



EXPERIENCING GOD

RAY GURNEY, PASTOR

If I asked what the seven realities to experience God would be, I wonder how many could remember them. Over the years, Cross Creekers have gone through the 13-week course twice and perhaps a third time. “Experiencing God” has impacted more people than any study I know. In the early eighties, Vickie and I enrolled in Master Life I and II and it was challenging. Looking back, I only remember that Master Life focused on the book of John. It was good, but not user friendly, and many people became frustrated with its difficult demands. Ten years later we were introduced to “Experiencing God”, a publication that impacted Christians all around the world. It was refreshing! God used that study to prepare us to start Cross Creek 26 years ago.

There are seven realities to experience God. 1. God is always at work around you. 2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal. 3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work. 4. He speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the Church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways. 5. God’s invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action. 6. You must make major adjustments in life to join God in what His doing. 7. You come to know God by experience as you obey Him and He accomplishes His work through you.

During Wednesday Bible studies last month, I gave a refresher course on some of these realities. I realized after a few lessons that most people at Cross Creek wouldn’t know these realities. I shared this with the class and said that if God allows, I will share these with the church in my sermons. They will then have an understanding of how to experience God if they so desire.

In this newsletter:

EXPERIENCING
GOD

LADIES DAY
OUT

FIERY FAITH &
WORSHIP

CHILDREN'S
DEDICATION
SERVICE

NEVER ALONE

MEN'S
BREAKFAST

JANUARY MENU

You are familiar with my feelings for insurance companies and it has taken a dive from there. I have been in contact with several agencies in hopes of finding a competitive rate. So far, there are none. It seems that a \$10,000 annual premium is not sufficient so they are tacking on another \$5000. After seeing quotes from three companies I thought of the newsfeeds; we saw last month of the CEO of UnitedHealthcare gunned down on the streets of New York City. Have these companies gone too far in their greed that the American people have snapped? "Delay, Deny, Defend: Why insurance companies don't pay claims and what you can do about it" is the title of a bestselling 2010 book by Jay Feinman. It details the tactics used by healthcare industry executives to avoid paying claims to lower corporate costs. This week, the book saw a big jump in Amazon's sales rankings. I'm not surprised. Pray with me, Church, that God will provide. He did this year!

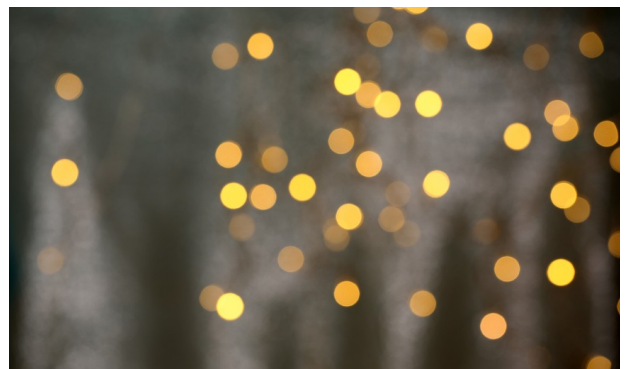
Pastor Ray



LADIES DAY OUT

Ladies, we are headed to **BD's Mongolian Grill**, in Independence. They are a fusion restaurant where we can create our own stir-fry with a little help from our friends. We will meet at the church on **January 21 at 10:45 AM** and head out! Please add your name to our sign-up sheet in the lobby. Hope you will attend!

Vickie



FIERY FAITH & WORSHIP

Cross Creek ladies and friends, join Chrissy on **Friday, January 31 at 6:00 PM** to revive and refresh your faith in God.

Dress comfy, bring a blanket and journal, and let's gather together in our Discipleship Room for a sweet time of worship, breath prayer, a devotion, and soaking prayer with the Holy Spirit. We'll enjoy warm soup, drinks, and a dessert. Please sign up and join us!

CHILDREN'S DEDICATION SERVICE

A children's dedication service is a ceremony where parents and sometimes their entire family publicly commit to raising their child in accordance with God's will. It's a time for parents to:

- thank God for the gift of life,
- declare their intention to live a life that honors God,
- commit to teaching their children to do the same,
- ask the church community to support them in raising their child.

If you are interested in participating, please let Pastor Ray know. The dedication service will be **January 12th.**

Never Alone

You are never, ever alone because God is in every dimension at the same time.

God is in the past, He's in the present, He's in the future. He's in heaven, and He's on earth. He's in the spirit world. He's in our world. He's in you, He's above you, He's around you—because He is multidimensional.

There aren't a bunch of gods to cover every dimension. There is ONE God in the person of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Because He is multidimensional, you are never alone!

"Where could I go to escape from you? Where could I get away from your presence? If I went up to heaven, you would be there; if I lay down in the world of the dead, you would be there. If I flew away beyond the east or lived in the farthest place in the west, you would be there to lead me, you would be there to help me. I could ask the darkness to hide me . . . but even darkness is not dark for you, and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are the same to you" (Psalm 139:7-12 GNT).

Your prayers will never catch God off guard. You can bring them ALL to Him!

Going deeper... What does it mean if God's omnipresence brings dread? If God's omnipresence brings you dread, what do you need to get right with God in order for it to bring comfort? What dimensions of your life are you hesitant to talk to God about? Why do you sometimes refuse to talk to God about the things you know He is already aware of?



There's no use trying to play hide and seek with God. Every place you try to hide, He's already there. This is God's sweet omnipresence. He's everywhere! He's in all things. He is the beginning and the end. There is no place you've been, no place you are, and no place you're going to be where God was not, is not, or will not be. That should encourage you. If you feel shame, you can be sure it's not coming from Jesus.

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1

No matter where you choose to go, God will walk with you, and He will already be there to meet you.

Because God is in every dimension of the world—even the dimensions we don't know about—you can talk to Him about every dimension of your life. He already understands! There's nothing you could bring to Him from your past, present, or future that He is not already completely aware of.

Chrissy Kirkman



For those who wish to make contributions electronically, scan this QR code or go to crosscreekbaptist.com and follow the steps!

"And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." - Romans 5:5 (ESV)

CROSS CREEK BAPTIST

THE CHURCH ON A MISSION

1050 SW 15th St.
Oak Grove, MO 64075

Phone: (816) 690-0019

Email: rayg2day@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editorials:

vmg2day@sbcglobal.net

crosscreekbaptist.com

“For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, “Move from her to there,” and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” - Matthew 17:20b

DON'T FORGET

No Wednesday Service:

January 1, 2025

Children's Dedication Service:

January 12

MEN'S BREAKFAST, Saturday, January 18 at 8

AM - Golden Corral in Independence. Please invite your neighbor or a friend to join us. It's a good time to fellowship with other men in our community.



JANUARY MENU

Jan. 7, Meatball Sandwich, chips, cottage cheese, roasted broccoli, salad & dessert

Jan. 15, Beef Stroganoff, mashed potatoes, veggies, cottage cheese, salad & dessert

Jan. 22, Chicken Enchilada Soup & Broccoli Cheese Soup, cornbread, cheese and crackers, fruit, salad & dessert

Jan. 29, Beef Stew, biscuits, cheese and crackers, fruit & dessert