

Enter the Sanctuary

DEVOTIONAL BY PASTOR RICK GARRETT



SANCTUARY HELPS US REMEMBER.

In 2022, Pastor Mike called us to consider the fullness of God. A challenge to embrace all that God is and all that He has for us as a church and as individuals.

This theme worked its way into our church and our hearts and reminded us that the fullness of God is the source of our teaching and healing.

This year as we approach the theme of sanctuary, we shift our attention from *the source* to *the outcome* of the fullness of God. The peace of true sanctuary can only follow the presence of the fullness of God. It's a common experience throughout the Scriptures: in the presence of external chaos, internal peace can be found when God shows up.

SANCTUARY IS NOT A PLACE.

It is a reality experienced in the presence of God.

We see this time and time again. God meeting His people in their moment of desperation and bringing them sanctuary – reprieve from the anxiety and stress around them and into a place of deeper rest in Him. And so much of what God does to bring sanctuary to us is simply to remind us of truth. In fact, we teach this to our people in *Discover Grace* – each week we show up to worship to be reminded and to remind others of the gospel we all so desperately need.

SANCTUARY REMINDS US THAT GOD SEES US.

The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert...

She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." Genesis 16:7, 13

SANCTUARY REMINDS US THAT GOD’S POWER COMES TO US THROUGH FAITH.

“Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?” And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.” Matthew 14:29-33

SANCTUARY REMINDS US WHO GOD IS AND WHAT GOD HAS DONE.

Then I thought, “To this I will appeal: the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand. I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds.” Your ways, God, are holy. What god is as great as our God? You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. Psalm 77:10-15



As we look ahead to a new year, it is always helpful to pause and reflect upon the wins of the past season - to remember what God has done, the ways He has shown up, and the prayers that He has answered.

Take a moment to list those things here and thank God for showing up:
