



Back to Bethel

Fall Sermon Series
October



**Lesson Four:
Pursuing God's Presence**

Back to Bethel Series

**Genesis 35:7, And he built
— there an altar and called the
place El-Bethel: because there,
God appeared unto him.**



—The World Can't Satisfy Us.



**II Corinthians 3:18, But we all,
with open face beholding as in a
glass the glory of the Lord, are
changed into the same image
from glory to glory, even as by the
Spirit of the Lord.**

**I John 2:15-16, Love not the world, neither
the things that are in the world. If any man
loves the world, the love of the Father is
not in him. For all that is in the world, the
lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes,
and the pride of life, is not of the Father,
but is of the world.**



Observation One

Bethel is a Place of Brokenness.





**Genesis 35:8, But Deborah,
Rebekah's nurse died, and she
was buried beneath Bethel under
an oak: and the name of it was
called Allonbachuth.**





**“Allonbachuth” means the
place of weeping.**





— **Psalm 51:17, A broken and
contrite heart, oh God, thou wilt
not despise.**





**Psalm 30:5, Weeping may
endure for a night, but joy
cometh in the morning.**





Romans 8:18, For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.



I Peter 1:6-7, Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

**I Peter 5:10, The God of all grace, who
hath called us unto His eternal glory by
Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered
a while, make you perfect, stablish,
strengthen, settle you.**



Observation Two

— **Bethel Changes Everything.**



Genesis 35:9-10, God appeared unto Jacob again, when he came out of Padanaram, and blessed him. And God said unto him, thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel.



— **Observation Three**
Bethel Sets us Free.



✓ **The Word of God is powerful and sharper than any sword (Hebrews 4:12).**

✓ **It is mighty through God to the pulling down of every stronghold (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).**

✓ **For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:18).**

✓ **It is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes (Romans 1:16).**



Eight Ways You Can Pursue and Experience God's Presence:





**Set Aside Time at the Beginning and
End of Your Day to Pray.**





**Prayer is the most intimate
piece of a Christian's walk
with the Lord.**





**2. Identify and Remove Sinful
Actions from Your Life.**





**3. Build a Habit of Expressing
Gratitude to God.**





**4. Read God's Word with the
Purpose of Knowing Him.**





**5. Learn to Be Joyful in All
Circumstances.**





6. Remove Your Heart's Idols
Giving Christ His Rightful Place.





**7. Surrender All Areas of Your
— Life to His Perfect Will.**





8. Pray for the Eyes to See Evidence of His Presence.





— **“The Christian life is to live
all of your life in the
presence of God.”**



Bible Study Follow Up Chat Questions:

1. What is your greatest takeaway from today's lesson?

2. What question(s) do you have regarding today's lesson?

3. Why can't the world satisfy you?

4. In what way(s) can Bethel be a place of Brokenness?

5. How was Jacob changed at Bethel? Give some examples.

6. Identify one way you can pursue God's presence. Explain.

7. Can you give a scripture related to the presence of God?