



Homes of H.O.P.E. Prayer and Study Guide #13
Based on sermon: “Bring Back the Glory”
Preached March 21, 2009

1. A blog on the internet revealed what people would ask God if they had the chance. Here are some of the responses:

- For objective evidence of His existence
- Unlimited wishes...but God is fairytale
- Salvation
- Everlasting life
- 100% of humanity to accept the fact of atheism
- For my daughter to be alive. She was only 19.
- I would ask God to become flesh on earth
- To spare people from pain and suffering
- To end the human experiment. We’ve suffered long enough
- To be God. I could do a way better job.
- Proof
- Stop birth defects
- Lord, protect us from your followers
- I would ask him to take all of his followers and get the _____ off my planet. Then I would tape a “kick me” sign on his back.
- To see others through the eyes, and with the heart, of Jesus. Without me getting in the way, ever again.

Take time to discuss what would be the one thing you would ask God for if you had a face-to-face meeting with Him.

2. Read Exodus 32:1-3. Why was God angry with the people? (See Exodus 32:1-10.) In what ways do we do the same thing when God seems slow in answering our prayers? What are some of the “golden calves” that we make?

3. Moses makes three requests of God. Read Exodus 33:12, 13. What is Moses’ first request? (See also Psalm 25:4.) For Moses, just getting to the promised land wasn’t enough. Knowing God was better than receiving gifts from God. Do you feel the same? Explain.

4. “A prerequisite for knowing God’s ways is to turn from our wicked ones (2 Chron. 7:14).” True or False? In our politically correct times, can we even use the word “wicked” anymore? What happens to Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross if we downplay or water down sin?

5. Read God’s response in Exodus 33:14. How does God’s presence give rest? (See Matt. 11:28, 29.)

6. Discuss the following statements: *Without the presence of God in our lives we are weary, burdened, unsettled, and wandering like nomads with no place to call home. This is the plight of the legalist. They can never do enough, obey enough, sacrifice enough, or know enough.*

Consequently, they don't feel fit for heaven or earth, so they become the spiritually homeless, ever looking for a resting place but never finding it, because they seek perfection in themselves instead of salvation in Him.

Do you agree or disagree? Explain.

7. Read Exodus 33:15, 16 for Moses' second request. What separated Israel from all other nations? (See Numbers 14:14.) Was it always God's plan that Israel stand out from "the crowd"? (See Leviticus 20:26; Deut. 28:1, 13.) Why?

8. Discuss this statement: *Even as the Sabbath is set apart from the other days of the week by God's blessing, God's people are set apart from the world by the blessing of His presence. The church in the last days is not to blend in with the world, but to be a clone of Christ.*

Israel had a sad track record of always wanting to be like the "other nations." Are we in danger of following their example? In what ways is the church becoming more like the world instead of being more like Christ?

9. *"Too many Christians are trying to make it on what they have left. And when this happens, we usually end up seeking the presence of God in our own way. We build our own golden calf. A golden calf is simply man-made worship. Synthetic praise."* What does this mean?

10. Read Exodus 33:17. Why does God grant Moses "the very thing" he asks for?

11. "We behold God's glory best when we care more about others than we do ourselves." Explain why this is true or false.

12. Moses' last request is his boldest. Read verse 18. Why does Moses ask this? Why does God grant it?

13. Read verses 19, 20. What is God's "glory"? (See also 34:5-7.) How do we become reflectors of God's glory? (2 Cor. 3:18)

14. Here's what we learn from Moses about praying in the end times:

- Those praying in the end times will pray for an intimacy with God that comes by knowing God Himself.
- Those praying in the end times will pray for an intimacy with God that comes by walking in God's presence.
- Those praying in the end-times will have influence with God and pray for a return of God's glory.

How will this affect your approach to prayer in the future? End with prayer and include these aspects.