







Israel is doing battle with the Philistines

They are getting beat

Why are we losing?

We forgot God!

So they set out to fix their problem by going and getting "god"



They assumed God lived in a box

The box was given by God (Exodus 25:10-21)

The box contained important symbols (Hebrews 9:3-4)

The box had a history

The "God Box" The Mistake

The problem Israel was worshiping a box not the God that it stood for



They lost their battle again
They lost their army

They lost their "leadership"

They lost their god, their box

They lost their faith "The Glory has departed from Israel"

The "God Box" I fear at times this is us

We are worshiping the symbols of faith and not the savior

We put more stock in the stories and traditions of the past than God's will for the present

God is an object in a place we come to

We only drag him into our lives when we feel there is a battle we can't win





The "God Box" Revelation 2:4-5

Yet I hold this against you:
You have forsaken the love you had
at first. Consider how far you
have fallen! Repent and do the things
you did at first. If you do not repent,
I will come to you and remove your
lampstand from its place.

The "God Box" *Ephesus*

These passages come on the heals of Jesus telling Ephesus what a good church they are

There is a lot to like about them.

All is not good in Ephesus...
"They lost their first love"

What is the first love of the church?

The "God Box" The first love is the relationship

In spite of all their good stuff they were doing, Ephesus just was not in love with Jesus anymore

They had fallen for the box

They were "living faithfully" but did not really have "Living Faith"



The "God Box" Good Thing to Note!

If you are in love with the box you do your best to get yourself here

If you are in love with Jesus you do everything in your power to get others to Him

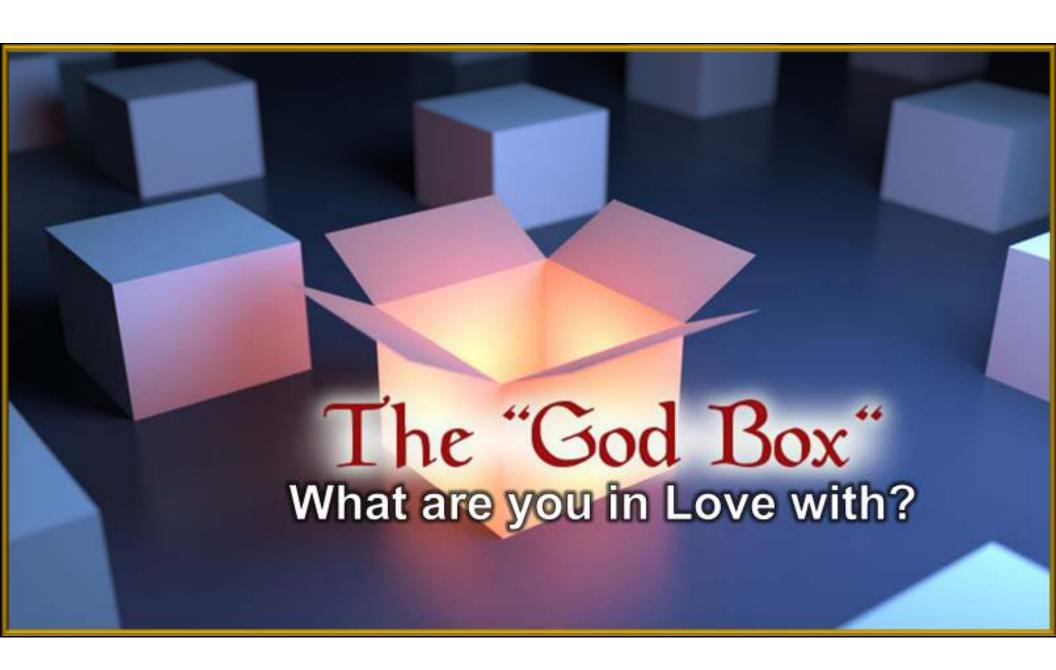


It was not easy the road had obstacles

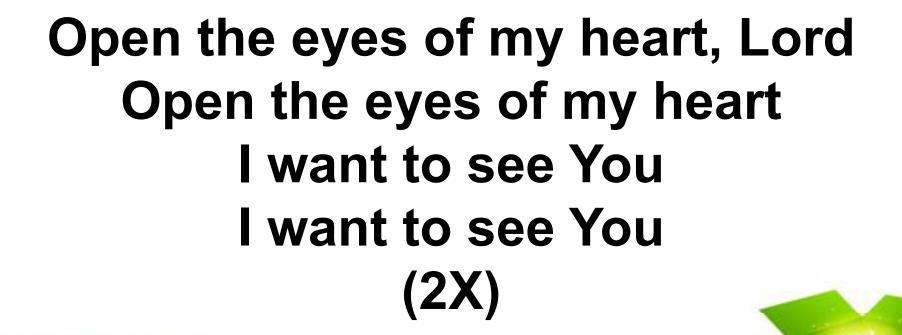
He did not do it alone, he needed the help of Buzz and the gang

And life was not perfect once he got back, there were still struggles

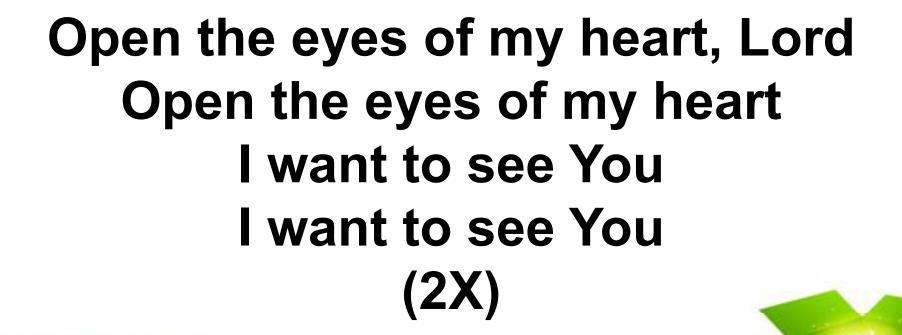
But he decided, no box for me!







To see You high and lifted up Shining in the light of Your glory Pour out Your power and love As we sing holy, holy, holy



To see You high and lifted up Shining in the light of Your glory Pour out Your power and love As we sing holy, holy, holy Holy, holy, holy
We cry holy, holy, holy
You are holy, holy, holy
I want to see you
(2X)

Holy, holy, holy
We cry holy, holy, holy
You are holy, holy, holy
I want to see you
I want to see you





O Master, let me walk with Thee, In lowly paths of service free; Tell me Thy secret; help me bear The strain of toil, the fret of care. Help me the slow of heart to move By some clear, winning word of love; Teach me the waywardfeet to stay, And guide them in the homeward way.

