

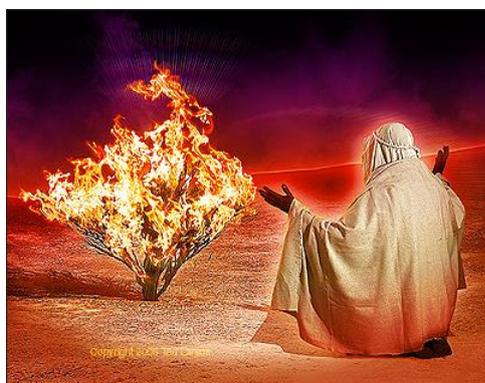
STEPPING STONES TO GOD'S WILL

ACC Prayer Network 2022 flowing from 2022 Prayer Retreat led by Peter & Kathryn Yaxley

1. HOLY GROUND AND THE GREAT I AM

Exodus 3:4-5 (NIV) *Moses! Moses!*” And Moses said, “*Here I am.*” “*Do not come any closer,*” God said. “*Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.*”

Exodus 3:13-14 (NIV) *Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.*”

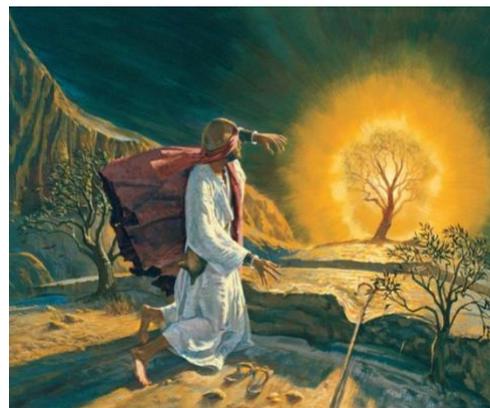


“There are three aspects for us to be more aware of God's Holy presence. There's personally, how we ourselves can be aware of his holy presence, and secondly how as a group (ACC Prayer Network) need to be aware and thirdly how the whole ACC needs to be aware” of his holy presence.

“Starting from ourselves, it's being with him, talking to him and having that close relationship with him and letting him speak to us.” For our personal prayer life, we've got to “stop doing all the talking and do some listening.”

“In terms of our prayer group, we all should become aware of the sense of his presence in us. And that goes further to the whole ACC, but it all starts with us personally and then that is gradually expanded to our group, and then to the whole ACC.”

As God told Moses to take off his sandals, “taking off our sandals refers to our own holiness. We're on holy ground, and we need to be holy. This is an essential part. If we're not holy ourselves, we won't be able to hear the Lord. It's holiness that brings us close to God, and then we can be aware of what he's saying when he speaks to us. The practice of the presence of God in our lives is ultimately extremely important. It starts with us personally and it expands outwards. But holiness means that we need to listen to what 1 John says about sin. We don't sin. We have that absolute connection with God, and he will then reveal to us the steps and the strategies.”





When God told Moses to take off his sandals because it is holy ground, “the picture that comes to mind is Jesus sitting at the feet of his disciples. They take off their sandals and he washed their feet. They had dirty feet and he washed them. We must never forget that Jesus is the second person of the Trinity. He is "I am who I am", and his presence is Holy Ground.”

“It would be difficult to wash feet if you didn't take off your sandals. So perhaps that's what we're meant to do. There's a fair bit of walking in this if you're going to go off into the wilderness and find milk and honey. It's to do with feet. I wonder if firstly we must have our feet washed before we can get anywhere, even though we have to put our (sandals or) gum boots back on again.”



“The ACC has had a long history of strategy. In the past, we were always there in the background at the assembly strategizing about what to do. And now that's been taken out of our hand. Our latest strategy after our special meeting last year was to work with the other evangelicals, which we are doing, but that's taking time. And the responses so far from UCA are maybe not what we hope for. We're in a waiting time and part of that waiting time is taking off our sandals and having our feet washed. The Lord Jesus wants to tenderly wash from our feet our own efforts and striving. Instead of self-striving, we are to wait on the Lord and trust him that he does hear our cry and he will lead us out of Egypt through the wilderness into the promised land of milk and honey. And he will show us his next step to get there.”

GOD HEARS OUR CRIES AND WILL RESCUE US

Exodus 3:7-8 (NIV) The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey



“As in the days of Moses, the great I AM is hearing our cry, and he is seeing the oppression and he is concerned about our suffering. And he's going to bring us out too. We can't see yet what that might look like. But we are to trust Him for the little steps. We're to trust and obey. If he tells us something little to do and in obedience it's important we do it, and

then he'll give us more to do. It's like taking little leaps on steppingstones towards his will. But we need to trust him and not bound ahead and try and seize something that's not ours to seize.”

“I think the Lord is saying to us as the ACC: “*You do what I ask but don't expect me to reveal all of it to you in one go. Take one step at a time.*” That's sometimes very hard. Because if we take one step that looks as if it's going in a certain direction and we think it's going somewhere we don't want to go, we might not want to do it. But in fact, God knows what he's doing, and the next step might be something quite different. That doesn't mean to say we are going back in the opposite direction. But we probably do need more information at this stage. But what's that first step?”



“Sometimes I think we have to just wait and be surprised what God can do. Sometimes God can allow the split. He might allow something we don't want. We just have to wait and see. God can do something, but we might be surprised, and it mightn't be what we want.”

“As we become aware of his presence, and that he is "I am", he will show us, and he will tell us. I don't think it's going to be a sudden explosion of information. He will gradually bring this out as we go. As we all become aware of him, he will speak to us and there will be some sort of consensus between us all. And then, as we bring this to the National Council, there will be an agreement there if the Lord is telling us anything that that will come out as well, as we all become aware.”



“I'm trying to put together the day of Pentecost and what Moses was faced with at the burning bush. After Moses listened to the Lord, he was commissioned to do something. And I'm thinking on the day of Pentecost the disciples immediately went out and preached and stirred things up no end with the authorities, and many people

were being added to the church. So, after we have been in God's presence, it has to have an effect on what we do in the material world. So, as we ask: “Is there anything more you want to say to us about this Lord”, we have to be prepared for him to say, “*do this*”. We need the unity of the spirit in whatever we do. I'm also trying to look at this not just within the Uniting Church but in the pagan society that we are living in, which has now become anti-Christian. So, whatever God requires us to do, it does involve preaching the gospel. It could be costly.”