



“The greatest discovery in life is that God is waiting for you.”

A Burning Bush Experience

As the story goes, Moses saw on the mountain a bush that was burning, but not consumed. The sight intrigued him. It represented a rift in his cosmic worldview, it was a contradiction from the way things he believe should be and he felt compelled to investigate. The rest of the story is his encounter with God which was deeply personal and profound in its implications. He did not initiate the event, but responded to the invitation.

Like every invitation we might receive to a wedding, a dinner party or to a gathering of friends, God’s invitation is an opportunity to participate. Most of the time, however, we simply don’t recognize them!

The details of Moses’ encounter are unique, but the pattern is not. Centuries later, blinded and hearing a heavenly voice in his head, Paul also recorded an encounter with God, which he did not initiate. Peter was fishing on the Sea of Galilee when he encountered a carpenter from Nazareth which he did not initiate. Such stories are countless, and are interwoven throughout history. The vast majority of humanity does not experience such dramatic events, but we all have burning bush experiences of one kind or another.. Most of us are too skeptical and suspicious to follow up on them. The impulse is to reject the phenomenon and look for the man behind the curtain, the corporeal "Oz" figure, pulling levers of deception, and guessing at motives.

My question is: Would you follow up on a Burning Bush Encounter like Moses or do you like to play it safe like the rich young ruler? What kind of RISK have you taken for God lately?



Growing in Faith



Growing in Faith

Step 1: Turn aside from **Ordinary** Life

“When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush...” v 4

People	Look out for #1 [Ex. Simon Peter]
Trouble*	I can manage my life just fine [Ex. Canaanite Woman]
Emptiness	I know what I need to be happy [Ex. rich young ruler]

ENCOUNTERING THE FIRE

Step 2: Surrender to an **Unmanageable** Power

Trust – “Moses, Moses...”

Respect – “Do not come any closer ...”

Submission – “Take off your shoes...”

I’m willing to do things I may not like, I’m willing to hear what I don’t want to hear, I’m willing face the contradictions in my life, because REALITY is not what I want it to be!

Step 3: Find the **Person** in the Flames

“There is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people.” 1 Timothy 2:5

Step 4: Become a **Burning Bush** in the World

“Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” Ephesians 4:24

NEW BEGINNINGS

Exodus 3:1-15

¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

⁴ When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

⁵ “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶ Then he said, “I am the God of your father, ^[a] the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look **at God.**

⁷ The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

¹² And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you ^[b] will worship God on this mountain.”

¹³ Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. ^[c] This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, ^[d] the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’

“This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.

“whenever God wants to play a real nasty trick on us, He grants us our deepest heart’s desire, then laughs merrily when we want to kill ourselves.”