

What I Need to Make It

Introduction. When Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving the plans for the tabernacle (24:18), an incredible event occurred that has taught mankind two important lessons for 3,500 years. The incident of the golden calf first teaches us that without proper visible leadership, people fail. Second, it teaches us that sometimes even the holiest of men, such as Aaron, can be persuaded to do things contrary to their charge of leadership. The Israelites effectively replaced God's leadership and protection with a dumb idol they could control.

As you can imagine, Moses reached a low point in his life. God told him to lead the Israelites to Canaan, but Moses realized that he needed help so he prayed to God (Exodus 33:12-23). What was important to Moses? First, Moses wanted God to go with him. Second, Moses wanted to know and be known by God.

Moses discovered that God would give him (and us) His guidance, presence, and glory. And this is what I need to make it every day in my walk with God. So let's discuss how this takes place and how it can help us now.

I. That the Guidance of God Might Be Given

- A. "Show me now your way ..." (v. 13).
- B. The guidance of God is a source of spiritual direction and purpose for many individuals.
 - 1. The guidance of God is a force that provides comfort, strength, and wisdom in navigating life's challenges. The belief in God's guidance fosters a sense of trust and surrender, acknowledging that He has the right to direct us (cp. Colossians 2:8-10).
 - 2. Followers of God seek divine guidance through a foundation in the sacred text of Scripture (Psalm 25:4; 32:8; 119:105; cp. Isaiah 8:19-20; John 5:39). This sacred text builds faith, the cornerstone of our dependence on God (Romans 10:17; cp. Hebrews 11:1, 6). If you'll add prayer (James 5:16-18) and meditation (Psalm 119:97), then you'll enjoy the guidance of God.
 - 3. Many find solace in the conviction that God's guidance leads to a path of righteousness and fulfillment, a life that transforms their conduct and renews their mind (Romans 12:1-2). This belief offers a universal source of hope and guidance for those who seek a deeper connection with the divine.

II. That the Presence of God Might Be Known

- A. "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here" (v. 15).
- B. The presence of God is a subtle embrace that challenges the confines of human understanding.
 - 1. It's an omnipresent force, an ever-flowing river of divine love that permeates every aspect of existence (Psalm 139:7-12; 1 John 4:16). God's presence is a sanctuary, a refuge where the soul finds solace and strength.
 - 2. In worship, prayer, and holy living, the tangible essence of God's presence becomes a transformative force — renewing hope, instilling joy, and bestowing a profound sense of peace.

- C. The Lord's presence is necessary for our protection and comfort along the way of life in Christ (Matthew 18:20; 28:20; Acts 3:19; 2 Corinthians 2:10; James 4:8). Jesus is unchanging, so His presence is always there (Hebrews 13:8).
- D. God's not far from any of us (Acts 17:27). God guides us through His Spirit-inspired Word, and wants us to be close to Him.
 - 1. James 4:8 spoke of cleansing the hands and purifying the heart. But I've been a preacher long enough to see Christians not living up to their profession of faith, condemning their souls to hell.
 - 2. You see, the failing isn't with God; it's with us. This is what Jesus observed with the Jews (cp. Matthew 23:37).

III. That the Glory of God Might Be Seen

- A. "Please, show me Your glory" (v. 18).
- B. This multifaceted glory is necessary to keep us focused along the way:
 - 1. The glory of Jesus (John 1:14; 1 Corinthians 2:8; Hebrews 1:3).
 - 2. The glory of the gospel (2 Corinthians 3:8; 4:4, 6).
 - 3. The glory of the righteous life (2 Corinthians 6:3-10).
 - a) Dorcas (Acts 9:36-39).
 - b) Timothy (Philippians 2:19-22).
 - c) Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25-30).
 - 4. The glory of the church (Ephesians 5:27).
 - 5. The glory of heaven (2 Corinthians 4:17).

Conclusion. The Lord will give us His guidance, presence, and glory. And we need this to make it. I sometimes really wonder how people make it through all the challenges of life without God. I know they do it, but I also know that it could be a lot more comforting with the same help that Moses sought.

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