

## Seeking God

### Diligent seeking

Diligent – characterized by steady, earnest and energetic application and effort.

Seeking - make search or enquiry for; look for, ask for, strive after, make search for; involves diligent action.

Where is the time and effort of your life going? Where is your attention and thought focused? How much do you want to know the Lord? How badly do you want the things you know He has provided?

Philippians 3:8 - Yes, furthermore, I count everything as loss compared to the possession of the priceless privilege (the overwhelming preciousness, the surpassing worth, and supreme advantage) of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord and of progressively becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him [of perceiving and recognizing and understanding Him more fully and clearly]. For His sake I have lost everything and consider it all to be mere rubbish (refuse, dregs), in order that I may win (gain) Christ (the Anointed One).

Hebrews 11:6 – But without faith it is impossible to please and be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him [out].

Hosea 10:12 – Sow for yourselves according to righteousness (uprightness and right standing with God); reap according to mercy and loving-kindness. Break up your uncultivated ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, to inquire for and of Him, and to require His favor, till He comes and teaches you righteousness and rains His righteous gift of salvation upon you.

Hosea 6:3 - Yes, let us know (recognize, be acquainted with, and understand) Him; let us be zealous to know the Lord [to appreciate, give heed to, and cherish Him]. His going forth is prepared and certain as the dawn, and He will come to us as the [heavy] rain, as the latter rain that waters the earth.

Philippians 3:10, 13-14 - For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly I do not consider, brethren, that I have captured and made it my own [yet]; but one thing I do [it is my one aspiration]: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the [supreme and heavenly] prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward.

Proverbs 2:3-5 - Yes, if you cry out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek [Wisdom] as for silver and search for skillful and godly Wisdom as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of [our omniscient] God.

Isaiah 55:6 - Seek, inquire for, and require the Lord while He may be found [claiming Him by necessity and by right]; call upon Him while He is near

Seek – YOU WILL FIND!

Deuteronomy 4:29 – But if from there you will seek (inquire for and require as necessity) the Lord your God, you will find Him if you [truly] seek Him with all your heart [and mind] and soul and life.

Jeremiah 29:12-14 – Then you will call upon Me, and you will come and pray to Me, and I will hear and heed you. ‘You will seek Me and find Me when you search for

Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will release you from captivity and gather you from all the nations and all the places to which I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I caused you to be carried away captive.

Matthew 7:7-8 – Keep on asking and it will be given you; keep on seeking and you will find; keep on knocking [reverently] and [the door] will be opened to you. For everyone who keeps on asking receives; and he who keeps on seeking finds; and to him who keeps on knocking (the door) will be opened.

2 Chronicles 15:15 – And all Judah rejoiced at the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and sought Him [yearning for Him] with their whole desire, and He was found by them. And the Lord gave them rest and peace round about.

Proverbs 2:3-5 - Yes, if you cry out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek [Wisdom] as for silver and search for skillful and godly Wisdom as for hidden treasures, if you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of [our omniscient] God.

When in trouble, where to you go?

Isaiah 31:1 – Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, who rely on horses and trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but they look not to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek and consult the Lord.

Isaiah 30:1-3 - Woe to the rebellious children, says the Lord, who take counsel and carry out a plan, but not Mine, and who make a league and pour out a drink offering, but not of My Spirit, thus adding sin to sin; who set

out to go down into Egypt, and have not asked Me - to flee to the stronghold of Pharaoh and to strengthen themselves in his strength and to trust in the shadow of Egypt! Therefore shall the strength and protection of Pharaoh turn to your shame, and the refuge in the shadow of Egypt be to your humiliation and confusion.

2 Chronicles 16:7-9, 12-13– At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, because you relied on the king of Syria and not on the Lord your God, the army of the king of Syria has escaped you. Were not the Ethiopians and Libyans a huge host with very many chariot and horsemen? Yet because you relied then on the Lord, He gave them into your hand For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong in behalf of those whose hearts are blameless toward Him...In the 39<sup>th</sup> year of his reign Asa was diseased in his feet – until his disease became very severe; yet in his disease he did not seek the Lord but relied on the Physicians. And Asa slept with his fathers...

2 Chronicles 32:24-26 – In those days Hezekiah was sick to the point of death; and he prayed to the Lord and He answered him and gave him a sign. But Hezekiah did not make return [to the Lord] according to the benefit done to him, for his heart became proud; therefore there was wrath upon him and upon Judah and Jerusalem. But Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the Lord came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah.

Isaiah 38:1-8 – IN THOSE days King Hezekiah of Judah became ill and was at the point of death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, came to him and said, thus says the Lord: set your house in order, for you shall die and not live. Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall

and prayed to the Lord and said, remember [earnestly] now, O Lord, I beseech You, how I have walked before You in faithfulness and in truth, with a whole heart [absolutely devoted to You], and have done what is good in Your sight. And Hezekiah wept bitterly. Then came the word of the Lord to Isaiah, saying, go, and say to Hezekiah, thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, I will add to your life fifteen years. And I will deliver you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city [Jerusalem]. And this will be the sign to you from the Lord that the Lord will do this thing that He has spoken: behold, I will turn the shadow [denoting the time of day] on the steps or degrees, which has gone down on the steps or sundial of Ahaz, backward ten steps or degrees. And the sunlight turned back ten steps on the steps on which it had gone down.

Psalms 62:1-2, 8 - For God alone my soul waits in silence, from Him comes my salvation. He only is my Rock and my Salvation, my Defense and my Fortress. I shall not be greatly moved...Trust in, lean on, rely on and have confidence in Him at all times you people; pour out your hearts before Him. God is a refuge for us.

James 5:13 – Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray.

#### Diligent prayer

This is the persistence that comes to God refusing to leave Him alone, refusing to back off from diligent seeking, until the answer is met. The people in the Bible who got results had this quality. Jesus called it faith!

Psalms 77:1-2 – I will cry to God with my voice, even to God with my voice, and He will give ear and hearken to me. In the day of my trouble I seek (inquire of and desperately require) the Lord; in the night my hand is

stretched out [in prayer] without slacking up; I refuse to be comforted.

Isaiah 62:1, 6-7 – For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest until her imputed righteousness and vindication go forth as brightness, and her salvation radiates as does a burning torch...I have set watchmen upon your walls, O Jerusalem, who will never hold their peace day or night; you who [are His servants and by your prayers] put the Lord in remembrance [of His promises], keep not silence, and give Him no rest until He establishes Jerusalem and makes her a praise in the earth.

Luke 11:4-13 - And He said to them, which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and will say to him, friend, lend me three loaves [of bread], for a friend of mine who is on a journey has just come, and I have nothing to put before him; and he from within will answer, do not disturb me; the door is now closed, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and supply you [with anything]? I tell you, although he will not get up and supply him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his shameless persistence and insistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs. So I say to you, ask and keep on asking and it shall be given you; seek and keep on seeking and you shall find; knock and keep on knocking and the door shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks and keeps on asking receives; and he who seeks and keeps on seeking finds; and to him who knocks and keeps on knocking, the door shall be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone; or if he asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, evil as you are, know how to give good gifts [gifts that are to their advantage] to your children, how much more

will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask and continue to ask Him!

Luke 18:1-8 – Also [Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not to turn coward (faint, lose heart, and give up). He said, in a certain city there was a judge who neither revered and feared God nor respected or considered man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, protect and defend and give me justice against my adversary. And for a time he would not; but later he said to himself, though I have neither reverence or fear for God nor respect or consideration for man, yet because this widow continues to bother me, I will defend and protect and avenge her, lest she give me intolerable annoyance and wear me out by her continual coming or at the last she come and rail on me or assault me or strangle me. Then the Lord said, listen to what the unjust judge says! And will not [our just] God defend and protect and avenge His elect (His chosen ones), who cry to Him day and night? Will He defer them and delay help on their behalf? I tell you, He will defend and protect and avenge them speedily. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find [persistence in] faith on the earth?

Matthew 9:20-22 -Woman with the issue of blood

And behold, a woman who had suffered from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His garment; for she kept saying to herself, If I only touch His garment, I shall be restored to health. Jesus turned around and, seeing her, He said, Take courage, daughter! Your faith has made you well. And at once the woman was restored to health.

Luke 18:35-43 – Blind man.

As He came near to Jericho, it occurred that a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. And hearing a crowd going by, he asked what it meant. They told him, Jesus of Nazareth is passing by. And he shouted, saying, Jesus, Son of David, take pity and have mercy on me! But those who were in front reproved him, telling him to keep quiet; yet he screamed and shrieked so much the more, Son of David, take pity and have mercy on me! Then Jesus stood still and ordered that he be led to Him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, what do you want Me to do for you? He said, Lord, let me receive my sight! And Jesus said to him, Receive your sight! Your faith (your trust and confidence that spring from your faith in God) has healed you. And instantly he received his sight and began to follow Jesus, recognizing, praising, and honoring God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God

Mark 2:1-12 - Man lowered – In order to get to Jesus, they made a way where none was.

When he reentered Capernaum some days later, a rumor spread that he was in somebody's house. Such a large crowd collected that while he was giving them his message it was impossible even to get near the doorway. Meanwhile, a group of people arrived to see him, bringing with them a paralytic whom four of them were carrying. And when they found it was impossible to get near him because of the crowd, they removed the tiles from the roof over Jesus' head and let down the paralytic's bed through the opening. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man on the bed, "My son, your sins are forgiven." But some of the scribes were sitting there silently asking themselves, "Why does this man talk such blasphemy? Who can possibly forgive sins but God?" Jesus realized instantly what they were thinking,

and said to them, "why must you argue like this in your minds? Which do you suppose is easier - to say to a paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven', or 'Get up, pick up your bed and walk'? But to prove to you that the Son of Man has full authority to forgive sins on earth, I say to you," - and here he spoke to the paralytic - "Get up, pick up your bed and go home." At once the man sprang to his feet, picked up his bed and walked off in full view of them all. Everyone was amazed, praised God, and said, "We have never seen anything like this before."

Mark 10:46-52 - Blind Bartimeus – Kept crying out even when he was told to stop.

Then they came to Jericho, and as he was leaving it accompanied by his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting in his usual place by the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth he began to call out, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!" Many of the people told him sharply to keep quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me!" Jesus stood quite still and said, "Call him here." So they called the blind man, saying, "It's all right now, get up, he's calling you!" At this he threw off his coat, jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked him. "Oh, Master, let me see again!" "Go on your way then," returned Jesus, "your faith has healed you." And he recovered his sight at once and followed Jesus along the road.

Matthew 20:29-34 - Two Blind Men

A great crowd followed them as they were leaving Jericho, and two blind men who were sitting by the roadside, hearing that it was Jesus who was passing by, cried out, "Have pity on us, Lord, you Son of David!" The crowd tried to hush them up, but this only made them cry out more loudly still, "Have pity on us, Lord, you Son of

David!" Jesus stood quite still and called out to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" Lord, let us see again!" And Jesus, deeply moved with pity, touched their eyes. At once their sight was restored, and they followed him.

Why? They knew Jesus had the answer they needed, could help them and would if they could get to Him!