

FROM THE PRESIDENT



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How often do we get distracted, busy, or just not focused, and we miss out on the presence of God?

Are You Paying Attention?

Flying is not my favorite way to spend my time. It can be taxing, especially now with cancellations and limited flights. When I do fly, I sometimes feel sorry for the flight attendants. Part of their job is to educate the passengers on the safety protocols of flying on an airplane. Most of you know the routine. They stand before the passengers and teach us how to buckle our seat belts. They point to the exit rows and remind us that our seat cushions can be used as flotation devices. They demonstrate how to properly put on the oxygen mask in the event that the cabin loses pressure and make it a point to share that if someone beside you needs assistance, you should put your mask on first before helping out.

Do you ever look around at the people on the plane while this discussion is happening? Basically, no one is paying attention. They have their earbuds in, their phones in hand, and they're reading magazines and books. It's almost as if they are doing everything but listening to the flight attendant who is standing right in front of them.

I wonder if God ever feels like one of those flight attendants. God is a God who speaks. God saves. God redeems. He promises, through Jesus Christ, that His presence will guide us, lead us, and comfort us. How often do we get distracted, busy, or just not focused, and we miss out on the presence of God?

The psalmist declared in Psalm 8:1 (ESV), "*O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.*" The personal name of God reminds us that He is the absolute existing One who depends on nothing and that everything else depends on Him. David's reminder of the majesty and the greatness of God points us to our need of Him.

If you believe in the majesty and greatness of God, then you certainly would never pass up the opportunity, or should I say privilege, to connect with Him. That is why Paul tells us in Colossians 4:2 (ESV) to "*Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.*" We have the privilege to know Almighty God and His power through prayer.

This is so meaningful to me. When I focus on the majesty and greatness of God, it puts all of my problems into the proper perspective. It also reminds me that all of God's promises are true. So, in my disappointment, the Lord is with me. In my anxiety, the Lord is with me. In my broken dreams, the Lord is with me. In my loneliness, the Lord is with me. As I am sharing the Gospel, the Lord is with me.

One of the best parts of a flight for me is when the plane is just about to land. You get a great view of where you are traveling, and you have the anticipation of what you will enjoy or do while you are there. The best landings are when you arrive home. There will be a day that all of God's people arrive home and anticipate the great adventure of being with the Lord for eternity. But we are not home yet! Until then, we need the Lord's presence and power. Are you paying attention? God is speaking.

He has promised us that as we give our lives to the Great Commission, He will be with us. Don't lose heart. Don't grow weary. Seek the Lord. One day, you will arrive safely home.