of God in their lives. Personally, there was a season of many years in my life where the Lord seemed to be there every time I called upon Him. Yet at that same time, there was sin in my life that the Holy Spirit was convicting me of. I tried to do everything I could think of to maintain His favor in my life, and yet to keep my addictions as well. I tithed regularly, gave offerings and even alms as well. Periodically I would even read my bible and pray. Somehow I believed that the sweet presence of the Lord would always be there. But I was terribly wrong! Instead what I later discovered was that the Lord was wooing me to Him. He was allowing me to taste His goodness and favor.

Years later, I finally submitted to the convictions of the Holy Spirit with my addictions. When I did, I was sure that I would experience instantaneous rewards. But instead, something else happened. God didn't give me the rewards I thought He should, but rather He took me to a school, a school that many believers have and will go to, "The wilderness school." There the Lord removed that sweet presence that I had become accustomed to. My prayers were no longer answered as they had been before. I sought Him with greater fervor, yet I could not reclaim that lost sweetness. I was honestly perplexed as how this could have happened! I could see why sin might very well take you from His presence, but not obedience! Years later I learned that what I was experiencing was not a demotion, but a promotion. Jesus himself went into the wilderness before He entered His ministry. The wilderness is designed to be a place of death. It is there that we learn to die to our flesh, so that our spirit may mature. I will never forget for the rest of my life how God took me to a place where nothing would satisfy outside of Him. What I had always taken for granted, He showed me the priceless value of.

Today I am grateful for every moment that I have with my Lord! Every time He answers my prayers I am constantly Thanking Him! I have realized that being in His presence is sweeter than anything life can offer.

But friend, I also know that the only thing that can separate us from our God is sin! When He took me to the wilderness school, He was there all of the time. But sin is something that does separate us from Him. Hell is ultimately a place where people are separated from His presence for all of eternity. Don't put off getting things right with Him today. Recently a daughter of my wife's friend was in a terrible car accident, the young woman miraculously survived. But in an instance she could have gone into eternity. None of us know when we will make that transition from this life into that one; but once we do, we can no longer come back and make things right with our Lord.

If you are a believer and you have lost that sweet relationship with the Lord, whether due to sin or the business of life. Then I exhort to make things right with Him today, nothing satisfies like being in His presence! Amen and Amen.