

In 2006, come near to God, and he will come near to you.**James 4.8**

One of the greatest truths of the universe is that God is on a persistent redemptive search for each one of us. Could 2006 be the year when he finds you?

Entering into a relationship with God is not so much a matter of trying to find him as of letting him find us. This must not be understood, however, to mean that since God has done everything possible to save us, our individual salvation is now automatic. God has gone to the utmost lengths to save us, but in order to be saved we must turn to him in contrition and repentance and invite him to take up residence within us.

There are many people who think that because they have felt God close to them at certain times in their life (for instance, when they had a miraculous escape from death or something happened that seemed more than a coincidence) they must be favoured by him and have no need to invite him into their hearts. Certainly there are many people who have an awareness of God's presence at times, but they can never experience the rich sense of his presence in their hearts until they invite him to come in. He loves every one of his creation, but he loves them too much to gatecrash the soul. He comes in only as we give our consent.

'No one is constitutionally incapable of finding God,' says Billy Graham. If we do not find him, then the problem is not to do with our constitution but with our consent. When, by an act of the will, you decide to let God in, then believe me, nothing in earth or heaven can keep him out.

So if you realise that what you have at present is religion and not a personal relationship with God, then pray this prayer now:

'Gracious and loving father, I realise that my eternal destiny is in my own hands. You have done all you need to do, so now I must do what I need to do. Loving father, I come. Please save me. In Jesus' name I ask it. Amen.

**From Selwyn Hughes
(Every Day with Jesus)**

What will you do with 2006?

How will you spend 2006? All those hours, days and weeks that lie ahead of you...

The Bible says 'make the most of the time' (Ephesians 5:16) That doesn't mean speed up your life. It doesn't mean more rush. In fact, rush is a hazard to this process.

It means that as this brand new year of 2006 begins, we are called to take time to plug into God's plan for us – NOW. It means becoming obedient to his revealed will for our personal life, our work, our marriage, our priorities... – NOW. It means prayerfully discerning the divine and eternal opportunities before each of us – NOW. Yes, now. 'For Now is the accepted time. Today is the day of Salvation.' (2 Corinthians 6.2) So, today, let us hear his voice, let us harden not our hearts.