

Good morning! Have you ever found yourself in a situation that overwhelmed you, spiritually? Maybe it was a dream; maybe you had an encounter with God that was different from what you had experienced before; maybe you suddenly understood something about God that you had never known or experienced. How did you handle it? When I came to Christ I was 19 years old. Even though I was raised in church and had been taught a lot of scripture and doctrine, the Bible was suddenly a new book to me. I was learning a lot and experiencing God in ways that were, for me, new and different. I thought my parents (both longtime Christians) didn't know anything about God so I spent a lot of time trying to educate them. What do you do when you encounter God in a new way? This morning, let's look in on some folks who had a new experience with God and see how they handled it:

Some eight days after these sayings, He took along Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing became white and gleaming. And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions had been overcome with sleep; but when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men standing with Him. And as these were leaving Him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tabernacles: one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not realizing what he was saying. While he was saying this, a cloud formed and began to overshadow them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!" And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent, and reported to no one in those days any of the things which they had seen.

Luke 9:28-36

The event in passage is commonly referred to as the Transfiguration. Jesus and the disciples had just finished feeding thousands of

people, using a kid's lunch. Now he was taking these three of His closest disciples up the mountain for a short prayer retreat. While Jesus was praying, He began to glow. He was joined by two men, Moses and Elijah, who had been gone for hundreds of years. Those disciples had somehow drifted off to sleep and when they woke up they were right in the middle of this event. What would you do if this happened to you? Here's what Peter did---he said something religious. "Hey, Jesus, I have a great idea! Let's build three tabernacles here; one for You and the other two for Moses and Elijah!" What? Really? The Bible says that while Peter was saying that, a cloud came down around them and God reprimanded them out loud, saying: "This is My Son, My chosen One; listen to Him!" Peter had awakened in the Presence of God and wanted to do all the talking! Interestingly, they must have taken this rebuke to heart because the Bible says they didn't tell anyone about what had happened on the mountain. OK, so what do you do when you have a supernatural encounter with God that you don't understand? Let me make a suggestion: don't do anything. Allow it to percolate for a while and let God sort it out for you. You don't need the varying perspectives of all of your friends---just hold on to it for a period of time and let your understanding grow. Learn to listen to God. We often don't really know the significance of an event until a long time afterward. Real maturity takes time - be willing to wait!