



Life Principles Notes

Practical Lessons for Understanding the Word of God

SEEKING THE LORD

KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 105:1-4 | **SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:** Deuteronomy 4:19 | Psalm 10:4; 42:1 | Proverbs 8:17
Isaiah 55:6-9; 59:2 | Jeremiah 29:11-13 | Romans 1:18-19, 28; 6:23; 8:28-29 | Hebrews 11:6

SUMMARY:

What does it mean to seek the Lord?

In the midst of all your pursuits, where does God fit? Does He have top priority, or is He an afterthought? An examination of our interests, thoughts, conversations, spending habits, and schedules reveals what we're truly pursuing in life. During a typical day, does the Lord come to mind, or do your thoughts only involve Him during emergencies? God wants to meet with us, but sadly, many Christians are so absorbed in their own activities and responsibilities that they have no time for Him.

However, those who seek the Lord want to go further in their relationships with Him. Instead of being content with salvation and the assurance of heaven, they desire intimacy with God. There's a hunger to know more about their Savior, to have conversations with Him, and to observe how He works in their lives.

The Lord doesn't want us to be complacently satisfied in our Christian lives. Whenever we seek Him, we'll experience the paradox of being content and fulfilled in His presence, yet increasingly dissatisfied because we want more of Him. That's the wonder of getting to know our unfathomable God.

SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES:

Why should unbelievers seek the Lord?

■ **They need a Savior because sin has separated them from Him** (Isa. 59:2). The lost person doesn't even have a relationship with the Lord.

■ **God's wrath is upon those who suppress the truth** (Rom. 1:18-19). Instead of mercy, they can expect only judgment.

■ **Those who refuse to acknowledge the Lord have a depraved mind** (Rom. 1:28). Because of their continual rejection of the gospel, they cannot form right judgments. This results in a hardened heart, one that loses all sensitivity to God and His Word.

■ **The wages of sin is death** (Rom. 6:23). We all die physically, but those without the Savior die spiritually and eternally as well.

Why should Christians seek God?

Because our eternal destinies are at stake, we understand why unbelievers need to seek the Lord. However, why should believers do this? We already have God; His Holy Spirit is ever-present within us.

■ **God intends for you to grow in your Christian life.** When you trusted Jesus as your Savior, you became a babe in Christ, but He doesn't want you to remain spiritually immature. He has predetermined that, after salvation, we are to be conformed to the likeness of His Son (Rom. 8:29).

■ **The Lord wants us to know Him intimately.** Just knowing information about God is not sufficient. We need to understand how much He loves us and believe that we can trust Him in every situation because He's promised to work everything together for our good (Rom. 8:28).

■ **God reveals Himself to us when we observe how He works.** If we pay attention to what the Lord is doing in our lives, we can begin to understand who He is. Though we won't

discover all the answers, we'll comprehend enough to keep us excited in our search to know Him more completely.

■ **If we really love the Lord, we'll pursue Him.** When you're in love with someone, you want to spend time with that person and get to know him or her intimately. That's the kind of relationship God wants us to have with Him. However, if anything or anyone else is your primary pursuit, you'll eventually lose it because the Lord loves you too much to let you get away with idolatry of any kind.

What is required of us?

■ **Seek Him wholeheartedly.** Your interest in God's will cannot be casual. He should always be your top priority, and you should continually seek His will for your life (Jer. 29:13). It's a pursuit that is motivated by love and a yearning for a deeper relationship with Him. The focus is on the Lord, not on what He can do for us.

A whole-hearted pursuit of God cannot be accompanied by the toleration of sin in our lives (Isa. 55:6-7). This doesn't mean we have to be sinless, but those who seek the Lord will struggle to overcome their weaknesses instead of yielding to them. They're willing to rid their lives of anything that doesn't fit their identity as followers of Jesus.

■ **Seek Him diligently.** Because there are a thousand things that divide our minds and steal our time, we have to deliberately work at giving the Lord priority (Prov. 8:17). It will require us to put aside other activities in order to spend time with God. We're usually willing to do this for other pursuits that are important to us—such as studying for an exam or maintaining our health. However, are we willing to give time and effort to Bible study and prayer in our pursuit of deeper relationships with the Lord?

■ **Seek Him continually.** We need to pray about everything. Throughout our lives, we'll face a variety of decisions. When we're continually seeking the Lord, we'll have His high and lofty thoughts to guide us in our choices (Isa. 55:8-9). He provides an internal "alarm

system" that warns us when we're heading in the wrong direction.

■ **Seek Him confidently.** We must always come to the Lord in faith, trusting that He'll do what He says (Heb. 11:6). A life spent pursuing God is not just for pastors or missionaries. It's available for all of us. Every believer can come boldly to the Lord and find stability in these uncertain times.

■ **Seek Him humbly.** When people feel as though they are meeting their own needs, their pride and haughtiness can lead them to believe they have no need of God (Ps. 10:4). Yet nothing we have or own can ultimately provide security. That's only found in Christ. When we humbly recognize that, apart from Him, everything is temporal, we'll realize the only worthwhile pursuit is the Lord.

CONCLUSION:

Salvation is just the beginning of a relationship with God. He has so much more in store for those who seek Him with all their hearts. Our search involves much more than just learning facts about the Lord from the Bible. He wants us to interact with Him—talking, listening, and watching Him work in our lives.

If you lack the interest or diligence to seek God, what is holding you back? Maybe He's not your first priority. It's easy to let family, work, pleasures, or other activities take first place in our lives. Yet as good as these things may be, we should never allow them to hinder us from pursuing a deeper relationship with the Savior.

Seeking the Lord is like coming to a gold mine in search of treasure. You'll never plumb the depths of God, but the more you dig, the deeper you'll want to go. We will have all eternity to discover the greatness of our Savior. Doesn't it make sense to get started now? ✨



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