

## THE PENIEL GENERATION

### Psalm 24:6

“*Peniel*” means “*the face of God*”. It is the name of the place where Jacob when he came to “*Ground Zero*” in life, sought God and found Him. This happened at a time in Jacob’s life when he needed help and all human help seems inadequate. He prayed and God answered His prayers. God not only solved His problem, after the encounter, his life changed. He became completely and permanently transformed. He became a prince of God. God is still in the business of changing lives and destinies today. He will change yours if you seek Him in prayer as Jacob did.

Our text Psalm 24:6 is in some way connected to Jacob’s encounter in Peniel. Psalm 24:6 represent Jacob’s experience as a generational struggle, pursuit, expression and encounter. There is a need for a generation of people like Jacob today whom nothing but the presence of God can satisfy. My prayer is that God will impact upon your life all that it takes to be counted as one of them in Jesus name.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Generational thirst for divine encounter
2. Possibility and reality of intimacy with God
3. Covenantal blessings of tarrying in God’s presence

#### 1. **Generational thirst for divine blessing**

Psalm 24:3-6, 42:2, 130:5, 6, Isaiah 2:3, Zechariah 8:21-22, Micah 4:1-2, Exodus 33:1-4, 13-14

“*Generation*” as used in our text refers to persons, group of people, class, community or race united by peculiar trait, common identity and unique characteristics – they are seekers of God’s face. There are two possible motives noticeably in those who seek God. Some come to seek His hand. They desire and earnestly pray daily for the manifestation of His mighty hand in their lives, circumstances and situation. The seekers in our text wanted more than that. They are not satisfied with gifts. They desire the abiding presence of the Giver in their life and are ready to stay in the secret place of prayer until God reveals Himself to them.

In every dispensation, we have and always find a group of people more defined by their closeness to God than their titles, wealth or position. These are not random believers or occasional worshippers. Their motive for worship goes beyond casual curiosity, love for rituals or participation in perfunctory church traditions. They desire a worship experience, an encounter that is real, invigorating and transforming hence prioritize relationship with God over results, His presence over His provisions, and intimacy with Him over material gains. Their driving passion and reason for coming to church and to fellowship is to know God more and more, to discover His love, to constantly dwell in

the light of His presence and be surrounded by His glory. United with others by collective identity of faithfulness to God in little and in great things, their worship lives are rich, deep and genuine. They daily seek God's guidance and approval in all that they do and passionately plead for His favour and multiplied grace upon their life at all times. Are you one of such people? If not, why not?

## **2. Possibility and reality of intimacy with God**

Psalm 24:4-6, John 3:19-21, Hebrews 4:13, Genesis 32:24, 26-30, Exodus 34:5-6, 29, Luke 9:28-29, Exodus 24:9-11

Our text situates within a worship song and psalm that eulogized God's sovereignty, power and glory. He is Almighty. Hence, He has all it takes to make us what He wanted us to be. However, we must come to Him. God's best is never dispensed arbitrarily. It is for those who actively pursue serious relationship with Him and can withstand the penetrating light and scrutiny of their lifestyles. Those who hide things or have things to hide does not want light. Such people cannot endure the presence of God "*the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning*" James 1:17. God's best is for those who take God serious and are intentional in their desire for a "*face to face conversation*" with God (using modern language).

Two things in our text pointed to the possibility of experiencing and enjoying intimacy with God. The first is a clearly stated prerequisite and the second a reference to Jacob. Comparing Genesis 32: 22-26 with Psalm 24:6 revealed that the God of Jacob specialize in meeting with, blessing and transforming imperfect people. The experiences of Moses after spending 40days on Mount Horeb and that of our Lord Jesus Christ on Mount of Transfiguration shows that encounter with God and divine glory is not an exclusive privilege of a few. We are all invited to come to the innermost court and worship where the presence of God is revealed. The Lord promised that those who seek Him will find Him and He will bless them.

## **3. Covenantal blessing of tarrying in God's presence**

Psalm 24:5, 89:34, Isaiah 51:2, Galatians 3:29, 1 Corinthians 10:1-5, John 3:3, 5, Mathew 6:33, I Corinthians 15:19, Jeremiah 29:11-13, Hosea 10:12

God is a covenant keeping God. He faithfully kept His covenant with the Patriarch including Abraham. Believers are welcome to participate in the covenant blessing that God gave to Abraham through our faith in Christ Jesus. However, it clear from our text and surrounding verses that the moral conditions of seekers of the God of Jacob matters Psalm 24:3-4. God first transformed Jacob before blessing Him. God changed his life and attitude before releasing to him the blessings He promised the fathers which Jacob tried to inherit by fraud that got him into trouble. Except a man be born again he cannot see

the kingdom of God John 3:3, 5. Even beyond repentance, we must seek spiritual growth and maturity. We must tarry in His presence. God in His word join righteous living with fervency in prayers to obtain life changing and generationally transforming result in Christian living and ministry James 5:16. Men always ought to pray and not faint Mathew 18:1. Laziness in prayer is not a virtue. It makes men victims of circumstances rather than overcomers.

We must seek God, we must seek His face Psalm 24:6, we must seek His strength and we must His presence 1 Chronicles 16:11. We must seek His righteousness Zephaniah 2:3. We must commit our cause into His hands Job 5:8. In challenging times we must seek refuge in Him Psalm 142:5. Our hands must be clean and our hearts purified when we come into His presence. Our outward actions and inner motives must align with His values. Our lifestyle must conform to principles of honesty, integrity and godliness. We must be ascending in our devotion to God and resist every attempt to keep us down by spiritual forces of gravity.

According to our text, those who do these things shall be holy and be truly happy. God will save them, clean them up, sanctify them and impart upon them His righteousness. He will bless them tremendously on earth, He will prepare them for eternal habitation in heaven. These blessings can be yours today if you give your life or re-dedicate your life to the Lord Jesus Christ and tarry before God in prayer. You can do it now!. Our text revealed that if we seek God's face we shall receive blessings from the Lord and righteousness from the God of our salvation. I pray that these blessings shall be yours today in Jesus name!