




Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps.

These notes provide some ideas to reflect upon about what we are to achieve in this life.

Am I on a road now where God could meet me at any moment?

 **1 Samuel 9:1-10:1** and **Acts 9:1-19**


The answer to this question is yes. Whatever road you are moving along and whatever direction (towards God's plans for you or away from His plans) you can be ready for an encounter with God. The passages here tell of two different journeys by two different Sauls – one working for his dad searching for lost donkeys when suddenly he is anointed King of Israel and the other working for his father the devil searching for Christians to imprison and kill. Neither knew that a divine encounter was coming and frankly neither was seeking it. People dream of surprise inheritances, discovering treasures, winning Lotto, receiving an unexpected huge financial gift from a rich person or inventing something or having a business innovation to make them instant millionaires. We are to dream of surprise inheritances from God where frequent encounters with Him change the course of our life, equips us with faith and power and opens our heart to love those who He loves. Now that's a road worth taking a journey on.

How do I improve the chance of meeting God on the road?

 **Acts 8:26-40** and **1 Kings 19-21**

Move. The rudder on a massive oil tanker is basically useless alongside a wharf so tug boats must push and pull the tanker, but get it out on the ocean with engines running and the rudder will direct it anywhere in the world (**James 3:4** compares such control with what we say). The idea is to start and then build up our speed so the Holy Spirit finds it easier to guide us. Look at Philip. He was in Samaria preaching the word when the Spirit says to go to a certain place. He converts a man who then takes the gospel to Ethiopia after which Philip is miraculously shifted to another place. Not bad for a few hours work. Or look at Elisha, now we can infer from his action that he was working for his dad just as the Law of God required and I think he was seeking God with all his heart and was dreaming of a God encounter. That's why he understood what it meant when Elijah threw his mantle on him and that he had to drop everything to follow the new road God had opened for him. This was repeated when Jesus called each of the disciples.

These encounters and roads are for other people, how could I possibly do anything like that?

 Look at **Exodus 3:11, 13 & 4:1, 10, 13** and **Jeremiah 1:6** and **Acts 4:13 & 17:6**

Well you are not the right person to make the judgement about your abilities. Firstly you are biased and probably remember too many reasons and past failures that disqualify you from a powerful meeting with the Lord on your particular road. Secondly the devil is definitely trying to convince you of reasons you shouldn't be selected and if you were why you would fail. We don't know our potential after one God encounter; we could achieve anything. Just look at Moses, Jeremiah and the disciples.

NEXT STEPS

Moving in the Christian faith is actually something we all know about. It has a cost and takes effort and devotion, usually before the encounter but certainly after the encounter. For those who like lists here is one:

- Praise and worship God more than you did before
- Read more of the Bible than you did before
- Fellowship with other believers
- Talk with God (praying) more than before
- Develop the fruit & gifts of the Spirit in your life
- Give your resources – time, skills, love, finance
- Speak good of others and forgive others
- Love God more than you did before
- Do good works
- Share your faith
- Pray for others
- Everything else the Holy Spirit prompts you to do

The more you do this the easier it all becomes until it feels effortless. Just another example of God's wonderful plans.

The Road to Calvary

The roads we travel on can be high points like when David brought the ark of the Lord into Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6:12-15) or Jesus entered Jerusalem (Matthew 21:6-11).

At times the roads involve suffering. Jesus walked the road to Calvary carrying the Cross through Jerusalem to his execution until his body was laid in the tomb. In Latin this road is called Via Dolorosa and it means the Way of Suffering. He walked this road and endured the torture and rejection because He chose to obey His Father God. In doing this Jesus made sure all of us could meet God on this road. It is the only way to salvation and being reunited with God. It is always the first road upon which every believer meets God.

Not every road we travel will be pain free, but if we travel with Jesus and we encounter Him increasingly on the road then it will be worth it.

Paul discovered suffering after his amazing meeting with God on the road to Damascus – read 2 Corinthians 11:22-29. We have Paul to thank for the planting the church worldwide.