

# MESSAGE OUTLINE

## Sunday, August 20, 2023

Today's Message: **GOD IS AT WORK\***  
Pastor Gary Stump  
*Experiencing God—Reality 1*

In 1990 Dr. Henry Blackaby wrote *Experiencing God*. Today there have been more than 7 million copies sold. It has been translated into 70 languages. Dr. Blackaby has shared its message in 114.

Don't we all want to experience God? Our Christian life can get dry if we don't learn to experience God regularly. He desires a genuine love relationship with us that is real and personal.

God is not a concept or a doctrine. He is a Person who seeks a close, one-on-one relationship with you and me...He wants you to have an intimate love relationship with Him that is real and personal (p. 8). Jesus said:

*John 17:3 (NIV84) "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."*

The essence of eternal life...is for you to personally know God the Father and Jesus Christ, His Son. (pp. 8-9)

### So how do we experience this?

#### Reality 1: God Is Always at Work Around You

- *John 5:17b, 19–20 (NLT) "My Father is always working, and so am I...I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing...Whatever the Father does, the Son also does."*
- *John 7:16b (NLT) "My message is not my own; it comes from God who sent me."*
- *John 8:28b–29 (NLT) "I do nothing on my own but say only what the Father taught me. <sup>29</sup> And the one who sent me is with me—he has not deserted me. For I always do what pleases him."*
- *John 10:37–38a (NLT) "Don't believe me unless I carry out my Father's work. <sup>38</sup> But if I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me."*
- *John 12:49–50 (NLT) "I don't speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it. <sup>50</sup> And I know his commands lead to eternal life; so I say whatever the Father tells me to say."*
- *John 14:10 (NLT) "Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me."*
- *John 17:7–8 (NLT) "Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you, <sup>8</sup> for I have passed on to them the message you gave me."*

#### Now understand this in context...

*John 15:5 (NLT) "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."*

#### Dr. Blackaby explains:

- God is far more interested in a love relationship with you than He is in what you do for Him. (p. 45)
  - God is at work to redeem a lost world and He invites people to join Him in His work. (p. 47)
- When you believe that nothing consequential can happen through you, you have said more about your belief in God than you have indicated about yourself. (p. 47, 53)
- The call to salvation carries with it a summons to be on mission with God as He reconciles a lost world to Himself. This calling requires you to be a servant of God. (p. 54)

#### SEVEN REALITIES OF EXPERIENCING GOD:

1. God is always at work around you.
2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.
3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.

4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.
5. God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.
6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.
7. You come to know God by experience as you obey Him, and He accomplishes His work through you.

**How can I recognize where God is at work?**

Note these two opposing passages:

<b>Romans 3:10–11 (NLT)</b>	<b>John 6:44a (NLT)</b>
<i>As the Scriptures say, "No one is righteous— not even one. <sup>11</sup> No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God."</i>	<i>"For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me."</i>

Do you believe God is at work around you right now? If so, what do you sense He is presently doing? Where have you seen God at work around you recently?

**SO WHAT? How are you experiencing God?**

See if one or more of these descriptions matches your present relationship with God:

nonexistent	growing	bewildered	joyful
plateaued	miraculous	defeated	sinful
in decline	victorious	dynamic	embarrassing
confused	discouraging	contagious	deepening
exciting	powerful	hopeless	ashamed

**Ten Questions to ponder:**

1. Do you ever doubt God's love for you? How can you be sure God loves you today?
2. How much do you love God? What evidence is there in your life that you love the Lord with all your heart?
3. When God has asked you to do something, what has your response typically been? If you struggled to obey, what hindered you? Did you lack trust in God's love? His wisdom? His power?
4. Have you struggled to know God's will? If so, what has been your biggest challenge?
5. Has God ever asked you to do something that didn't make sense to you? What did you learn about God and yourself through that experience?
6. Do you believe God is at work around you right now? If so, what do you sense He is presently doing?
7. Are you satisfied with your relationship with Christ, or do you constantly feel the need to be doing something for Him?
8. What kind of servant are you for God? Have you set conditions for how or where or when you will serve God? How do you think God views your conditional obedience?
9. How have you been experiencing God working powerfully through your life in ways only He can?
10. Do you need to make a fresh surrender of your life to Christ and His service? If so, take the next few moments and offer yourself to God in a sincere, wholehearted act of submission to Him.

**Let's experience God together through the Lord's Supper**

*Philippians 3:10 (NIV84) I want to **know** Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,*

\* The messages in this series have been inspired and adapted from the book: Henry T. Blackaby; Richard Blackaby; Claude V. King. *Experiencing God (2021 Edition)*. (B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition).



## ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023

**1. MEN'S BIBLE STUDY—Beginning Friday September 15<sup>th</sup>**—Each Friday at 7am at MCA. Study in the book of Romans. See Alex Abell for more info.

### **2. LADIES BIBLE STUDY (Two Options):**

- **Beginning September 13<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Mornings @ 9:30am**—Each Wednesday morning at 9:30am at Kathy Stump's house (12928 Whitehaven Lane, Fishers, IN 46038). Studying the book of Ephesians. For more info email Kathy at [kathystump77@gmail.com](mailto:kathystump77@gmail.com).
- **Beginning September 14<sup>th</sup> Thursday Evenings @ 7:00-8:30 pm**—Each Thursday evening at 7:00-8:30pm at Lynda North's house (9929 Brightwater Dr., Fishers, IN 46038). Studying the book of Ephesians. For more info email Lynda at [LANorth7@gmail.com](mailto:LANorth7@gmail.com).

**3. NEW GIVING QR CODE**—If you would like to give online you can use this code →

**4. FAMILY CAMP—SEPTEMBER 8-10**—Don't forget it is coming soon. Sorry, but at this time we have no additional spaces available.



Giving QR Code

**5. YOUTH GROUP (Grades 6-12) RESUMES THIS EVENING 6-8PM:** Dinner is served. Cost \$3.

**6. PAL ("PARENTS OF ADDICTED LOVED ONES") MEETING**—This is for families of adult children dealing with substance addiction. Every Tuesday night, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Free weekly meetings. Dr. Nancy Smith, facilitator. For more information, contact [nancy1108smith@gmail.com](mailto:nancy1108smith@gmail.com) or 317-508-8149.

**7. GIVE BIBLES IN HONOR OF OR IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE**—The Gideons have provided a display on the counter in the foyer for you to give God's word in honor or in memory of a loved one.

**8. ONWARD PRAYER RESPONSE CARD ONLINE**—To make it easier for some to complete your Prayer Response Card... you can **scan this QR code.** →



Prayer Card QR Code