

Experiencing God.

*God is experienced through the **communication of truth** either from you or from him. Through this interaction you lose all fear and anxiety because he helps you to see the situation through his perspective. He the almighty God is in control.*

Samuel 1 ¹There was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephrathite.

²He had two wives. The name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other, Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

³Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the Lord. ⁴On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. ⁵But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. ⁶And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. ⁷So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. ⁸And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, **“Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?”**

⁹After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. ¹⁰**She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly.** ¹¹And she vowed a vow and said, “O Lord of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.”

¹²As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. ¹⁴And Eli said to her, “How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you.” ¹⁵But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, **I am a woman troubled in spirit.** I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. ¹⁶Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great **anxiety and vexation.**” ¹⁷Then Eli answered, “Go in **peace**, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him.” ¹⁸And she said, “Let your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then the woman went her way and ate, **and her face was no longer sad.**

1 Peter 5 ⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷**casting all your anxieties on him**, because he cares for you.

Psalms 23 ¹The Lord is my shepherd; **I shall not want.** ²He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ³He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **I will fear no evil, for you are with me**; your rod and your staff, they **comfort** me.

Firstly An experience with God brings **peace** because we feel safe with God. It is because we experience the total and unconditional acceptance of the only person who knows everything, can do anything is anywhere and whose opinion carries the ultimate authority. We find refuge and rest in his great power. **Isaiah 42**
³a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;

Secondly an experience with God brings a **positive self-image** or identity, because God accepts us totally if we come to him through the door Jesus has created for us. (through his substitutionary death on the cross which grants us the forgiveness of our trespasses against him, makes us innocent before him and even gives us the righteousness of Jesus) This association with him helps us to see ourselves as he sees us, namely as his son or daughter. Your identity is given to you through belonging somewhere. There is no better person to belong to than to God. God therefore helps you to feel good about yourself.

Thirdly an experience with God gives you **confidence** in your abilities because he is with you as can be seen in the example of Moses. **Exodus 3** ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" ¹² He said, "But I will be with you, **Exodus 4** ¹⁰ But Moses said to the Lord, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." ¹¹ Then the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? ¹² Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak."

The secret pathway to experiencing God

Matthew 13 ⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like **treasure** (a relationship with God) hidden in a **field**, (the life God wants you to live) which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and **sells all that he has** (repents from the way you want to live your life) and **buys** that **field**.

Psalms 140 ¹³ Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name; the **upright** shall **dwell in your presence**.

Psalms 11 ⁷ For the Lord is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the **upright** shall **behold his face**.
To approach God in a relationship one must stand in solidarity with him concerning all his laws. This shows that you respect him and love him. God is not found through mystic experiences, but rather a logical and honest conversation about the truth whether it's his or yours. This conversation happens in your mind most of the time as you **1)** pray, **2)** study the Bible and contemplate the truth in it or **3)** listen to a sermon or **4)** gets influenced by the lives of other Christians or **5)** experience nature. This brings about a transformative, lifelong realignment of the whole person as God's personhood rubs off on you.