



# The Grace of Renewal

Exodus 33, 34

# 1. Why We Need Renewal?

1. Depravity of the Heart
2. Declension of the Soul
3. Distortion of the Gospel
4. Departure of God's Presence

## 2. What is Renewal?

Experiencing HIS PRESENCE

Embracing HIS GLORY

Encountering ALL HIS GOODNESS



## 2. What is Renewal?

Experiencing a divine sense of  
God's Beauty, Holiness and Truth

### 3. How Can I Experience Renewal?

When the people heard this disastrous word, **they mourned**, and no one put on his ornaments. For the Lord had said to Moses, “Say to the people of Israel, ‘You are a stiff-necked people; if for a single moment I should go up among you, I would consume you.’”

### **3. How Can I Experience Renewal?**

So now **take off your ornaments**, that I may know what to do with you.” Therefore the people of Israel **stripped themselves of their ornaments**, from Mount Horeb onward.

Exodus 33:4-6

# 3. How Can I Experience Renewal?

AWARENESS

AGONY

ABANDONMENT

APPROPRIATION

# 3. How Can I Experience Renewal?

## AWARENESS

Where is the blessing I knew  
When I first saw the Lord?  
Where is the soul's refreshing view  
Of Jesus and His word?  
I hear but seem to hear in vain  
Insensible as steel



# 3. How Can I Experience Renewal?

## AWARENESS

### The Priceless Grace & Pain of Self-Awareness

“Our sinfulness is the bread that sustains us...We must not deny or ignore the depth of our evil, for paradoxically, our sinfulness becomes our bread”. *(Teresa of Avila)*

# 3. How Can I Experience Renewal?

## AGONY

Mother Teresa - a profound sense of spiritual emptiness, doubt, and a feeling of God's absence, commonly referred to as the "**dark night of the soul.**"

# 3. How Can I Experience Renewal?

## AGONY

... her "inner darkness" allowed her to identify with and share in the sufferings of those she served ... a way to draw closer to Christ's own experience of abandonment on the cross (the fellowship of Christ's suffering).

# 3. How Can I Experience Renewal?

## AGONY

Mother Teresa - a testament to her profound faith and her willingness to continue serving despite her inner struggles. Others find it relatable and see it as an example of the challenges that can arise on the spiritual path.

# Redemptive Power of the Cross & Resurrection

*kintsugi - Japanese art of mending things with gold*



God is so triumphant over evil that every scar you incur in this life will only make your eventual joy and glory in the resurrection greater.

The resurrection does not only give you hope eventually for the future; it gives you hope to handle your scars right now.

# Gifts in Disguise

- Pain of Darkness

Mother Teresa's DARK LETTERS.

“The greater the pain and the darker the darkness the sweeter will be my smile at God”.



# 3. How Can I Experience Renewal?

## AGONY

... he saw a word on the page: the word *glory* ... instantly, like a blaze of light, he felt the very glory of God surround him. The nearness of God and the reality of heaven both became overwhelming truths ... into a state of ecstasy and joy ... he fell to the ground and wept and remained in this basic condition for several days.     *M. Lloyd Jones*

# 3. How Can I Experience Renewal?

## AGONY

What peaceful hours I once enjoyed!  
How sweet their memory still!  
**But they have left an aching void**  
**The world can never fill.**



# APPROPRIATION

And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. And he said, “If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.”

# APPROPRIATION

And he said, “Behold, I am making a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been created in all the earth or in any nation. And all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the LORD, for it is an awesome thing that I will do with you.

Exodus 34:9-10



# **APPROPRIATING** **the Justifying Work of Christ**

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# **APPROPRIATING the Justifying Work of Christ**

Many have so light an apprehension of God's holiness and of the extent and guilt of their sin that consciously they see little need for justification, although below the surface of their lives they are deeply guilt-ridden and insecure. *Lovelace*

# What Renewal Produces?

1. Awareness of God's Presence
2. Responsiveness to God's Word
3. Sensitiveness to Sin
4. Liveliness in Community
5. Fruitfulness in Testimony