



Experiencing God Together

April 19, 2026
Acts 2, 1 Cor. 14

Introduction:

The living God has, since the very beginning of creation, desired to be in a responsive, trust filled relationship with men and women.

The Story of Humanity (Isaiah 44:9-20):

There was once a man named Uri who lived in Israel around 700BC. He lived like many did in those days, in a rural environment where he lived off the land. He was a man who worked with wood, not just as a means of earning a living.

He planted cedars, and when ready, harvested the trees. He decides he is going to use half of the tree to provide heat for cooking and warmth. **The other half, he decides he is going to cut and carve into an idol, a god. Half of the tree he uses for heat, the other he falls down, and bows down in worship.**

This idol, this god, cannot speak, move, or act on it's own. It has no power to save and ultimately is dependant on humanity for it's existence.

I hope you see the absurdity of our human rebellion and tendency to wander. This idol has no capacity to rescue or redeem or be in relationship. Compare this "god" to the God of scripture!

The Story of a Living God (1 Cor. 14:24-25):

Uri's great grandson (many times "great") is also a family and he lives in Jerusalem.

Ben meets some peculiar people called the Way, known in other places as Christians and they tell him of a gathering in one of their homes. Ben decides to go one evening. Having no idea what to expect, he is surprised at the way these people treat one another. They seem to have genuine love and concern, and seem to be like family.

While they are praying and praising God, someone receives what they call a revelation from God, a prophecy. The singing stops as the one who receives the revelation begins to share what God spoke to them.

Shockingly, the revelation seems to be describing an intense hatred that Ben has had towards his father since his childhood. God reveals the secrets of Ben's heart as know in this group has known Ben for more than a couple months. **Ben drops to his knees, shares his heart, repents and worships the living God.**



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The Living God (1 Cor. 14:24-25):

The Living God of scripture created the billions of galaxies with a word and yet walked with Adam and Eve in the garden. He Spoke to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He spoke to Moses as one speaks to a friend (Exodus 33:11)

He was not satisfied in speaking to the many through the few. So He came to us in the person of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:1, 1 John 1:1)

He went even further, and initiated a New Covenant through Jesus Christ, and those who trust in Him, can know personally through the Holy Spirit who lives in us. **He was NOT CONTENT being known by just a few!**

How We Experience God TOGETHER In Our Midst?

The reality is our church experience can sometimes be so diluted, structured and void of the Spirit of God that it's like we are worshiping a wooden idol rather than the living God. This has many causes. Tradition, control and pride to name a few.

Scripture describes a gathering of believers as something that is interactive, participatory and expectant of God to speak and move in our midst. Yet, God is God and can't be manipulated or coerced.

God desires to be active in our midst, and some of the ways he chooses to are through prophecy (1 Cor. 14), healing (James 5), calling for service (Acts 13).

What is prophecy?

Prophecy is simply God speaking to someone, through a scripture, word, mental picture, dream about another person or group. **Scripture commands us to pursue prophecy** (1 Cor. 14:1,39)

God, through His Holy Spirit desires to speak life, love, direction and conviction into our midst. (See 1 Cor. 14:30 - "The Sitter's right")

Calling For Service!

God calls out some, through others, who the Holy Spirit commissions for service in the kingdom of God (Acts 13:1-3).

Healing

God's Holy Spirit brings about a need for confession and repentance in a persons' life and can lead to physical healing.

In your heart of hearts, are you open to God moving in these ways?

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