

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

The Anatomy of A God Encounter May 30, 2023 Suzi Armstrong

A God encounter is engaging God in an unexpected or surprising way. A God encounter is often personally impactful. It can leave you filled with new revelation and understanding of the Lord, His nature and character. Be filled with awe and wonder of how majestic, holy, and sovereign God truly is. It changes your thinking and your perspective. It enlarges you and your capacity for a relationship with the Lord. It is a door that leads to deeper faith and deeper encounters -- a catalyst advancing your spiritual walk.

God reveals secrets and mysteries in encounters. He redefines understanding of your environment and differentiates between the world system and His Kingdom. A God encounter can supersede and break the rules of engagement as we know them. It is a heart encounter that can blow your mind and expand you. It can be a turning point or a launching place for a whole new direction in your life. God encounters have great impact in our heart. They can release healing, forgiveness, or deliverance; they can recalibrate and bring correction. They impart and activate parts of your spiritual DNA. You can receive a download of spiritual intelligence. They enhance and deepen intimacy and true worship.

The Lord continues to say lift your eyes up, come up higher. God encounters cause you to see higher and deeper. It is ascension. Think of the Psalms of ascent. Seeing the Lord in a way that redefines you.

Exodus 3.1-5 NIV

¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There **the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush.** Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

⁴ When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, **God called to him from within the bush,** "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."

⁵ "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is **holy ground.**" ⁶ Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, **Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.**

- God initiated this encounter.
- It was the launching place of a significant part of Moses' destiny. Moses' path was redefined.
- It created deeper intimacy between Moses and the Lord.
- It changed how Moses saw himself and his world.
- Moses was afraid so he hid his face – later God would meet with Moses face to face.

Judges 6.11-16 NIV

¹¹ The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son **Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress** to keep it from the Midianites. ¹² When **the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon,** he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."

¹³ "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian."

¹⁴ The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

¹⁵ "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."

¹⁶ The LORD answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive."

Acts 12.6-12 NIV

⁶ The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, **Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance.** ⁷ Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.

⁸ Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. ⁹ Peter followed him out of the prison, but **he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision.** ¹⁰ They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.

¹¹ Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen."

Prophetic word at Harvest:

***My workings are put inside of you and as you give yourself to My workings, new levels of what you have not seen before will start to come forth. I have put My treasure inside of you and I have said I will bring new things out of My treasure that you have not experienced before.** As you start to give yourself to those things you will begin to experience those things. When you don't give yourself to those things, confusion will set in. You will always know what to do, how to do it, when to do it and where to do it, because it is on the inside of you.*

Isaiah 49.2 NASB

² He has made My mouth **like a sharp sword,**
In the shadow of His hand He has **concealed Me;**
And He has also made Me **a select arrow,**
He has **hidden Me** in His quiver.

- We are being fashioned and formed as a select arrow in the hands of God.
- We will hit the mark as we are sent ones.
- Formed by His word and encounters with God that redefine.
- A God encounter puts the word of the Lord in your mouth.
- Isa. 11.4 says the word in your mouth becomes a rod that strikes the ground or hits the mark.

Ephesians 1.3-6 NASB

³ **Blessed be the God** and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,** ⁴ just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,** that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He **predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself,** according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

PRAYER AND DECLARATION:

To you Detroit we declare, **you are a city of life.** This is your time Detroit to encounter the Lord and be re-established. The Spirit of the Lord is on Detroit and from Detroit will come a sound of freedom and liberty to the nations of the earth. The sound of God's Kingdom come will resound from this city. These are days of intentionality, Detroit. These are marked days to break open and reveal your true identity, for the mask of your former days is being removed. Your foundations are being rebuilt. Your neighborhoods are being reformed. Your structure is shifting. **This is a NEW DAY, Detroit. Open your mouth, Detroit, and receive the commands of the Lord!**