

## ***New Sermon Series: Encounters with THE Holy Spirit***

7/13/25 “For Intimacy with God,” Ezekiel 8:1, MEV

**INTRODUCTION** *marry, cohabit & REALLY get to know...?*  
*Relationship becomes little more complicated...to please, not offend*  
*SFLB*: Date = September 17, 592 B.C., just over a year after opening vision of glory of God in first chapter. Ezekiel had prophesied severe judgment; now he is shown why

**MAIN IDEA: More of God’s Spirit helps us better know God.**  
How? He helps us better understand God in three ways.

### **I. First, He helps us better perceive God**

A. His likeness (2) *Jesus; see also Ez. 1:26-28*

**Likeness**: resemblance (Strong’s), copy or form (CBL OT),

1. like us...*appearance of a man*
2. unlike us...*fire & brightness as glowing metal*

B. His glory (3-4) *see also Ez. 1:28*

**Glory**: God’s splendor (brilliant appearance), magnificence, and majesty; no human language can fully describe God’s glory (*Stamp*)

1. in the inner court
2. indicating His presence

C. His *presence*, His *person*

1. know He is making His presence known to us
2. we *sense* Him, hear Him...*a person with us*

**ILLUSTRATION**: b4 BofHS: dream, 2<sup>nd</sup> blessing; after: sense Him

### **II. Second, He helps us better understand what grieves God**

- A. not just knowing sins as ideas or even by experience
- B. seeing them from His heart within us by the Holy Spirit

**Examples...**

- idolatry... vs. 3, 5 *image of jealousy, drives Him away* (6)
  1. worshiping creatures (10)

2. heartfelt attempts to gain from demons (14, 17)

**Tammuz**: Babylonian god of vegetation. *Stamp*: When plant life died in fall season, people mourned what they thought was his death.

*Hayford*: to put to their nose was their attempt to inhale the supposed lifegiving powers of a revived Tammuz

- **sins of leaders**...70 elders (10-11)
- **hidden sin** (12)...*He sees our every sin, “hidden” or not*
- **insulting God** (blasphemy)...*at temple but worshiping sun* (16)

*SFLB*: The temple at Jerusalem was oriented to the east; to worship the sun one had to turn his back toward the temple.

- **filling the land with violence**... *through sin* (17)

**ILLUSTRATION**: b4 I read “pride”; after: God shows me *mine*

### **III. Finally, He helps us better understand God’s reactions**

A. His emotional responses

1. jealousy (3)...idol at *His* place of worship
2. anger (17)...*His* people committing abominations

**Abomination**: dangerous, sinister, repulsive to another person; detestable to God because contrary to His character (*Strong’s*)

B. His actions

1. leaving us (6)...*place of worship because of idolatry*
2. anger (17)...*provoked by our sin*
3. fury (18)...*accumulation of our idolatry & sin*
4. mercilessness (18)...*as a just judge to people who will not repent, submit, surrender to Christ*
5. ignoring prayer (18)...*those who have persisted in sin despite warnings & great mercy*

**ILLUSTRATION**:

**CONCLUSION**: Wonder why God disciplined Israel, will punish rebels. We don’t know Him well. But He wants us to.

**ALTAR**: Want to know God better? Seek more of God’s Holy Spirit. Be baptized in HS, be refilled—and be prepared to adjust