

Luke 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

This is what the Greek word for presseth or force is: to force, that is, (reflexively) to crowd oneself (into), or (passively) to be seized: - press, suffer violence.

Thayer Definition:

- 1) to use force, to apply force
- 2) to force, inflict violence on

This word is only used twice in the entire New Testament; the other time it is used is in:

Matthew 11:12

12 From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has (suffered violence), and the violent take it by force.

Look at what the Amplified Bible says:

Matthew 11:12

12 And from the days of John the Baptist until the present time, the kingdom of heaven has endured violent assault, and violent men seize it by force [as a precious prize—a share in the heavenly kingdom is sought with most ardent zeal and intense exertion].

Violent in the Greek means:

a forcer, that is, (figuratively) energetic: - violent.

Thayer Definition:

- 1) strong, forceful
- 2) using force, violent

Look at what the Amplified says for Luke 16:16

Until John came, there were the Law and the Prophets; since then the good news (the Gospel) of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone strives violently to go in [would force his own way rather than God's way into it].

Now the Amplified is not an actual translation, but a paraphrase.

Sailer's interpretation of it all is this . . . If an individual really wants more of God, they are going to have to actively crowd themselves into more of Him, like the woman with the issue of blood in Mark 5.

Mark 5:27-29

27 She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment.

28 For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well."

29 And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.

## Or Blind Bartimaeus

Mark 10:46-52

46 And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside.

47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

48 And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

49 And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you."

50 And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.

51 And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight."

52 And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

And to actually press into it, you are going to have to expend a little energy . . . the woman with the issue of blood had to force her way through the crowd of people who just wanted to be "around" Jesus because He was the latest and the greatest . . . this woman wanted to be made whole, she was tired of her life the way that it was . . . There are far too many people who want to expend NO energy or effort, yet they want God to move mountains on their behalf.

Blind Bartimaeus refused to be silent when everyone was telling him to keep still because he KNEW that if there was going to be any real change in his life, it was going to come through Jesus Christ.

To get more out of God, you are going to have to press through your flesh. Your flesh doesn't want more of God; your flesh doesn't want you to expend the energy to go deeper in God. If the truth really be told, your flesh would rather you just quit talking and thinking about God and just go back to sinning.

Chuck Yeager talked about the first time the sound barrier was broken. He said that it felt like the plane was going to break apart and his bones were going to break. Men had tried, and when they got to that point, they stopped. Yeager finally said I'm going to keep going and when he finally broke the sound barrier, he said it was so smooth after that.

Here's the narrative, the children of Israel just made a golden calf in chapter 32; judgement is passed; 3,000 men die. Moses goes back up the mountain to talk to God, and Moses finally gets to the point and place that he pushes past possibly getting told by God to "go away" if you please, that he finally cries out I BESEECH THEE, SHEW ME YOUR GLORY . . . I don't care if no one else wants it, I want it, and I want it NOW . . . (besech in the Hebrew means pray now) there are far too many people who are too complacent in their relationship with God that they just don't want to upset the applecart. After all, I don't want people to think I'm one of those Jesus freaks . . . I WANT to break the sound barrier, this world is hoping that there would

be someone that would be willing to press for more of God on their behalf.

Exodus 33:18-21

18 And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.

19 And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

20 And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.

21 And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:

I want to hear Him say to me, THERE IS A PLACE BY ME . . .

To get there, we're going to have to press or force our way into it.

Jesus stopped on earth on His way from hell to heaven because Mary just wanted to see His face one more time . . .

John 20:14-17

14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

The Amplified says:

John 20:17

17 Jesus said to her, Do not cling to Me [do not hold Me], for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brethren and tell them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.

She got to not only see Him, she got to wrap her arms around Him because of her desire to see Him.

RPS