



# CELL GUIDE 2015

Theme	Build A Strong Prayer Life
Topic	The Pursuit of God's Presence
Speaker	Ps. David Ravenhill
Date	30 <sup>th</sup> August, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Service

## Message Summary

### Spiritual Objective: Desiring God above all else

"Behold, these are but the outskirts of His ways, and how small a whisper do we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?" (Job 26:14) Ps Ravenhill saw this verse in a museum and found it aptly placed. Yet how regretful it would be, if this verse were descriptive of our lives or even the house of God. We must not tolerate anything other than having Christ as central to our lives. And we learn from exemplary saints that in order to do so, an insatiable fixation on God is crucial.

Ps Ravenhill briefly examined David's expressions in the Psalms, followed by an inspection of one of Moses' most important choices and finally, the Songs of Solomon to learn what it means to be in pursuit of the Father.

### The Psalm of David

#### Psalm 73:25

This verse may be broken into two parts. The first half is something that we can easily claim, for indeed we have none in heaven but God. However, the next part of the verse is not as easy to do likewise – few of us can claim to have nothing on earth we desire beside God. This is perhaps the most important key in pursuit of God's presence.

David, known as being a man after God's own heart, is fixated upon God, desiring nothing else. He repeats his sole desire often in the psalms he wrote. A closer look at Psalm 41 reveals just how much David relies on the Lord. The significance of a panting deer is often lost to us, having little experience with wildlife (let alone deer!). On the other hand, someone who knows how deer behave would understand that a panting deer is one that is likely to have just run away from a predator.

This means the water that a panting deer seeks after is not only a source of replenishment, but also a means by which to flee from its enemies. It is this picture of utter reliance on God that we must find ourselves in – not just seeking an aspect of God, but the entirety of God. As Ps Ravenhill puts it, *"There is nothing so likely to lead to error or to heresy as to focus on the parts rather than the whole"*.



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## Moses the Intercessor

Exodus 32 tells the story of the Israelites and the golden calf. The Israelites had, in Moses' absence, made for themselves an idol to worship – and this, after all the miraculous things God had done for them. God was so greatly angered that he threatened to completely wipe out the Israelites and start a new nation from the line of Moses.

But Moses intervened. He knew God's covenants and he knew who God was – and so, Moses interceded for Israel. God responded to Moses' faith and knowledge of Himself by not only fulfilling His promises to Israel in spite of their terrible sin, but at Moses' pleas, He also continued to bless Israel with His presence. Moses' knowledge and experience of God made all the difference in the fate of the Israelites.

## Revelations from the Song of Solomon

Lest we dare think that God's deal with Moses was the exception, we ought to know that God seeks and values His relationship with us. The Song of Solomon is an interesting book to examine this affection He has for us because it shows God's extravagant love for us. He loves us and finds us beautiful. It is a love that sweeps us off our feet as we are courted by Him.

Ps Ravenhill pointed out a mistake that the unnamed bride makes in chapter 5. Here, the bride got too comfortable and delayed her response to His knock on the door. This happened even though she seemingly knew Him so well that she could describe every detail about Him.

## Conclusion

We may know much about God, but simply knowing about God does not matter – what matters is a deep and personal relationship with Him. He knocks on the doors of our lives (Rev 3:20) and we ought to respond quickly, and decisively. We need to learn for ourselves that there is nothing which can take the place of God, and any thought otherwise is a lie.

## Questions

Think of a bible character you like. How did this person demonstrate his/her love for God?

(Fill In Answer Here)



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In Psalm 73, the psalmist declares that earth has nothing he desires besides God. What are some of the earthly things that fill our thoughts that might be keeping us from God?

(Fill In Answer Here)

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In Song of Solomon, we see a depiction of how much God loves us. What has God done to convince you of His love for you? How have you seen Him move personally in your life?

(Fill In Answer Here)

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