

SEEKING GOD

Seek with Intensity

“Seek, and ye shall find” (Matt. 7:7).

- We seek for what we miss
- What we really want – desperately

Synopsis

- God’s desire is that all people should seek after him and find him.
- Those who seek God with all their heart are rewarded, but those who fail to seek him do so to their eternal loss.

1. GOD’S HEART IS FOR PEOPLE TO SEEK HIM - GOD WANTS PEOPLE TO SEEK HIM

Acts 17:27 (ESV) — 27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

1 Chronicles 16:11 (ESV) — 11 Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!

1 Chronicles 22:19 (ESV)

Now set your mind and heart to seek the LORD your God. Arise and build the sanctuary of the LORD God, so that the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the holy vessels of God may be brought into a house built for the name of the LORD.”

Psalm 14:2 (ESV)

The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.

Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

2. SEEKING GOD IS AN ISSUE OF THE HEART

Seeking God begins in the heart

Psalm 27:8 (ESV)

You have said, “Seek my face.” My heart says to you, “Your face, LORD, do I seek.”

2 Chronicles 11:16 (ESV)

And those who had set their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel came after them from all the tribes of Israel to Jerusalem to sacrifice to the LORD, the God of their fathers.

Wholeheartedness in seeking God is required

Jeremiah 29:13 (ESV)

You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Deuteronomy 4:27–29 (ESV)

And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you. **28** And there you will serve gods of wood and stone, the work of human hands, that neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell. **29** But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.

1 Chronicles 22:17–19 (ESV)

David also commanded all the leaders of Israel to help Solomon his son, saying, **18** “Is not the LORD your God with you? And has he not given you peace on every side? For he has delivered the inhabitants of the land into my hand, and the land is subdued before the LORD and his people. **19** Now set your mind and heart to seek the LORD your God. Arise and build the sanctuary of the LORD God, so that the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the holy vessels of God may be brought into a house built for the name of the LORD.”

Psalms 63:1 (ESV) — **1** O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

3. GOD PROMISES TO BE FOUND BY THOSE WHO SEEK HIM

Proverbs 8:17 (ESV)

I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.

Deuteronomy 4:29–31 (ESV)

But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. **30** When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to the LORD your God and obey his voice. **31** For the LORD your God is

a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.

1 Chronicles 28:9 (ESV) — 9 “And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever.

Jeremiah 29:11–14 (ESV) — 11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. **12** Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. **13** You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. **14** I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Matthew 7:7–8 (ESV) — 7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. **8** For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

4. SEEKING GOD AND HIS KINGDOM IS THE PRIORITY OF LIFE

Matthew 6:33 (ESV) — 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

If the heathen are primarily concerned about food and clothes,

Christians are to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Mt. 6:32 f.; cf. Lk. 13:24).

They are to seek those things which are above (Col. 3:1).

This kind of life will be directed towards the attainment of (R. 2:7).

Psalms 27:4 (ESV)

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

Matthew 13:44–46 (ESV)

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, **46** who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

- As the merchant in his search for fine pearls – pearls of a great price
 - Diligently seeks them
 - one day finds a jewel for which he will sell all the rest,
 - so man is to direct everything towards the one great goal.

The consequences of seeking God

1. It leads to life

Amos 5:4–6 (ESV) — **4** For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel: “Seek me and live; **5** but do not seek Bethel, and do not enter into Gilgal or cross over to Beersheba; for Gilgal shall surely go into exile, and Bethel shall come to nothing.” **6** Seek the LORD and live, lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and it devour, with none to quench it for Bethel,

Romans 2:7–8 (ESV) — **7** to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; **8** but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.

2. It leads to forgiveness

2 Chronicles 7:14 (ESV) — **14** if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

3. It leads to blessing

Psalm 119:2 (ESV) — 2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart,

See also [Ps 24:3–6](#); [Is 65:9–10](#)

Psalm 24:3–6 (ESV) — 3 Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. 5 He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation. 6 Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah

Isaiah 65:9–10 (ESV) — 9 I will bring forth offspring from Jacob, and from Judah possessors of my mountains; my chosen shall possess it, and my servants shall dwell there. 10 Sharon shall become a pasture for flocks, and the Valley of Achor a place for herds to lie down, for my people who have sought me.

4. It leads to provision

[Ps 34:8–10](#)

Psalm 34:8–10 (ESV) — 8 Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! 9 Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! 10 The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

Matthew 6:31–33 (ESV) — 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

5. It leads to protection

[Ps 27:4–5](#)

Psalm 27:4–5 (ESV) — 4 One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. 5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

Ezra 8:21–23 (ESV) — 21 Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods. 22 For I was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers and horsemen to protect us against the enemy on our way, since we had told the king, “The hand of our God is for good on all who seek him, and the power of his wrath is against all who

forsake him.” **23** So we fasted and implored our God for this, and he listened to our entreaty.

6. It leads to understanding and wisdom

Proverbs 28:5 (ESV) — **5** Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand it completely.

Daniel 2:17–23 (ESV) — **17** Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, **18** and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. **19** Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. **20** Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. **21** He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; **22** he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him. **23** To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king’s matter.”

7. It leads to renewed strength

Isaiah 40:30–31 (ESV) — **30** Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; **31** but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Luke 22:42–43 (ESV) — **42** saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” **43** And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.

8. It leads to rejoicing

[1 Ch 16:10](#)

1 Chronicles 16:10 (ESV) — **10** Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

See also [Ps 40:16](#); [Ps 70:4](#); [Ps 105:3](#)

Psalms 40:16 (ESV) — **16** But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, “Great is the LORD!”

Psalms 70:4 (ESV) — **4** May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, “God is great!”

Psalms 105:3 (ESV) — **3** Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

Conclusion

God's opportunity for seeking him is now and is restricted to this life

Isaiah 55:6–7 (ESV) — **6** “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; **7** let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

2 Corinthians 6:2 (ESV)

For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Luke 16:19–31 (ESV)

“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. **20** And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, **21** who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. **22** The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, **23** and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. **24** And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ **25** But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. **26** And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ **27** And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— **28** for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ **29** But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ **30** And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ **31** He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’ ”