

# Fresh Oil



September 2011

Dear Fellow Servants,

I love fresh starts and September is one of those times for us in the church year to get just that, a fresh start after a relaxing (hopefully!) summer. It is a time to get things back into gear. I want to draw your attention this month to the temptation of interpreting that fresh start to mean, “doing more.” Consider, if you will, the simple but powerful words of 1 Chronicles 16:11 (emphasis mine):

***“Seek the LORD and His strength;  
Seek His face continually.”***

I want to make a distinction here between serving God and seeking His “face.” No doubt we all want to be “good and faithful servants” and that is certainly a good thing. However, God’s deep desire is for us to seek His face, which is His precious presence. Our service to Him should be a natural outpouring of His presence in our lives, who He really is. How would you feel if your children or grandchildren did jobs for you around your house and cooked you supper but didn’t stay to eat it with you? Let’s just say what you really want is for them to spend time with you but all they want to do is run around and do things for you? They think they are doing you a favour by all their hard work and busyness, when in actual fact what your heart desires is to for them to simply sit and enjoy your company.

Do we do this with God? In all of our wonderful programs and outreaches for Him, do we get so caught up with maintaining programs that we miss His presence? Oh my, that’s like missing the forest for the trees! God wants to bless us and bring the fruit from our programs for His glory, but first things must be first. Look at Hosea 10:12:

***Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing  
Love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to  
Seek the LORD, until He comes and showers  
Righteousness on you.”***

So, I am declaring that this September is the “time to seek the LORD” and to begin a pattern where we seek Him continuously. That means get your Bible out, turn the television and computer off and spend some time just soaking in His presence. Better yet, ask a friend to take this journey with you. Let your service FOR Him spring from your time WITH Him.

Your fellow servant, *Pastor Brian*

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*... I have been anointed with fresh oil*

PSALM 92:10

