

Seeing GOD Through Ordinary Eyes



BSSF-2

**Seeing GOD
Through
Ordinary Eyes**

By
Lee Bee Teik

BYTE SIZE SOLID FOOD SERIES

For the Ordinary Believer



A Reconre Publication

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About the “Byte Size Solid Food Series”

Why Byte Size?

A byte is a unit of information storage in computer chips. It is already an accepted means of messaging technology since the late 20th century in Malaysia. *Byte size* also has the same sound as *bite size*, which is to imply that the BSSF Series is to reach readers with small chewable and digestible amounts of the teaching of God’s word. Reconre prays that you will have an enjoyable meal as you ponder on His word while reading through the series.

Why Solid Food?

Living in a developing nation has its advantages and disadvantages, if hindsight assessment of more developed nations may be a guide. We are glad to discover more of God’s creativity through mankind. However, in our hectic rush to advance in technological research, we may forget the One who alone has endowed us with the means to use and enjoy the fruits of our research. Therefore, this series of small books are the result of an effort to feed not only the minds but also the hearts and souls of readers so that they may fulfill God’s vision of remaking them into His image. For this, we need the solid reading and meditation of His word from the Bible, and not only the drinking of the milk of the first teaching on our new birth in Christ.

The writer to the Hebrews reminds us in 5:11-14...

“We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

Reconre hopes that many other home grown writers and publishers will surface to contribute their solid food through the written word so that God’s people in Malaysia will not remain or become spiritually anaemic. That the pen is mightier than the sword still holds true, I believe.

Finally, let us proclaim with Jude in Jude verse 24...now,

“To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only wise God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore. Amen.”

Lee Bee Teik
Publication Officer
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How to Use this Book

- Start from the front of the book and read sequentially
- Take your time. Do not rush through the meditations.
- Pause to ponder in between sections.
- You may use it for Personal/Group Study or during your Quiet Time alone with God.
- If used in a group, meet weekly or at regular intervals to share, pray and apply what you have learnt together.
- Suggestion for Personal Reflection:

Set aside 30 minutes or more [depending on your current spiritual needs] to meditate on what you have read. Talk to Jesus, our Friend of friends, about the day's reading. Better still, take a few days off from work and ponder on His word with Him by Your side. If you need a venue for this purpose, contact the staff of Reconre Sdn Bhd in Malaysia at reconcilor@reconre.org

Shalom

Come,

Let us Read...

Let us Listen...

Let us Ponder...

Let us Pray...

Let us Love, Trust & Obey...

JESUS!

Seeing God through Ordinary Eyes

“Who are You, Lord?”

To know God is the reason for our existence. *Christianity is knowing the living God.* However, as believers, let us not forget that Christianity is not mere knowledge *about* God. It is also about entering into an intimate relationship with God. From this angle, knowing God *means enjoying eternal friendship with the eternal Father of all mankind and with His beloved Son, Jesus (1 Corinthians 8:6; John 17:3).* The Holy Spirit has been sent to help us re-enter into and develop this relationship once we have been born again into God’s family. Being made in God’s image, we are able to respond to and even enjoy Him forever, even if our present knowledge of Him is imperfect. We are actually living our earthly lives trying to find out more about Someone who is relevant to us, even if many of us do not yet know Him up close. Let us journey on as we ask and ponder on the question:

“Who are You, Lord?”

Truly, each pilgrim who knows Him, even if slightly, will have much to share, given the opportunity. Is this true for you?

Pause

Saul asked in Acts 9:5, *“Who are You, Lord?”*



Os Guinness shares in his book, *God in the Dark*, that the view many people (Christians included) have of God is out of focus. He is either a “god all wrong” or “a god too small”.

We held to the “*god all wrong*” view before we became Christians, a view shaped by a world that does not acknowledge the existence or relevance of the true God. It is based on non-biblical presuppositions.

On the other hand, the “*god too small*” view is mainly due to wrong teaching about God that distorts the true character of God. Perhaps this is to be expected as such instruction comes from imperfect human beings, although they may be Christians. For example, I once heard a pastor who commented that he would rather be an atheist than a follower of

liberal theology. What did he mean? As an *atheist*, he could simply enjoy the world – because he believes there is no God to whom he must be accountable; man came to be by accident and will fight for his own survival. As a follower of *liberal theology*, however, even though he may be a Christian, he can neither enjoy the world nor God...because he chooses which portions of Scriptures he wants to believe in...and it can get pretty hard to know what to choose at times.

Intentionally or unintentionally, during much of our waking hours, we live our lives according to what we believe about God, even though all our problems arise from the fact that we will not let God be God. We would like to usurp His position, if we could, like our ancestors, Adam and Eve tried to do so. However, the man who has met with the living and personal God, as revealed in His Son Jesus, finds his longing fulfilled as his restless heart is filled with the Holy Presence and Love of God.

Nevertheless, for many people, the thought of God stirs up in them, consciously or subconsciously, a sense of restless discontent, fear, irrationality and/or irritability. When a conflict surfaces in our lives, we wonder if it is because God is untrue to His word or has forgotten us. Is He not who the Bible says He is? Since He has shown Himself to us in history in the person of Jesus Christ His Son, why do we, over 2000 years later, still *not* experience Him enough to trust Him more? Who is God, really, at gut level? Is He great and reliable enough for us to put our lives in His hands? When we kneel before Him in the privacy of our room, do our feelings for Him and what we believe about Him coincide or are they at odds with each other? Are we

schizophrenic in our relationship with God; we believe in Him but our feelings for Him are rather detached and He does not seem to be relevant to our mundane existence?

Generally, some of us may not know Him personally yet. We might have heard about Jesus from songs and jingles sung whenever Christmas comes around. What we hear and sing in those songs make us feel warm and good. However, if God is for real, then we must meet with Him to see what He has to say about our beautiful but severely damaged world; we want to ask Him why He has not yet put right all the wrongs we have experienced down here. We are like the Athenians in Acts 17:16-23; we acknowledge there is a sort of greatest being or highest power out there but we do not know His name, and so we call Him “*The Unknown God*” in our heart of hearts.

However, I would guess that most of us are more like Saul the religious Pharisee and scholar, or busy Martha. We often think we already know Him enough until a crisis hits us and makes us stop and ask Him,

“Who are You really, my God?? If You are really who the Bible says You are, WHY has this trouble befallen me? Why does my husband desert me? Why does my child embarrass me? Why does a Christian worker hurt me? Why can't I fulfill my dream for my career? Why do You make so many demands on me...etc. etc...?”

At such times, we do not ask questions for fun anymore; we ask because we need answers to life's dilemma! As Christians who have once committed our lives to the living God, we may feel betrayed by the One in whom we have

placed our trust...even though we still hold back from giving too much of ourselves to Him. Our faith in Him is usually not so much *childlike* (which is what Jesus said it should be), but *childish*. Life has been smooth and easy till now. We have made little effort to know Him better before this, resulting in our chronological and spiritual maturity developing at different rates and in disharmony with one another. Often, we view God as One who is distant and looking the other way; we think of Him as a police officer who leaves us alone to run our lives as long as we do not disturb our neighbour's peace.

I suspect all of us have this view of God now and then, if not most of the time. Let me try to persuade you from the gospels and personal experience, that though God is indeed holy and perfect, He is actually very approachable, forgiving, down to earth and concerned for us. He is looking for all means and ways to draw us to experience the reality of His abundant life...and it is a life that is much better than a happy retirement or a rewarding and exciting career in this IT age!

Pause

Reflection

“Who are You, Lord?”

“That God exists, that He is great and that He is near, is no secret to us. But where is the secret? Here it is: God was crucified; He allows Himself to be defeated; He has revealed Himself in the poor; He has washed feet; He is Jesus of Nazareth.”

[Adapted from “Why, O Lord?” by Carlo Caretto]

1. Read Acts 9:1-19; Genesis 15; Exodus 15.
2. Observe how God communicates with of His people.
3. Journal
4. Let us explore our relationship with the true God by asking ourselves four questions:
 - I Why do we, having been forgiven and reconciled with God, need to know Him increasingly?
 - II What are some things God has said about Himself and His relationship with us?
 - III What does knowing God mean to me, an ordinary believer?
 - IV What then shall I do?

Dr. Lee Bee Teik is the founding director of Reconre Ministries. She earlier laid down the practice of medicine to be with her children. In 1992, the Lord called her to the writing ministry and then to minister to His fulltime workers through pastoral counselling and quiet retreats. Her other areas of service include the training of lay pastoral counsellors and the facilitating of personal or small group quiet retreats and seminars. Dr Lee is married to Bishop (Dr) Hwa Yung of the Methodist Church in Malaysia and they have three adult children.



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