



Can God be seen and heard?
-pastor Jerry

God Sightings. Some friends are bird watchers. They look for and love to share about eagles, cardinals, even sparrows. You know when you're with a bird watcher because, before long, their passion produces a story about a bird sighting.

Many expect or at least hope to see, hear about, or encounter the Living God in Christ's church. I am convinced that God is active in every life, including yours. But, passionate stories about God's activity in our lives seem few and far between. Ritual and routine is comforting and necessary but it's easy to seek the method instead of the Master. Are we looking for God?

I've ministered to Christ's church and God's world since 1995. I've weathered the "traditional" versus "contemporary" worship wars. I've seen the charismatic movement's emotionalism alienate and dry, emotionless routine leave worshipers staring vacantly as they endure another pointless speech or 18th century bar tune turned dirge. Are we looking for God?

Regularly a wisp of heaven blows through my week and I experience in my heart, mind, or world the Living God. I watch myself on video and I wonder why that experience doesn't always translate. I hate the sound of my voice and it's true – video adds 10 (or 30) pounds. I hate being vain. I like humility when it comes. Can God be seen and heard through me?

Speaking of Jesus, John the Baptist says: "He must become greater; I must become less" (John 3:30). Perhaps, the world is in a state of change similar to that moment by the Jordan River. But, the church and clergy may be on the other side of the river this time – hopefully, not a brood of vipers, but a brood nonetheless. Can God be seen and heard through us?

Matthew 28:19-20, "Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

An age has ended. Perhaps this is a time for all of us to come to the river and be immersed once again into the teaching, commands, and mission of Jesus who is the Christ.