

POWER *for* LIVING

A quarterly publication of Empowered Living Ministries

October - December, 2010

Dear friends,

Many people live their lives as if God is not real. Amidst the treadmill of life and the clamor of a thousand voices, His still, small voice seems obliterated. This newsletter's article is excerpted from a sermon that our son, **Andrew**, shared at this year's Open House. It is extremely practical and relevant to our day and is entitled **"Is God Real to You?"** You will be blessed in reading it and doubly blessed if you listen to the entire message on CD. Call our office to order it or shop our online store.



\$ 4

We have been ecstatic with the feedback we are receiving from those who have read Jim's new book ***Come, Walk With Me***. You can read some of it for yourself on the back page of this newsletter. This book is a **must-read and a must-share book**. If you implement the principles this book outlines, even just a little, your life will take on that transformation of walking with your God and giving glory to Him.

We greatly solicit your prayers October 24 through November 16 as we embark on our **South Africa speaking tour**. We will keep you posted with email reports and photos of how your prayers accompanied by God's Holy Spirit through the speaking of His Word touch the hearts of our brethren in South Africa.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at our **Missouri Camp Meeting** October 14-17 and **Florida Camp Meeting** December 2-5. Please invite a friend, neighbor, family member or whomever God puts on your heart. It may change their life forever.



Thank you for your prayers and support in helping us reach out to those in need, not only in the USA but also in South Africa.

In Christ's Service,

Jim & Sally

"Power for Living" is available free of charge and is sent out quarterly by mail.

If you or someone you know is not receiving it and wish to be added to our mailing list, please feel free to contact us. For information on any of the materials or events mentioned in the publication you can reach us at: Empowered Living Ministries: 3945 North Fork Road, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

Email: Office@EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org

Office: (406) 387-4333 Fax: (406) 387-4336 Order Toll Free: (877) 755-8300

UPCOMING SEMINARS

October 14 - 17

Windermere Baptist Conference Center
Roach, Missouri
Call (417) 661-6161

South Africa Tour 2010

October 29 - 31	Pietermaritzburg
November 3	Windhoek
November 5 - 7	Somerset West
November 10	Port Elizabeth
November 12 - 14	Heidelberg

For information email:

Samuel.Jacobs@kznworks.gov.za
or HeinD@Nedbank.co.za

December 2 - 5

Camp Kulaqua
High Springs, Florida
Call (406) 387-4333

January 7 - 8, 2011

Edmond SDA Church, Edmond Oklahoma
Call (405) 478-4401

February 4 - 5

Gentry SDA Church, Gentry, Arkansas
Call (479) 549-2155 or (479) 549-2166

March 4 - April 9

Brazil



It's About Walking With God!

Is GOD Real to You?

Is God real to us in a personal way, a way that affects more than our beliefs and our lifestyles? Is He so real to us that our attitudes and responses to daily situations are changed from our very core? Do others take note that we have been with Jesus as they did of the disciples after Jesus ascension?

I love the contrast between Elisha and his servant that morning when the Syrian army besieged their home. Elisha didn't even see it as a problem! He was calm and relaxed while his servant was scared to death. Elisha asked the Lord to open his servant's eyes to see the fiery chariots and horses of the Lord's army that outnumbered the enemy between them and the Syrians. You see, God was more real to Elisha than the army surrounding him.

In our lives, which is more real to us? God—or others and life's circumstances? I'd like to share three reasons God is not real to us—and three things we can do about it.

Love of the world

How can God truly be real to us when the love of this world is so strong in our lives?

The things of this earth have eclipsed our awareness of God. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John 2:15

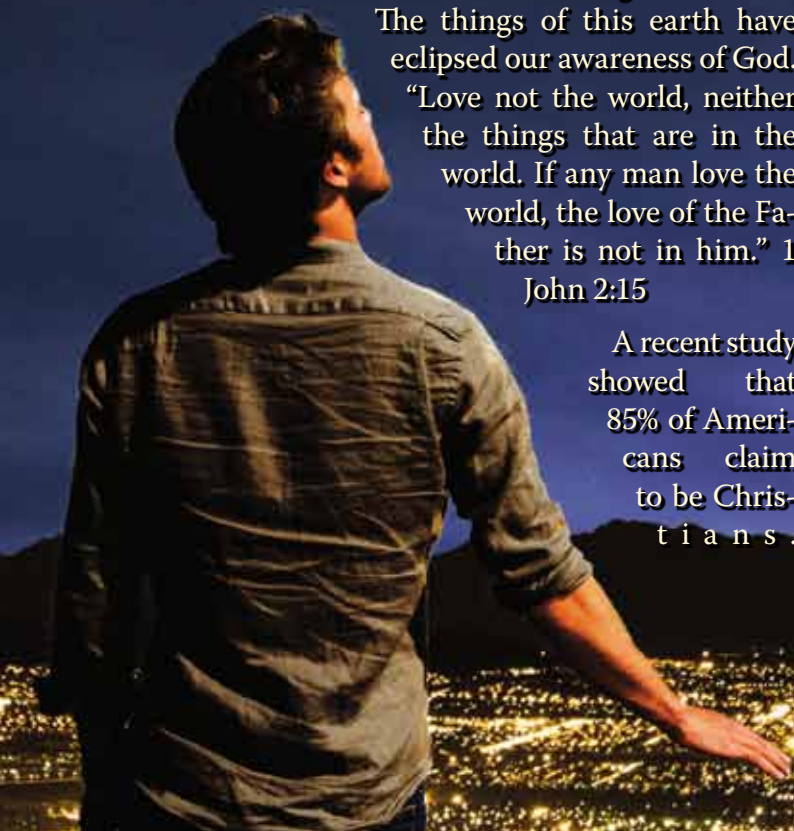
A recent study showed that 85% of Americans claim to be Christians.

However, on average, we spend 4.5 hours per day watching TV and 2.5 hours on the Internet with a total of 8 hours a day on "screens" if you include cell phones and PDA's. At the same time, only 37% of us have read our Bibles in the last 7 days. When we do open our Bibles, it is only for a brief 7.42 minutes. Only 25% of us pray once per day and then we average less than 5 minutes of talking with God.

While these statistics may not be your reality, what in your life is taking the precedence? Take out your day planner and checkbook and you will see what is most important in your life. Whatever you devote the majority of your time to will become the most real to you. Colossians 3:1-3 tells us "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above... Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth." God cannot be real to us as long as we are consumed in the things of this world.

Love of approval

Our love of others' approval or our fear of their displeasure also stands in the way of God being real to us. We are told in Luke 14:26 "If any man come to me and hate not his father and mother and wife and children and brethren and sisters yea and his own life also he cannot be my disciple." So often we care more about other's feelings than God's because people are more real to us than God. We spend more time with them. We can see, hear and sense their pleasure or displeasure. At church board meetings, matters of principle come up that we know must be dealt with but we avoid them because we do not want to offend anyone and so we choose to offend God instead. In social settings, we compromise our convictions because of what others may think of us or how it may make them feel. We need to be considerate of others, but if our courtesy drives us to offend God we are on the wrong track. We must always maintain God as the one Person we are here to please above all others.



Love of self

Our love of self keeps God from being real to us. John 3:30 says "He must increase but I must decrease." Most of us want to do things our own way and in our own time. The main question in the Christian life is "who is in charge?" but we do not like God being in charge.

Our love of self also gives us a wrong picture of who we are. And as long as we see ourselves in this wrong light we cannot see God for who He is.

So how can God become real to us? "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face and the things of earth will grow strangely dim." The lights of this earth are so bright that God fades from our awareness like the blazing city lights eclipse a star's glow. We must turn off the lights and as the things of this earth become strangely dim, we will be able to see the light of God. We must spend a LOT of time with Him, get to know Him well and have a REAL relationship with Him.

The eyes of faith

Faith makes God real to us. Through faith we can see God, place our trust in Him, learn to depend on Him, and establish a real relationship with Him. Speaking of Moses, Hebrews 11:27 says "By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible." Moses had a deep sense of the personal presence of God. God was ever present in his thoughts. He believed in God as Someone that he needed and that would help him because of his need. Moses did not merely think of God—he saw Him. God was the constant vision before him. He never lost sight of His face. Faith was to Moses no guesswork. It was a reality. This is the kind of faith we need.

It all comes down to the visible versus the invisible. "We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen..." 2 Corinthians 4:18. We must believe God, trust in Him whatever happens and rest in His will. Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." Matthew 26:39. The only way you can put your life in someone else's hands like this is if they are real to you. You must know them, trust them, and have faith in them!

Two-way conversation

Prayer makes God real to us. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, "Pray without ceasing." When I plead with the Lord on my knees and open up my heart to Him, I go away sensing Him in a truly tangible way. Our problem is we voice mail and text message God in our prayers. We do not wait in His presence to hear what He wants to say to us. We are in too great a hurry and so we return to our work with our burdens and without that real sense of Him. We must learn to be silent and listen to Him—not only talk at Him.

Enoch hungered and thirsted for divine knowledge and a walk with God. He devoted time to prayer. The busier and more difficult his work was, the more continuous and earnest his prayers were. It was his devotion to God that prepared him for translation. God was so real to him and he was so close to God that God took him to heaven.

The Word

Studying the Scriptures makes God real to us. The entire Bible is about God and how He wants to be real to us. By studying it, we obtain a clear picture of whom He is and what He wants to do in our lives. Studying the Scriptures is the most important thing we can do to establish our faith in God. We must have a thorough knowledge of His Word so we will not be deceived or believe lies about God. Isaiah 8:20 "To the law and to the testimony if they speak not according to this word it is because there is no light in them." When we neglect to study our Bibles today, tomorrow it is much easier to eliminate. Eventually we will find that we are running our lives by our own ideas and not according to God's direction.

Christ withstood the temptation in the wilderness because heavenly things were more real to him than hunger, power, riches, or fear of death. God was more real to Shadrack Meshack and Abendigo than the fiery flames or the king's displeasure. God was more real to Daniel than the threats of conniving men or the roaring of the hungry lions.

Is God more real to you than the temptations and pleasures of this world? Will you choose to give up the things of this world that are eclipsing your view of God and replace them with high and holy things that will bring your heart close to the heart of God? ☆

This article was excerpted from a sermon by Andrew Hohnberger given July, 2010. Call our office at (406) 387-4333 to order your audio CD. \$4.



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It's About Walking With God!

Have you heard what others are saying?

"*Come, Walk With Me* is a life-changing-challenging book – a masterpiece! It is right on, it is practical, the stories are perfect and simple. We have decided to buy some and make sure some of our friends and family members get the book." - *Cardiologist & Grandpa*

"*Come, Walk With Me* ... will divide the 'boys from the men'. It is the truth and cuts to the core of what Christianity really is." - *Nurse & Single-Mother*

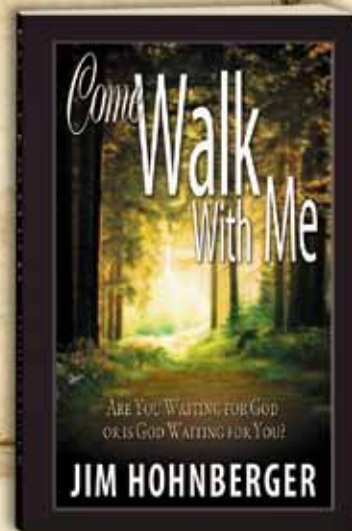
"I'm reading your latest book, being challenged, rolling with laughter, and being tenderly reminded of what it means to really walk with God." - *Contractor & Husband*

"*Come, Walk With Me* is very powerful. It helped me see areas that I still need to give to God. ...It is the message for the hour... I related to the chapter, 'When God Seems Silent' ... It is ok not to know all the answers for our lives. What is important is to know and to hear the God that does and to follow Him. - *Homemaker & Business Manager*

"It is the best book that Jim has written yet. The message is clear and it flows for easy understanding." - *Mother reading Come, Walk With Me to her two children*

"I read the first three pages of the book and I was hooked. Jim Hohnberger has written this book so that I as a kid want to know more about a relationship with Christ."
- *11 year-old Girl*

"I just read your new book *Come, Walk With Me* and it is not good. In fact, it is GREAT!!"
- *Real-estate investor, Husband, & Dad*



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www.EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org