

When An Event Becomes An Encounter-2



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All Scripture is taken from the NIV Bible unless otherwise noted

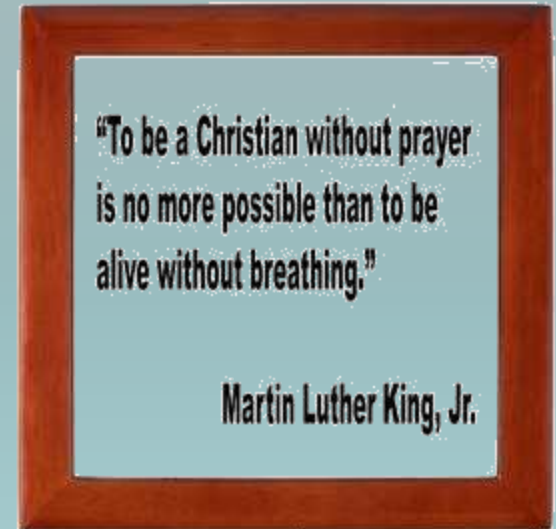
The Book of John

- **Who** wrote the book: Early church tradition attributes the fourth Gospel to John—the “beloved” disciple.
- **When** was the book written: John penned this Word around A. D. 8.5.
- **Why** was the book written: His purpose for sharing this gospel was assurance that if readers settle their faith on the Word and the word of Jesus Christ, they will have, not just life but abundant life in His name.



Text Introduction

- This text introduces the Holy Spirit as the key to a dynamic relationship and devotion. The suggestion is the Holy Spirit will maximize your prayer life and worship and He will minister to the believer while connecting the believer to Jesus Christ Himself.



Focus Text

John 4:24 (NIV)



Introduction

- I want to step into this Word by suggesting that if you are granted life and never worship God, you miss the chief purpose of life and will never be fulfilled. The truth of the matter is... you and I were created to worship God.
- Every thing who has been created in some form or fashion worship God. . . . To worship God in your living . . . is to declare the “Is-ness” of God.
- *Can we really talk?* You see, I have discovered that worship is not based on religion. It is based on a relationship because you can have good religion and never worship God.



Review

- You must understand that worship is not an event. Worship is an encounter. Whenever I have an encounter with God, it becomes an event. Which means, I can have an encountered event in my shower...no one else has to be present but...God and me! You ought not ever want to be just a spectator who sits, waits and watches. You really ought to be sitting there having your own encounter with God.
- You cannot have praise until after you have had worship because praise is recognizing things that God has done. You cannot recognize what God has done until you recognize that God is God. You must understand **spirit** and **truth** are necessary to transform an event into an encounter. The Bible declares that there must be a balance between the two if you are going to have quality access to God.
- The problem is not the church. The problem is *you*. When you have truth and spirit, it does not matter what folk are saying and doing around you. All you got to do is just **think**. . . . Don't' shout . . . just think.

Truth Is The Balance

- Truth is the balance I need to judge what I feel because if I feel it . . . but do not have truth to discern it...Let me put it to you another way. A lot of yall have gotten into trouble on what you felt and did not judge it on any truth. Pookie made you feel good but because you did not judge him on any truth. Shannay made you feel good . . . but. . . *Oh Jesus.*
- You need to judge prophecy. The suggestion is prophecy may be wrong which means that I must have discernment. To properly interpret even the stuff I am feeling. I cannot just automatically assume that just because it gives me a warm and fuzzy that it is from God.



I Fell...

- Watch this. . . . “I felt good when I left that interview. . . .” That does not mean it is from God. You felt good because you could have health care benefits for the family and a \$10,000 raise. . . . Can we talk?
- “Oh, he made me feel good. . . .” No, you felt good because he took you to a real restaurant instead of a McDonald’s window. He even opened the door and did not ask you to chip in for the meal.
- “Oh, she’s the one. I could tell it the moment I saw her. I just fell in love.” Sister girl, you better be careful. . . . He fell in love because of a feeling. He can fall out just as easily because to fall means that he had no responsibility for what happened.



Truth...The Word

- You got to be able to discern what goes on around you . . . so that you can properly judge what you are feeling. Things may not be real just because you felt strongly about it. It does not matter what you felt about certain things. It does not matter what it made you feel like on the inside. You must have a spirit governed by truth and that truth is found in the Word of God.
- That truth is not your non-praying prayer partners. That truth ain't some prophet or prophetess. That truth is the Word of God. Truth is in God's Word and you got to judge what you feel by the Word because the devil knows how to make you feel stuff.



Church...A Candy Store?

- One of the reasons we got churches on every corner and in every hotel is because you got folk moving on feelings and spirit *alone* . . . **over** truth. Church is now like children going to a candy store...all we are doing is developing spiritual juveniles who do not have a taste for the Word . . . but just want Biblical lollipops. We got some uninformed self-appointed preachers who are just like the candy man or candy woman only giving you “candy” sermons to feed your sweet tooth so you can just shout but it ain’t helping you grow or nothing.
- Some of yall are going to leave here today and say, “We did not have Bible Study.” Or, “Somebody has made Pastor mad,” when the truth of the matter is ain’t nobody made nobody mad. I am just as happy as a termite in an untreated wood factory but sad when you only think you have church . . . when you shout.



You Need An Encounter

- Look at how some of yall are looking at me now. “I need something that is going to make me run and shout. . . .” No!! “I sure wish he would teach something that is going to help me feel good.”
- That is your problem now!!! You want me to put a lollipop in your mouth when you need broccoli. You can’t grow on candy all the time. You got people in the church who cannot handle anything. They cannot handle struggle. . . . pain.. strife...disappointment. They cannot handle anything . . .!!!! You need an event that will lead to an encounter. You need spirit and truth. Can the class say, “Encounter.”



Truth Is Revealed

- Can I push this? You know you have a balance between spirit and truth when your encounter does not need the approval of peers to believe or to do. You know your encounters are balanced with the Word when you do not need anybody else's approval to believe. If nobody else believes . . . if nobody else is with it, that is alright and you will take the disappointment of others . . . as long as it is in the Word. That is when you know you have balance because truth does not need anybody's vote to exist because truth does not have to be invented. Truth is revealed.
- The reason some of us do not know more truth than we know is because truth is not something you discover. Truth is revealed and it is only revealed as you mature enough to handle some truth. So God has to keep it covered until you are mature enough to handle it.



Truth Without Spirit...

- *Watch this.* . . . You need spirit and truth to turn an event into an encounter on the one hand. You cannot live on stimulation alone. On the other hand, you cannot live on truth alone. It is truth without spirit that makes you cold... boring. . . dull . . . lifeless . . . angry . . . judgmental. It becomes about policy and not about people. It is about systems and not about the Savior. It is not about your labels and not about your liberation.
- The woman . . . home girl in the text is an “event person. . .” She is a Samaritan. Samaritans and Jews did not hang together. So, she has a problem with Jesus. First of all, He is a Jew. He has got not business talking to her. Secondly, of all things, for Him to bring up, He starts talking about worship and the truth of the matter is...the Jews and Samaritans worshiped on different mountains.



Truth Without Spirit Robs You

- She says even if the Messiah comes there, it ain't going to be no hook up between us because truth will keep us separated. You see, folk who have truth and no spirit will always live their lives one event after another and will always be limited in what God will do for them.
- Baptists do not do *this* and can't do *that* Some are mad because they see women in the pulpit. . . upset because we do the positive affirmations. . . . Truth without spirit will rob you of your joy. . . . Truth without spirit will give you an event without an encounter. . . . I want to serve a church with spirit and truth. . . . I want to worship at a church where the service leads into an encounter . . . a place where praise breaks out when you think about all he has done for you. . . . Touch your neighbor and tell them, "You need both."



Truth Sets You Free

- You see, when spirit and truth get together, truth will set you free. When you are impregnated with truth, you give birth to freedom and when freedom hooks up with spirit, it will give you a feeling that everything is alright in spite of adverse conditions. That suggests that things are not alright.
- When life is based on truth partnership with spirit, you can have facts against you; but still hold your head high because truth sets you free and when you are free on truth, spirit will not make you shout in spite of facts that are against you. Anybody ever had facts stacked against you but you just had a feeling that everything is going to be all right?

