

*"Taking you beyond the veil to find God's Presence"*

[www.NanJones.com](http://www.NanJones.com)

## Open My Eyes To See

Several years ago I found myself in a desperate place. My brother committed suicide, seven months later my dad died of leukemia, a very dear friend died of ovarian cancer—this after she and I stood in faith for her healing, under very difficult circumstances we left the church we had pastored for several years, I underwent major surgery—need I go on? This was a year that consumed my life with darkness. I was desperate to find God in the midst of my pain.

I began praying, *"Lord, open my eyes to see You. You promise never to leave me, but where are You?"* I needed the assurance that Job proclaimed. After devastating loss, Job said, "For I know my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!" (Job 9:25-27).

Thus began my quest.

I began to realize that not only is the Spirit of God within me because of my salvation, I began to understand that I am within Him! This was a life-changing—*Aha!*—moment. Exodus 33:14 reads, "And He said, 'My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.'" Rest. *Nu'ach*. Meaning to settle down, to be soothed or quieted, to be secure. *"Oh Lord, open my eyes to see Your Presence in my life,"* I prayed again and again. In John 15:4 Jesus said, *"Abide in Me and I will abide in you."* He also said in John 14:16,17, *"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may dwell with you forever—the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells **with** you AND will be **in** you."*

Can you see what I began to realize? The Lord gave me the understanding that, not only is He within me, but I am within Him—completely surrounded and immersed in His Spirit. Who knew? Isn't that beautiful? Suddenly things made sense. Now I could understand how to run *to* Him, how to rest *in* Him, how to walk *with* Him. Oh my goodness. The majesty of the Lord grew right before my eyes. I no longer limited His power

through my own frailties because I realized that He, in no way, was limited by me—He was not limited by being contained within *my* broken mess.

I asked the Lord to show me how to see Him in my surroundings. First, I looked to the scriptures. Psalm 139:7 reads, "*Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your Presence?*" That verse confirmed to me that the Spirit of God surrounds His Child. Then I learned that He rides on the wings of the wind (Psalm 18:10) and the clouds are the dust of His feet (Nahum 1:3). The Lord holds the seas in the hollow of His hand (Isaiah 40:12) and He hung the stars in place (Psalm 8:3). We can see His hand at the ocean, for He tells the waves how far they can come (Job 37:11), and He placed the sand as the boundary to the sea (Jeremiah 5:22). The scriptures became the filter with which to view my surroundings.

As I rock on my porch swing or walk along our mountain road, I turn my heart towards the Lord. I look for things that remind me of His Presence—things that I can connect to His Word, His promises, and His principles. For instance, as I watch a summer thunderstorm build on the horizon, I watch and I think. I observe its progression of threatening darkness and then relate the concept of a storm to something I'm struggling with. Next I notice how the earth grows still after the torrents of windblown rain, waiting, resting until the sun shines again. This reminds me to "Be still and know that I AM God." I notice in the progression of the storm that it comes out of nowhere. The intensity builds. The darkness permeates the light. And then, just as surely as it arrived, it's gone —just like my own personal storm. But I also realize that, just like the sun, the Light of God never went anywhere, it was only hidden by the storm.

As I walk, I might pass a fallen log on the meadows edge. I notice that it's dead, detached, broken. But then I see a butterfly light on its weathered form spotlighting beauty and hope. In the shadow of its brokenness—beneath its own weight—a tiny oak begins to grow. The soil is fertile where the broken tree lay, allowing new life to begin. I think of my own brokenness, the fertile soil it has created in my heart, the presence of hope the Lord continually sends my way. My spirit quickens within me as I realize that I can see the Lord's Presence in the fallen log and I can learn one of His mysteries if I take time to ponder.

Isn't this amazing? It's so simple and—now—it's so obvious to me. But how easily the veil shields His Presence. Perhaps that's because, as Christians, we are taught to walk in the reality that the Spirit of God is, in fact, in us, but our attention has not be led to the fact that we are, indeed, in Him. I encourage you to ask the Lord to open your eyes that you might see Him. He delights in revealing Himself to His child. I think, like me, you

will stand amazed at the goodness of the Lord. As you behold Him all about you, your faith will deepen. Your problems will seem smaller because of His magnitude and power.

I'm excited for you to join me on this journey. I promise this: your faith-life will be changed forever.