



A Holy Paradigm Shift

And He (God) said,
“My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”
Then he (Moses) said to Him,
“If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.”
Exodus 33:14-16 (NKJV)



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Have you ever had a holy **paradigm shift**?
Check out what God did while I **traveled** this summer:

On the second day of our summer **travels**, I found myself **longing** so terribly for **some thing**, that it seemed impossible to change my attitude. The pain of **desiring that thing** was very deep. So deep that I didn't want to **feel** it.

I asked the Lord to search my heart.
Was I sinning through discontentment or covetousness?
If so, it was separating me from **peace**.
After a time of prayer and confession, I was still in a place of **unrest**.
There seemed to be a deeper **stirring** *within my spirit by the Holy Spirit*.
Not only did He **want** repentance from sin,

but He also *desired* to shift an old **paradigm**.

On Saturday evening, I fell asleep desperately begging God to deliver me from my emotional mess. It was starting to **ruin my travels**. You see, the object of my **yearning** was a good and godly thing. The idea of attaining it provoked great **joy** and **rest** within me, producing a **refreshing** “place of the soul” that I wanted to **keep forever**. I recall saying to God, word for word,

“If I had this, **I’d want to stay there forever!**” and,
“I wouldn’t ever want to leave.”

*(Are you curious to know what I was **longing** for?
Hang in there, and keep reading...)*

On Saturday night, I pleaded to God for **relief**.

On Sunday morning at church, He came to my rescue...

in typical,

awesome,

Holy-Spirit-style.

This is what He did:

During **worship**, we sang a song I hadn’t heard before. In it was the phrase, word for word, **“I want to stay here forever.”** The song was about wanting to stay *in the Presence of the Lord* forever.

No longer was I speaking that phrase about a physical **thing** for which I was **aching**.

I was now singing, **“I want to stay here forever”** *to the Lord*,
about a *spiritual* place—
His Presence.

What a **paradigm shift**.

Another night later, I attended a **worship** and **healing** service at a different church. It was one of those amazing nights with Jesus: He spoke so many things personally, straight to my spirit, that I wrote 7 pages of notes in my journal. And that wasn’t all. The Holy Spirit put a seal and a stamp on the **paradigm shift** from the day prior:

Early in the service as I stood worshiping,
The Holy Spirit told me to **take off my sandals**.
I don’t make that my habit at church, but I knew it was the Lord,
so I **slipped off my shoes**.
Moments later, a person on the worship team paused and said,
“Maybe it’s **time to take off your shoes**.
God wants to do a **paradigm shift**.”

Sometimes He won't move us until we **take off our shoes.**"

The Lord was confirming His good work!

A bit later, the worship leader said the Lord had given him a new song that afternoon. He then played it for the first time. Guess what phrase was in that song? **"I don't ever want to leave."** The lyrics were about not wanting to leave... *God's Presence.*

In that moment, barefoot and undone, I was **radically freed!**

Suddenly **that thing** I'd been yearning for *didn't matter.*

My **eagerness** for **that thing** faded so much in light of *the Presence of the Lord*, that it completely disappeared.

In its place, God ushered in a greater, stronger **zeal** to
just be with Jesus.

Here is the moral of this true story:

Whether you're where you want to be or not, **worship Jesus.**

Whether you like your job or not, **worship Jesus.**

Whether or not you enjoy the person you're with, **worship Jesus.**

Whether things turned out the way you wanted or not, **worship Jesus.**

Worship Him as you prepare a meal, **worship Him** as you clean up.

Worship Him in the shower, and **worship Him** in the car.

Worship Him when you're talking with someone you love, and

worship Him when you're with someone who irritates you.

Seriously. *The environment doesn't matter!*

Worship Jesus, and you'll actively *stay in His Presence,*
aware of Him in every moment.

Choose to **love** Him, **need** Him, and **long** for Him so much that you truly
"don't ever want to leave."

CHALLENGE:

Do you want to know what **that thing** was, that I had **desired**?

I'm not going to tell you.

Why? *Because **that thing** doesn't matter.*

Instead, I'll leave *you* with a question:

What is **"that thing"** in *your* life?

What are you **needing** so badly,
that its absence in your life is **"ruining your travels"**?

Confess discontentment and covetousness, then let **that thing** go.

It doesn't matter.

In Exodus 3, God instructs Moses to **remove his sandals**. He then proceeds to reveal Himself to Moses as **I AM**.

"Take your sandals off your feet,
for the place where you stand is holy ground." Exodus 3:5b

God is all you need Him to be. *He is I AM*. He is your everything.

Kick off your shoes,
and let the Lord produce within you a **paradigm shift:**
Long for His Presence alone.
He took my soul to *that* place, and *that's* where I'm **staying.**
Forever.
I don't ever want to leave.

Come join me!

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