

Center for Biblical Counseling Newsletter

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Seeing the Face of God

By Ken Quinn, MA, LPC.

Have you ever felt like you've met God face to face? I did, and it left me undone. Now, you need to know that if you hang out with me long enough you would quickly see that I tend more towards wrestling with a cynical heart than towards seeing God in day to day events. But on this particular day it seems that He had something else in mind.

The day I met God face to face was a sunny late-spring day, the kind of day that makes you want to drive around with the windows down to enjoy the fresh air. I was sitting in my car at a red light in Dallas. I was in the left hand turn lane; one of those ones where two lanes turn together onto the same street. As I sat there, I was aware that there was another car beside me about to turn also. But like we all tend to do, I anticipated that they were going to turn into their own lane. So at the time I really wasn't paying much attention to it.

The light turned green and I proceeded to turn into the curbside lane when out of the corner of my eye I noticed the car beside me pull ahead of me, cut across my lane in front of me and turn

into the parking lot of a store. I frantically slammed on my brakes to avoid crashing into the side of the car as it cut in front of me. It happened so fast I didn't even have enough time to honk my horn. Instantly, I was furious. In my own mind I was sure that he had purposefully and with malice assumed that he could take advantage of me and get away with it. In my heart I felt powerless and afraid.

There's a little bit of history here that might be helpful in understanding what was about to transpire. At the time that this happened I'd been married for 15 years and in those fifteen years there were a number of occasions in which my wife indicated through various means that I could be a scary person to ride with. What she was referring to is my quick temper, my ill-conceived "righteous indignation" and my propensity to take unnecessary risk when I'm angry. This reality set the stage for what happened next.

With no thought of consequences, I angrily turned into the parking lot and pulled up behind the car which had parked in front of the store, blocking it in. In my mind were half-formed ideas of letting the driver know about the dangerous thing he had done, how foolish he had been and how upset I was. I wanted justice and I didn't care if it meant a pound of flesh.

Several things happened in the next instant which began the process of my undoing. The first thing I noticed was that the car was a light blue, immaculately clean 1980's model Chevrolet. Its' appearance alone began to offer an impression of who might be driving it. As I pulled behind the car, the driver was getting out. He was an elderly man, in his 70's or 80's with white hair and a slight build. He approached my car, gently placed his hand on my arm which was resting on the opened window frame of my door and said, "Son... I am so sorry".

I can't even remember if or what else he said. What I do remember and can to this day clearly see, is his kind blue eyes, his grizzled, unshaven face and the powerfully disarming sincerity with which he spoke his apology. I was undone. I think I mumbled something put the car in gear and drove away.

As I drove along the road, tears began to stream down my face. My mind was swirling. Like a drowning man at the point of exhaustion in his efforts to save himself, my heart made feeble attempts to cling to self-justification. But my raging heart was exposed. I too am an arrogant murderer. And HE stood in the face of my rage and offered me kindness. I knew then that I had looked into the eyes of God.

Jesus, began his earthly ministry by quoting from a passage in Isaiah 61 in which it says,

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners,
and recovery of sight for the blind
to release the oppressed
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Now that's good news. Jesus came to set the prisoner free. He came so that I could experience freedom from the prison of my rage. He came so that I could begin to see my own heart and experience my deep need for a savior. But it doesn't end there. He invites me to a daily relationship with Him. And it's in that relationship that I can learn to freely give and receive love.

And the funny thing is I don't have to have it all together to meet him. You see he met me at my point of greatest failure and greatest need. And by the way, if you're looking for God, He drives an old model light blue Chevrolet.

New Counselor on Staff— Christy Billings



Please help us welcome Christy Billings to the staff here at Center for Biblical Counseling. Christy began her counseling career in 1986. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Texas at Arlington and a Master's Degree in Counseling from East Texas State University. Her experience has been focused strongly in the areas of physical and sexual abuse, chemical dependency, depression, crisis intervention and family issues. Regardless of the environment her desire is to provide clients with a sense of hope and a deeper understanding of themselves and their struggles, with a focus on assisting the client with developing solution-oriented skills. Christy and her husband have been married for 23+ years and have 2 sons and a daughter. As a family they enjoy traveling, camping and sports, especially basketball. When she is not spending time with her family, Christy enjoys playing tennis, bicycling and reading.

Recognizing Family Violence

Family violence affects many people, more than you may even be aware of. To help you with your understanding of family violence, here are some ways to determine if you are a victim of family violence:

- If you are being pushed, shoved, slapped, bruised, kicked, strangled, or threatened with a weapon;
- If you are verbally attacked or accused;
- If your possessions are intentionally damaged;
- If you are not allowed to come and go as you wish;
- If you are being followed, harassed, or spied upon;
- If you are forced to have sex or perform a degrading sexual act;
- If you are kept in isolation.

Domestic violence victims are men, women and children. No one deserves to be abused. If you or someone you know is suffering, please seek help immediately.

To schedule a consultation with one of our trained counselors call 214.585.4859 or email us at info@cbcmckinney.com.

True (and a bit strange) Facts!

- Abraham Lincoln, who invented a hydraulic device for lifting ships over shoals, was the only US president ever granted a patent.
- An ear of corn averages 800 kernels in 16 rows.
- Antarctica is the only continent without reptiles or snakes.
- An average pig squeals at a range from 100 to 115 decibels.
- On average women say 7,000 words per day. Men manage just over 2000.

Philippians 2:14: Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

