

Tom Shanklin Ministries

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Dear Friend,

Lately, I've been preaching about "looking in the face of Jesus." The scriptures talk about "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" and about seeing "the light of knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

This is not merely figurative language or a metaphor, it represents a real experience of looking at Jesus through the eyes of our heart. Though we don't see Jesus physically, in our prayer time and in our daily life, we can look into His wonderful face. While Jesus was on the earth, He prayed for His followers: "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me. . ." John 17:24, NKJV.

If you think about it, this is what Adam lost in the garden, the ability to see God. In fact, it says that after they sinned, Adam and Eve "hid themselves from the presence of the Lord." Because of their sin, they were ashamed.

You may have experienced something like this in a human relationship. When someone "does you wrong," they no longer want to look you in the face, but when they encounter you, they avoid eye contact and seek to get away from your presence. Likewise, all of us have sinned and come short of the glory of the Lord. We have done the Lord wrong, and failed to honor and obey Him. Therefore our sin convicts us and we want to run for cover.



Rock the River with Franklin Graham

The good news of the Gospel is, however, that He forgives us and restores us to fellowship with Himself. As believers, we are encouraged to "come before the throne of grace boldly, to obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." How can we, as sinful human beings, come before an awesome holy God? Only because our sins are forgiven and we are cleansed by the power of the blood of Jesus.

Looking in the face of Jesus provides good therapy for darkness in our hearts. The light of the Gospel flows through His piercing eyes into the very depths of our being, exposing every dark thing. Places on the inside of us that have been marred through negative hurtful experiences are healed. Attitudes and conditions of the heart such as fear, insecurity, hatefulness, lust, and covetousness are exposed. Demonic powers which would like to work through such attitudes scurry like rats at the first brush of the light of the glory of God.

I want to encourage you to cultivate the presence of God in your life. In your quiet times with God, turn away from the busyness and the cares of the world. Turn to the One who can really help you in your daily life. Wrestling, worrying, condemning yourself, criticizing others will not solve anything. But looking at Jesus will change everything. It will bring the Divine into your consciousness. It will bring the answer to the surface that you so desperately need. Jesus truly is not only the author, but also the finisher of your faith. As you look at Him, He will bring those changes into your life that are most needed. As you see Him, you will become more like Him. Set the Lord before you as you begin each day, and keep Him there as you navigate through your daily life. You will never again be alone.

Hope & Healing for the Nations

Rock the River Festival

I participated as a roving evangelist at the St. Paul Rock the River Festival at Harriet Island in St. Paul on Sunday, August 16, and found it to be a great experience. The Festival was sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Thousands came to hear the bands and to hear Franklin Graham share the message of salvation. I spoke to many people in the crowd about their relationship with the Lord. Many indicated that they were already dedicated followers of the Lord Jesus. I spent a few moments encouraging them and talking to them about their churches and their walk with God. I also had the opportunity to speak with a number of people, young and old, who had not yet made a decision to follow Christ. I was able to share the simple Gospel message with them using the Steps to Peace with God tract. One young man named Kevin from St. Paul, 14 years old, was ready to make a decision for the Lord that day. I was able to lead him in a prayer of repentance.

Minneapolis Healing Service

On August 21, Susan and I had a wonderful time ministering at the Businessmen's Fellowship meeting in Minneapolis. This group meets monthly for dinner, worship, the Word, and prayer. They invited us for a special healing service. The Lord says that He is our physician (Jehovah Rapha, the Lord that Healeth Thee). The basis of our healing is God's prescription for healing, which is the cross of Calvary. We each need to go to the Doctor and get our prescription and receive the cure. The emphasis of the message was on making that personal connection with Doctor God. You can believe He's the healer, confess He's the healer, but you also must make an office visit and touch God. The wonderful thing, though, is that it's not hard to get an appointment. He's always available. About a dozen or more people came forward for forgiveness and healing in their relationship with God. Many were touched by His grace and glory. A woman testified that when she came to the meeting she had pain in her hands and could not clench her fists. During the service, she was freed from all pain and was able to make a fist. We told her she could now punch the devil.

Wonderful services at Turtle Lake, Wisconsin

I had a wonderful time of ministry Friday-Sunday, Aug. 28-30 with Pastor Ken and Connie Mandley at Grace Community Church of Turtle Lake, a vibrant 4-year old church in northwestern Wisconsin. On Friday and Saturday, we held a Victorious Believers Life and Witness Class. Session titles included Becoming a Strong Christian, Sharing Jesus with Others, Nurturing New Believers, and Power to Be a Witness. The turnout was very good. We had about 35 people for the Saturday night session. The presence of God was wonderful and many were encouraged to become more effective witnesses for the LORD. On Sunday morning, I spoke on "The Doctor's in the House." I prayed with about 10 people for forgiveness and reconciliation with the Lord and with another 25 or so for emotional or physical healing. One young woman who I prayed with on Saturday night testified that she received a definite release from panic attacks. Many others were obviously touched by the Lord.

We are praying for you!

Susan and I make it a regular practice to pray for you. We are excited to be able to lift your needs before our heavenly Father and to beseech Him for the grace of God to be extended into your life. Your partnership means a great deal to us. Together, we are touching a lot of lives for the Lord!

In the harvest,



Tom Shanklin

Wednesday, Sept. 2, 7 p.m., Living Word Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota.

Sunday, Sept. 6, 9 & 10 a.m., Word of Faith Fellowship, Avoca, Minnesota. 507-335-7884

Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 12-13, Fairford House of Prayer, Fairford, Manitoba.

Tuesday-Thursday, Sept. 15-17, Rossville Pentecostal Church, Norway House, Manitoba.

Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 19-20, 7 p.m., First Nations Family Worship Center, Winnipeg, MB, Canada.

Sunday, Sept. 27, 10 a.m., For His Glory Church, Log Cabin, City Park, Spring Grove, MN. 507-725-2984.

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 7 p.m., Christ for People, ministering to the developmentally disabled, Wayzata Evangelical Free Church, 705 County Road 101 North, Wayzata, MN. (763) 422-1369.

Sunday, Oct. 4, 9-10:30 a.m., Crossview Covenant Church, Mankato, Mn. 507-387-6992.