

## CONNECT STUDY GUIDE

### ENCOUNTER – PURSUING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Unlike the people of old who pursued God relentlessly, we have now become relentless pursuers of God's blessings as opposed to His presence.

It is so rare to see people captivated by the beauty and splendor of God in church meetings these days. Seldom do you see whole congregations spontaneously bowing down in humble adoration to God during worship. It seems we have to employ all kinds of gimmicks and coercion to make people engage in worship. I believe a true and glorious encounter with God can change this.

An Encounter with God is not the recounting of facts about God by a preacher or the getting goosebumps during a time of worship. An encounter is finding one's self face to face with the glory of God, the weight of His glory bearing down with all magnitude on you. It is being in the very presence of God, His Shekinah (dwelling) glory revealed to sinful eyes and penitent hearts.

When you have such an encounter, nobody needs to tell you to bow down in worship, nobody needs to whip you up into a frenzy, exhorting you to lift your hands in worship, and you will do that yourself.

I pray that we will be pursuers of God in 2017, desiring an encounter with each day of our lives.

**Matthew 6:24-34, Galatians 2:20-21, Philippians 3:4-10, Colossians 3:1-4**

1. How can we become pursuers of God's presence and not just His blessings?

**Exodus 3:1-12, Mark 5:21-34, Acts 9:1-22, Revelation 1:9-18**

2. What are the results of a true encounter with God and do we see evidence of these in our lives?