



# Hearing the Father's Heart

**(Being Sensitive to His Direction in Worship)**

**M**an was created to have close, intimate relationship with God. Genesis 1:26 tells us that we are the only creation of God that was made in His image and likeness. Therefore, we are able to have fellowship and relationship with our Creator, the Living God. It is His heart's desire to have relationship with His people. We see that it would be His routine to meet with Adam and Eve regularly. (Genesis 3:8) In that scripture (Genesis 3:8), we also see a very important aspect of the worship experience. It is God who always desires and takes the initiative to meet with His people.

**H**e desires to have a "face to face" encounter with His beloved creation. It was always intended to be – then came "the fall." No longer could God have that "face to face" with His beloved creation. If they would look upon His face they would now be destroyed because of their sinfulness and because of His glory. Sin / Glory - never the two shall meet. In Exodus 33:17-23 we see Moses asking to see God's glory. God's response was that Moses would be able to get of glimpse of the glory of God but He would not be able to gaze upon His face or he would die. Yet, it is interesting to note that in verse 11 of the same chapter it states that, "the LORD spoke unto Moses face to face, as a man speaks unto his friend." In Deuteronomy 34:10 it also tells us that the Lord knew Moses "face to face." Is the Bible being schizophrenic or are we missing something? What does it mean to know God "face to face?"

**T**he phrase "face to face" is used in these scriptures as a figurative expression meaning, "free, intimate and open fellowship." It implies that God chose to look upon Moses, not as an inferior where He would be looking down upon him, but on the contrary, He chose to come down and meet with Moses at the level of friend to friend, which by the way is a covenant expression. John 1:18 tell us very clearly that no one has seen the face of God except the Son of God. 1John 4:12 confirms that again.

**M**oses had not - and could not - see the actual face of God, the Father in His glory. Yet we can spiritually have a "face to face" relationship with God, in the sense of a free and open relationship with God, through a covenant relationship. This is what these scriptures are really referring to – the covenant relationship that God chose to enter into with Moses. Moses had a unique relationship with God because of covenant.

**N**ow, through the covenant we have that was ratified by, in, and through the Blood of Jesus, we are able to enter into that same kind of "face to face" relationship. Even in a greater way. That is what God had been yearning for. We do see through accounts in the Old Testament" that there were a few men and women who were able to get a brief "taste" of that kind of relationship, although, they could never fully experience it because of their unregenerate spirit man. However, because of what Jesus did, the "veil of separation" has been torn in two and we now have access to this wonderful aspect of our covenant – responding to God's heart of intimacy and true relationship.

**W**e must always remember that God always desires and takes the initiative in meeting with His people "face to face." Throughout the scriptures this is revealed to us. We discussed how in Genesis 3 that it was God who came immediately to confront Adam and Eve to try to bring restoration to their broken relationship with Him because of their sin. We also read that after Moses "messed up" his mission and ran away into the desert for forty years, it was God who never forgot about Moses and went and met Him from within the "burning bush."

**W**e do not know how many times God had tried to reach out and get Moses' attention while in the desert. There may have been many times He came as a "burning bush" or something else to try to get Moses' attention. We only read of the account in Exodus 3:3, 4, when Moses finally "turned toward" and acknowledged the "burning bush." As soon as Moses turned toward it, just took one little step in recognition of what God was trying to do, God then immediately speaks to him.

**Below are Scriptures references and examples of Jesus taking the initiative to meet us "face to face:"**

Luke 24:15 - *And it came to pass, that, while they communed [together] and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.* - Jesus, after His resurrection, came and communed with His people so that they could be able to understand and enter into relationship with God.

John 21:4, 12 - *4) But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. 12) Jesus saith unto them, Come [and] dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.* - Jesus came to the disciples and initiated this time of fellowship as well as preparing a meal for them and invited them to "come and dine"

John 20:26 - *And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: [then] came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace [be] unto you.* - Jesus looked upon Thomas as being important enough to come personally to reveal Himself to Thomas. That is how much He desires to have relationship with His people.

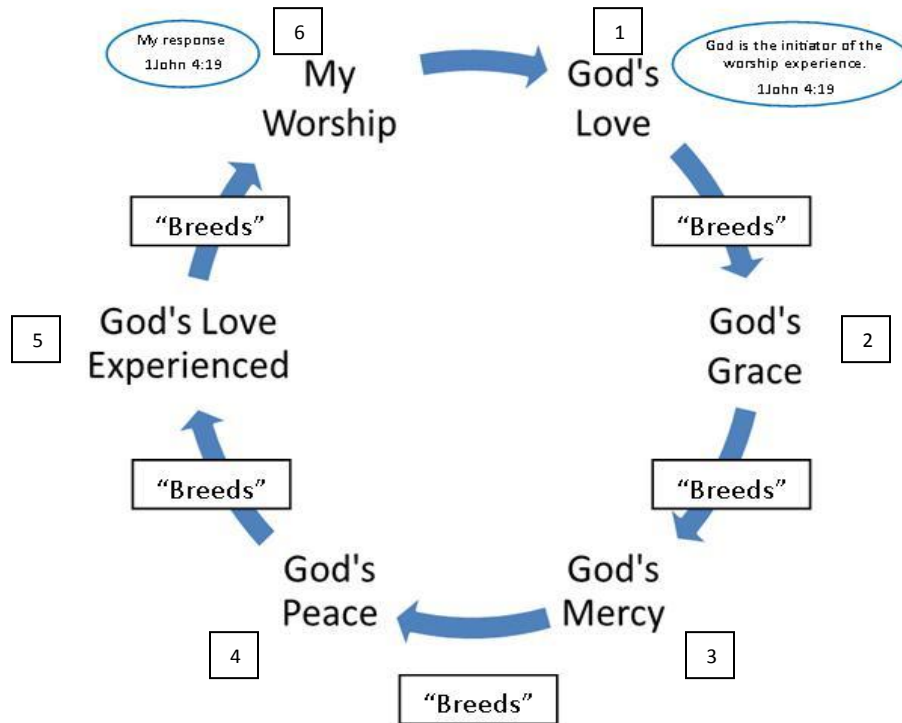
Revelation 3:20 - *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.* - Jesus is the one who comes to the "door of your heart" and knocks. He initiates the relationship now made available to all people.

The awesome thing about all of the above is the next "phase" of the worship experience. 1John 4:19 sums it all up quite nicely. It simply tells us that, "We love him, because He first loved us." In this scripture we realize that it is God who initiates the worship experience by loving us first and constantly calling out to us and "wooing" us to Him. As we respond to Him and turn towards Him and kiss towards Him, we delight His heart. He is so overjoyed and "blessed" by our response, so much so, that He will now respond to our worship. He is delighted when His beloved ones are "loving on Him." When we respond to His initiative, as the wonderful Father that He is, He cannot help Himself but to pour back on to His worshippers even more of His Kingdom through healing, deliverance, restoring of hope, instilling a new joy within, breaking chains of bondage – simply "raining down" more of His wonderful love upon us.

**A**s the recipients of this outpouring of unlimited and unconditional love, it generates within us a desire to respond back unto Him with more sweet worship and gratitude. We desire to turn every blessing He pours out to us back into praise unto Him. And the cycle "continually, continues."

## THE "CYCLE OF WORSHIP"

God's love for us, and His desire to have intimate relationship with His people, is the foundation of the worship experience. Below is what I call the "Cycle of Worship." It begins with God's love. God is the initiator of the experience. This leads us to respond to His love through our worship – 1John 4:19.



- 1 God is love. He loves His creation unconditionally ("agape") – He first loved us - 1John 4:19.
- 2 God's love "breeds" God's grace -His unearned favor towards us.
- 3 God's grace "breeds" God's mercy. He saw our need for salvation and did something to meet the need – He sent Jesus.
- 4 God's grace and mercy "breeds" God's peace -reconciliation back to Him through Jesus.
- 5 God's grace + mercy + peace = God's love experienced. We experience God's love through salvation and all that that encompasses.
- 6 God's love experienced breeds our worship unto Him. We experience God's love so now we can love Him. He first loved us so now we can love Him - 1John 4:19. That is what worship is all about.

**W**hen we worship and love on Him, our Father is so delighted that He pours out even more of His grace, mercy and peace upon us and as we experience it we worship Him with the sacrifices of praise, thanksgiving and joy. God, the Father is so delighted that He pours out even more.....

And the cycle "continually continues."

**T**he responsibility of any Worship Leader in the corporate gathering is to lead worshippers into that “face to face” encounter with God. Worship Leaders must understand that it is nothing that they are “conjuring up.” It is God who is already calling out to us. The Worship Leader is really to facilitate, and help lead us in our response to our God, our King our Beloved.

**T**he expressing of our worship is the action of our desire to meet with the Lord. We must turn towards God's face. As we respond and turn towards Him, He responds back to us with His goodness. For example, God came down from His throne to the top of Mt. Sinai as He called Moses to come up. Moses responded and went to the top of Mt. Sinai so they could meet face to face (Exodus 24:9-11). God then responded to Moses’ response by giving Him the Law. In Luke 21, Jesus came to the shoreline to meet the disciples. The disciples had to come from the boat that was out on the water to the shoreline to meet and dine with Jesus face to face. Jesus responded to the response of the disciples by feeding them.

**I**n these times of responding to God, He takes us into His realm. We go where He goes. We are able to hear His voice. We breathe in His breath. We feel His heartbeat. We experience His character and everything that is within His Kingdom. He takes us to His “Secret Place.” You may have heard me explain this “Secret Place” in previous teachings or discussions. If so, please, indulge this review of this matter. However, I feel it is an important area to touch upon in our discussion.

**T**he term “secret place,” is translated from the Hebrew word, “cether” (sā’•ther) which means to be under a covering; to be hid, protected; being under the “umbrella” of God’s providential care; being in the presence of God; to take refuge in God. In the New Testament it comes from the word – “kryptē” (krü’p-tā) which means a crypt, a covered way, vault or cellar. In either way it refers to a place of safety and it infers that it is a good place to be.

**W**ell, if it is such a good place to be, why would God make it such a “secret?” Well, you see. That’s just it. It really should not be a secret to the born again child of God. But where is it? How do I get there? Through Jesus we have access to that “secret place.” It is the place where the Most High dwells. So where is it and how do we get there?

**T**he answer is what I call, “simply, simple worship.” Worship is the place where the Most High dwells. He inhabits the praises and worship of His people. So, you see, it really isn’t so secret. It is a worship that comes from a source of true awestruck love, amazement and wonder. A worship where there is a genuine heart to heart, “deep calling to deep” response to God by the worshipper. Worship is the “secret place” where the Most High dwells. And through our worship, He brings us and transcends us to where He dwells. The Worship Leader must desire to enter into this “secret place” and desire our fellow worshippers to respond to God’s calling and enter in along with us - side by side.

**A**s I had mentioned previously, when we are in this “secret place,” we are able to hear His voice, breathe in His breath, hear and feel His heartbeat. As a worshipper, a true worshipper, this is what it should be all about. It must be about God. Where is He going? Where is He now taking us? What does He want to do while we are in His presence? Many times, whether we realize it or not, we as worship leaders have a tendency to “think for God.” We tend to want to take God where we think He needs to go or want to go instead of being intent upon where He wants to go.

**A**s in any real, true, intimate relationship, the heartbeat of both “lovers” at times races with excitement or slows down when they are just basking in and enjoying the moment with each other. This is

true in our worship and relationship with the “lover of our soul.” If we can also equate it to a father/ child relationship there are times when the father wants to have fun and play with their child. Then there are times when He needs to discipline the child. And then there are those times when He wants the child to just sit in his lap and be still and quiet with each other and melt in each other’s love.

**W**ithout being discriminatory and leaving the ladies out, they can understand the relationship between a mother and her baby. While the baby is in the womb it is constantly hearing the mother’s heartbeat. It is the first sound that the baby hears after conception. It brings comfort and security to the baby. That is why when a baby is born, the first thing they do is place the baby upon the mother’s chest so that the baby can hear the mother’s heartbeat and even though it is in a “strange new world,” there is a sense of security - just because of the sound of that heartbeat that they knew from the very beginning.

In our times of facilitating worship within the Body of Christ, we must be sensitive to the Father’s “heartbeat.” Sometimes He wants to have “fun” and there is excitement in the air. Then there are times when He desires to be still and allow us to know that He is there and that, yes, He is God. There are times when He embraces us in tenderness and wants us to “kiss towards Him.” After that He may say, “Okay, let’s go. Follow me!!! I want to take you to experience another aspect of My Kingdom.” Then when you get there and experience that aspect of His Kingdom, He may want us to again just slow down and enjoy the moment.

I pray you are getting the idea of what I am trying to say. I am encouraging us to not be “running around” in our time of corporate worship like little kids out of control, dysfunctional and not listening to their Father. Have you ever seen that kind of a child - being out of control; not listening to their parents? Isn’t it annoying and disturbing. The same holds true in the opposite direction. God may want to have some “fun” or maybe do some warfare but we are intent on wanting to just stay here in a mode of blissful “loving worship” because that is what we want.

**G**od is so vast and awesome!!! We need to stop putting Him in “a box.” If we do, than we are the ones that will be missing out on all that He is and has for us to experience. We must learn to listen and follow HIS heartbeat - not ours!!!

**A**s we meet “face to face” with our God, and grasp what that means, we will be able to truly partake in the spiritual abundance of the Lord. It will truly satisfy the hungering and thirsting of our soul. We must always remember that we, as God’s covenant people, have the spiritual right and privilege of meeting God, “face to face.” We also have the invitation to be so close that we can hear His “heartbeat.” After all - His heart beats with love for us. Our Father delights in His children as we come and experience true intimacy with Him, the “Lover of our soul.”