

GETTING BACK INTO HIS PRESENCE

LUKE 10:38-42 | IAN BLACK | OCTOBER 4, 2020

"Prayers are tools, but... not tools for doing or getting, but for being and becoming." - Eugene Peterson

The issue with these distractions is not what we're distracted by, but the significance of who we're distracted from.

"I pray about me a lot." - John Piper

"Life passes by swiftly. Events that a few years ago kept me totally preoccupied have now become vague memories; conflicts that a few months ago seemed so crucial in my life now seem futile and hardly worth the energy; inner turmoil that robbed me of my sleep only a few weeks ago has now become a strange emotion of the past; books that filled me with amazement a few days ago now do not seem as important; thoughts that kept my mind captive only a few hours ago have now lost their power and have been replaced by others...Why am I continuously trapped in this sense of urgency and emergency? Why do I not see that you are eternal, that your kingdom lasts forever, and that for you a thousand years are like one day? O Lord, let me enter into your presence and there taste the eternal, timeless, everlasting love with which you invite me to let go of my time-bound anxieties, fears, preoccupations, and worries...Lord, teach me your ways and give me the courage to follow them."

- Henry Nouwen

"Before we can pray Your kingdom come, we have to pray my kingdom go." - Alan Redpath

God's Presence in Scripture:

- God's presence fills heaven (Heb. 9:24)
- God's presence provides comfort in times of anxiety (Ps. 42:1-5)
- God's presence is displayed in worship/places of worship (Deut 14:23)
- God's presence accompanies times of renewal (Deut 29:14-15)
- God's presence is where prayer is heard (2 Chron 7:14)
- God's presence can be a place of judgment (Rev. 6:16)
- God's presence deserves fear (Gen. 3:8, Jer. 5:22)
- God's presence is a place of blessing (Acts 2:28)