

Where – how - in what ways - do we experience God?

Pray for the following grace: Pray to God to help you be more attentive to where, how and in what ways you are experiencing Him in your life right now.

Scripture reading: Exodus 3: 1-6

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 desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 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. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight – why the bush does not burn up".

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".

"Do not come any closer", God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground". 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.

Quotes for reflection: "A Friendship Like No Other" – William A. Barry SJ

- My sister, Mary, a Sister of Mercy, has worked for close to forty years in a home for troubled boys. At the end of a retreat at Eastern Point Retreat House, the retreatants were invited to speak of their experiences. A number of people spoke of finding God in the beauty of the place, in sunrises and sunsets, in the blue of the ocean, and on and on. Mary said that she too had had such experiences, but she went on to speak of seaweed that at first had seemed quite ugly to her. As she contemplated this seaweed, she began to see lovely colours in the ugly mess. It reminded her of how she often found grace and loveliness in the troubled boys with whom she works, who, at first glance, seemed unlovely and unlovable. Mary discovered God in seaweed and her boys.
- I can still remember my visit over fifty years ago to the concentration camp in Dachau, just outside Munich, Germany. What stands out in my memory is the word *Badezimmer* (Bathroom) over the door of the room where men, women, and children were gassed to death. They had been told to leave their clothes outside the room so they could be deloused in a shower. But instead of water, poison gas burst from the pipes. I imagined their horror as they realised what was happening. How could human beings do such things to other human beings?
At the time, I was just numb. I believe that I began to cry. I do not remember any sense of God. I wanted to get out of there as soon as possible. Perhaps the ugliness and horror hit me so strongly that I missed the opportunity to let Dachau become a place where I can find God.

Questions:

- At this particular time in your life, where – how – in what ways are you experiencing God?
- Is there an area in your life right now where you are sensing God's absence, and despite of trying to search for Him, you cannot find Him?

Concluding prayer: Offer to God these moments in which you are sensing His presence or absence and speak to Him about your desire to experience Him in new ways.