



MASTERPLAN BUSINESS LEADERS

How to Get in God's Presence

Probably the number one question I get is "How do I hear God?" The second question I get is actually connected to the first. The second question is "How do I get in God's presence?"

Many people tell me they have a hard time hearing God or connecting with God. To hear God, you actually have to connect with God first. But why does it seem so hard sometimes to connect with God? Why can He seem so distant?

This may surprise you, but if you have difficulty connecting with God, it is probably because you are not in the present. Here is what I mean by that. Most people live either in the past or the future.

When people are praying to God, many times they are praying about things that happened to them in the past or they are thinking about something in the past. Can I tell you that God's manifest presence is not in the past, though He was with you in the past.

Other people are thinking about things that could happen in the future, even if it is just five minutes in the future. God is not with you in the future, though He will be with you when you get there.

Your quiet time may not be very fulfilling because you are not in the present, with God. Most theologians will tell you that since God created time, He is outside time. In other words, God is always in the past, present, and future at the same time. But His manifest presence is not with you in the past and the future. God's manifest presence is with you in the present.

One of the great promises of God is that He is Emanuel, God with us, right now (Matthew 1:23). If you want to hear God, and experience the miracles and blessings of God, you have to walk with Him in the present.

Jesus did not live in the past or future. Jesus said in John 5:19, "I only do what I see My Father doing (not what I saw My Father do). In John 12:49-50, He said, I only say what My Father is saying (not what My Father said). Jesus lived in the present.

This leads to the question, "How do I get into the present?" There is a little exercise that you can do to get in the present. Just say to yourself, "What am I seeing right now?" Or "What am I hearing right now? You may be seeing a sunset, or you may be hearing a lawnmower outside. It does not matter what you are seeing or hearing. All you are trying to do is get in the present. So, whatever you choose to focus on, this exercise has no other redeeming quality than to get you in the present, where God is. Then you can connect with God.

So if you want to hear God, you have to connect with Him in the present. Once you connect with God in the present, then you can hear Him. May God richly bless you as you connect with and hear from Him!