

VINEYARD church

PRAYER & FASTING

DAY 9

Scripture Focus

"The one thing I ask of the Lord—the thing I seek most—is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections and meditating in his Temple. For he will conceal me there when troubles come; he will hide me in his sanctuary. He will place me out of reach on a high rock.

– Psalms 27:4-5 (NLT)

Prioritizing the Presence of God

One of my favorite places to encounter the beauty of God's creation is on the top of a mountain. The journey upward, the cool, crisp air, and the breathtaking view at the summit—all of it speaks to my soul. One of the places especially dear to my heart are the Peaks of Otter in Bedford County, Virginia, and more specifically, Sharp Top Mountain.

I remember one morning, rising before dawn around 3 a.m., and making my way to the trail. In the stillness of the night, I hiked up Sharp Top under the cover of darkness, reaching the summit just in time to witness the sunrise. The sky ignited with color, and in that moment of wonder, I felt as though every step brought me closer to the presence of God.

Yet, as beautiful and meaningful as that experience was, I have come to understand something profound: we don't have to climb a mountain to be near God. His presence is not confined to lofty heights or distant places. God meets us wherever we are, whether on a mountaintop or in the quiet corners of our everyday lives. What a gift to know that we can draw near to Him at any time and in any place.

How can you prioritize the Presence of God?

In *The Weight of Glory*, C.S. Lewis portrays the presence of God as the ultimate beauty, fulfilling humanity's deepest longing to unite with our Heavenly Father: "We do not want merely to see beauty... We want to be united with the beauty we see, to receive it into ourselves, to bathe in it, to become part of it."

Take a moment to reflect:

- In what ways have you experienced or longed for a deeper connection with God in your own life?
- What practical ways and intentional spaces can you think of to spend time with God?
- What are the barriers to spending the time with Jesus? How can these barriers be addressed to maximize your connection with God?

Jesus invites you to spend time with Him—a personal and loving invitation that reflects how deeply valued you are in His eyes. Let that truth settle in your heart and remind you how precious you are to Him.

Prayer

Father God, I long to meet with You—personally, communally, beautifully, and powerfully. I desire to spend every moment in Your presence. Meet me here and now, Lord, and transform me through this time with You. Let Your light shine through me, that I may be a light in this world. We need You now, Father. We need You here. I pray this in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Tim Mathia

Care Pastor