

A walk with Mr O (35)

A Living Bright Reality

Mr O, our recent walks have been truly helpful but, if I'm honest, I still have days when the Lord Jesus Christ isn't real to me. Right now, as we walk, you are real to me. But I can't say that He is. And yet I want Him to be.

Tell me about your unconverted friends. Do they share your desire?
Are they longing and yearning for the Lord Jesus Christ to be real to them?

Of course not! Most of them have no interest in Him whatever. Some of them don't even believe that He exists, or ever did. But I'm not like them, am I? I've been converted! I'm on the Lord's side now. I love Him. And I want to be like Him. But that doesn't seem to make Him real to me.

So, something has happened to you, and it's obviously something supernatural.
The Lord Himself has changed you. And it is He who has put this desire in your heart.
Do you think that He would put that desire there if He had no intention of satisfying it?

No, I suppose not. Thanks, Mr O, I'm already beginning to cheer up.

And so, you should . I don't know when it will be and I don't know how it will happen,
but in His own time and way the Lord will unveil Himself to you again.
One thing I can tell you, however, is that it won't be by way of phenomena.

I don't know what you mean.

Maybe you need to look at Hebrews chapter 12 sometime, where the apostle makes it clear that meeting Jesus is not a matter of earthquakes, lightning, thunder, trumpets and heavenly voices. It's something internal, not external. It's something that happens in the soul.

You mean like Elijah on Horeb, where the Lord wasn't in the wind, earthquake or fire, but spoke to him in 'a still small voice'?

Exactly. The Lord met Elijah deep down inside him. He did the same to us on the day of our conversion, and that is how He continues to meet us.

This is something that unconverted people just can't get their head round.

So, you really believe, Mr O, that the Lord will become real to me again soon?

Yes, I do, but I don't know if it will be soon. Our forefathers used to speak about 'the lure of strong desire'. If you want Him, and want Him badly, He won't be able to stay away. If you want Him to be real to you, you can be sure that He wants to be real to you.

But for this to happen you may have to wait, wait, wait, as the Scriptures constantly stress. The Lord does things in His own time, not ours.

So, what do I do while I'm waiting?

You express your love for the Lord Jesus Christ by keeping His commandments. The key passage here is John 14:15-24. You devote your life to Him 24/7 by thinking what He wants you to think, by saying what He wants you to say, by doing what He wants you to do – and by receiving forgiveness at the cross for all the times you haven't.

And then what?

In that passage the Saviour promises to manifest Himself to every believer who lovingly obeys Him. And He goes further than that; He says that in every such believer He and His Father will make their home.

But Mr O, I have a problem – a big problem.

Yes, you do, and I have the same problem. The Lord promises to be real to obedient Christians. But I am completely unable to be 100% obedient to Him 24 hours a day. It's beyond me. So, it looks as if I can never claim the promise.

But Jesus also promises that every believer will be indwelt by His Spirit, and that in this way He Himself will be resident in our hearts. He will not leave us orphans. He will not turn His back on us.

We shall never be bereft. It's because of the indwelling Christ that we desire obedience, grow in obedience, and find increasingly that He is to us 'a living bright reality'.