

SEEKING GOD #1 - Preparing to Seek God

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.

Psalms 27:1-4 (ESV) ¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ² When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. ³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident. 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.

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.

We Need God!

We need God in the church, in our homes, in our daily lives, in our thoughts and actions. We need to be connected to Him daily, empowered, coached, corrected, guided, and parented by God! We need to be in His presence, to experience Him, to become more like Him. We need to SEEK God.

There is a way God must be approached. If we are to be a person, a church, a generation that seeks God, we must discover what the Bible teaches us about seeking God. He is all in all. With Him are pleasures forevermore. He is the reward. Just to see Him is an honor. To know Him is a privilege. To become like Him is our life's goal!

Before we start this amazing journey in seeking and encountering God, this biblical deep dive into finding out How to seek Him, we need to find out what are the prerequisites. What are the preliminary requirements? What is the protocol for seeking God?

We are very casual with God these days. And God does know us even on that level. But as we will find, there are requirements to approaching the King of all Kings.

Five Ways we Must Prepare Ourselves to Seek God

1. Believe God Exists

- a. **Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)** ⁶ 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.
- b. **Genesis 1:1 (ESV)** ¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
- c. **Romans 1:20-21 (ESV)** ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

2. Believe God Rewards those who Seek Him

- a. **Genesis 15:1 (ESV)** ¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”
- b. **Jeremiah 29:13 (ESV)** ¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.
- c. **James 4:8 (ESV)** ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
- d. **Psalms 16:11 (ESV)** ¹¹ You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

3. Come Humbly, Not Proudly; Honoring God

- a. **James 4:6 (ESV)** ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”
- b. **1 Samuel 2:30 (ESV)** ³⁰ Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: ‘I promised that your house and the house of your father should go in and out before me forever,’ but now the LORD declares: ‘Far be it from me, for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed.’
- c. **Isaiah 57:15 (ESV)** ¹⁵ For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

4. With Clean Hands and a Clean Heart

- a. **Psalms 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

- b. **James 4:8 (ESV)** ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
- c. **John 13:6-10 (ESV)** ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” ⁷ Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” ⁸ Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “**If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.**” ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.”

5. Enter through the Door

- a. **John 10:7-11 (ESV)** ⁷ So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- b. **John 14:6 (ESV)** ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Next Week we Will Talk About the REWARDS of Seeking God!