

An Encounter with God

DAY:

Monday

TITLE:

From Hearing to Encountering

KEY VERSE:

1 John 1:1 -- "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life."

REFLECTION:

There's a difference between hearing about Jesus and truly encountering him. I grew up hearing about Jesus -- we all did. But for years, I only knew him as a story, a name, a historical figure. Then one night in Orlando, sitting alone in my car, empty despite everything going right on the outside, I heard his voice. Not a preacher's voice. His voice. And everything changed instantly. John walked with Jesus for three and a half years, yet when he encountered the risen King in Revelation 1, he fell at his feet as a dead man. That's not the same Jesus you hear about casually. That's the living, reigning, fire-eyed King who is calling your name tonight. Don't settle for secondhand faith. Let this week be the week you move from hearing about him to genuinely encountering him.

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, I don't want to just know about you anymore -- I want to know you. Open my heart this week to a fresh, real encounter with your living presence. Amen.

DAILY ACTION:

Set aside ten quiet minutes today, no phone or distractions, and simply tell Jesus honestly where you are in your relationship with him right now.

DAY:

Tuesday

TITLE:

The Fire That Won't Let You Quit

KEY VERSE:

Jeremiah 20:9 -- "But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not."

REFLECTION:

I want to be honest with you -- I wanted to quit. When I was caught in a riot in Africa, when a demonic car accident nearly took my life, when someone dear to me walked away because of the storm I was in, every thought of quitting came rushing in. Maybe you know that feeling too. Maybe ministry feels impossible, your faith feels dry, or the enemy has been whispering, "Just give up." But here's what I discovered: the fire of God does not allow you to quit. Jeremiah wanted to stop speaking. He was exhausted, mocked, and imprisoned. Yet the word of God burned inside him like a fire he simply could not contain. That same fire lives in you

today through the Holy Spirit. You are not finished. The enemy targets you because he sees what God is building. Stir up the flame.

PRAYER:

Father, when quitting feels easier than continuing, remind me of the fire you placed inside me. Strengthen me today to keep going, knowing you have not finished your work in me. Amen.

DAILY ACTION:

Write down one specific moment when God clearly came through for you. Read it aloud today as a declaration that he is faithful and you will not quit.

DAY:

Wednesday

TITLE:

Full Surrender Changes Everything

KEY VERSE:

Galatians 2:20 -- "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

REFLECTION:

When Jesus spoke to me in that car in Orlando, he didn't list my sins. He didn't condemn me. He simply said, "Roderick, give me a hundred percent." That invitation to full surrender was the most important moment of my life. The second I gave him everything, my spirit changed -- tangibly, instantly. Old desires fell away. Everything looked new. Paul puts it perfectly in Galatians 2:20 -- it is no longer I who lives, but Christ. The version of me that was chasing empty pleasures died that night. This is not just my story. This is the gospel invitation extended to every one of us. God is not asking for your best effort or your Sunday performance. He is asking for everything. And when you lay it all down, that's precisely when the blessing, direction, wisdom, and fire of God begin to flow freely in your life.

PRAYER:

Jesus, I lay everything before you today -- my plans, my fears, my comfort zones, and my whole heart. Have all of me, because I know that's when you can do the most through me. Amen.

DAILY ACTION:

Identify one area of your life you have been holding back from God. Pray over it specifically today and consciously hand it to him by name.

DAY:

Thursday

TITLE:

You Need More Than One Encounter

KEY VERSE:

Acts 2:4 -- "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit

gave them utterance."

REFLECTION:

John had walked with Jesus for three and a half years -- that was his first encounter. Then decades later, on the island of Patmos, he encountered the risen King again and fell at his feet as a dead man. One encounter is not the finish line. I had a life-changing encounter with God eleven years ago, but it was the fresh encounter I had on the rooftop of my apartment in Tanzania -- crying out to God with the Indian Ocean stretched before me -- that kept me from breaking completely. The believers at Pentecost were filled with the Holy Spirit, and the book of Acts shows them being filled again and again throughout their journey. God is not a one-time experience. He is a daily, continuous relationship. You need his fresh fire today, not just the fire from last year's revival or last month's conference. Come back to him today.

PRAYER:

Holy Spirit, fill me fresh today. I don't want to survive on yesterday's encounter -- I want to walk in your power and presence right now. Amen.

DAILY ACTION:

Spend five minutes praying in the Spirit or worshiping freely today, specifically asking God for a fresh filling of his Holy Spirit for what this season requires.

DAY:

Friday

TITLE:

What You Have Received, Give Away

KEY VERSE:

Galatians 2:20 -- "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

REFLECTION:

Paul said it plainly -- the same thing I received, I give to you. You cannot give what you do not have. But here is the flip side: once you have encountered Jesus, once you carry his fire and his grace and his living word inside you, you cannot keep it. Just like Jeremiah, it becomes a burning fire shut up in your bones. I went from High Point, North Carolina, to Zanzibar, Tanzania, not because I had impressive credentials, but because I had an encounter and I gave it away. Muslims were healed on live radio. A blind man received his sight in an alleyway. Not because of me -- because of the Jesus living inside me. You don't have to cross an ocean. You have neighbors, coworkers, and family members who have only heard about Jesus. You have encountered him. Now go share what you have received.

PRAYER:

Lord, give me boldness today to share what you have done in my life. Let your love and fire in me spill over into every person I encounter today. Amen.

DAILY ACTION:

Share a brief, genuine word about what Jesus has done for you with at least one person today -- a text, a conversation, or a simple, honest testimony.