



## Seeking the Lord

Many times, we all hear people teach or talk about seeking the Lord, but what does it mean to seek the Lord and how can we accomplish that? There are things we can do to keep our mind stayed on the Lord, to know the Lord, and grow in our relationship with Him. This is the bottom line of seeking the Lord.

Every believer should have his or her heart bent towards seeking the Lord. There is no vacation from seeking the Lord. We can't seek the Lord today and not do so tomorrow. There is no off time or leave from seeking the Lord.

**Text:** Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

The Word also admonishes us to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness. It goes further and mentions seeking as the priority. Seeking God and His kingdom should be second to none. It ought to be the number one priority in our lives. We can still have a focus on earthly things to a degree, but not at the expense of seeking God as the priority.

This passage among many other things is emphasizing the need to put God first in our lives. If we do so, the things we need such as food, clothing, shelter, and so forth will be met supernaturally.

### Practical ways to seek the Lord:

#### 1. The Word

This is the number one way of seeking the Lord. Seeking and Knowing the Lord comes primarily through His Word.

- a) Ezra 7:10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.
  - i) We seek the Lord by seeking his Word (law).
- b) 2 Chronicles 12:1,14 And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the Lord, and all Israel with him. And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord.
  - i) We can't seek the Lord outside His Word. When king Rehoboam forsook the law (Word) of God and he did evil.
  - ii) He prepared not his heart to seek the Lord by forsaking the Word of God which is the main reason and way we seek the Lord.
  - iii) It is His Word that reveals to us who He is. We can't know God any better outside His Word. He is one with His Word (John 1:1).

## 2. Prayer

Another way we seek the Lord is through prayer. Prayer helps us to keep our minds stayed upon the Lord. When I talk about prayer, I'm not referring to the prayer of petition, but rather prayer in general as **communion with God**. As we commune with Him, we are seeking Him as our mind stays upon Him.

- a) Psalm 5:1 Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my meditation.
- b) Psalm 4:4 Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.
- c) Zechariah 8:22 Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord.

## 3. Mind and thoughts

One of the primary ways we seek the Lord is through our mind—thoughts. Whenever you talk about thoughts you are engaging the mind. It is through our minds that God is in are our thoughts.

- a) Psalm 10:4 The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.
  - i) This verse shows that seeking the Lord is or involves **keeping Him in our thoughts**.

- ii) We need to be God-conscious continually.

#### 4. Affection

- a) Colossians 3:1-2 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
  - i) The word "Set" is referring to "fixing"
  - ii) These verses instruct us to seek things above. How? By **setting our affection on things above.**
  - iii) How do we seek? To "seek" is to simply set our minds or fix our minds.
  - iv) What we are fixing or focusing our minds on is what we are seeking. **Whatever has our uttermost attention is what we are worshipping.** When we are seeking something, we are setting our hearts on it.
- b) To "set your affection" means to "to exercise the mind," (Strong's Concordance).
  - i) The NKJV translates the word "affection" for the word "mind" meaning that our mind is our affection. Whatever we set our affection on, that is where our mind is set and vice versa.
  - ii) Our mind is how we seek and is how we get our affection on the Lord.
- c) This is not a suggestion but a command. With God's help, we can set our minds on the things above.

#### 5. Focus

This is quite similar to the points I have covered above, but I believe it worth repeating separately to bring out a few more points.

- a) Matthew 6:27-34 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your

heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

- i) Context is talking about worrying not. Worry is simply thinking or focusing on the negative things.
- ii) The verses then talk about seeking the Lord. Through context, we know that seeking the Lord is positively thinking about the Lord, His Word, and promises.
- iii) Committing sin comes down to the fact that we have not been thinking about the Lord. Our minds and thoughts have not been on the Lord hence sin.
  - o Romans 8:5-6 For they that are after the flesh **do mind** the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. KJV
  - o For those who live according to the flesh **set their minds** on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. NKJV
    - KJV used the words **"do mind"** and NKJV uses the words **"set their minds"** In other words, the way we mind the things of God or the things of the Spirit is by setting our minds on those things.
- iv) **The bottom line is you can't seek what you aren't focused on.** But how do we focus? We focus through our minds and thoughts. As we keep our minds fixed on the Lord, we are truly seeking the Lord. Whatever is occupying our focus is what we are seeking.

## 6. Presence (face)

One best way to put seeking the Lord is to seek His presence which is His face. Although if someone is born again, they have God on the inside of them never to leave them nor forsake them (Hebrews 13:5), it is not synonymous with seeking Him. It is possible to be born again yet have no continued consciousness of God. It is possible to not have this as our daily experience.

- a) Psalm 105:4 Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore.

- i) Seeking the Lord is seeking His face (presence) where we find strength. Those who are trying to seek the Lord without seeking His face or presence have missed the whole point of seeking the Lord.
  - ii) We need to seek His presence continually (evermore), not one time.
- b) 1 Chronicles 16:10-11 Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually.
  - i) One of the primary ways of seeking the Lord is done by seeking His face. His face represents His presence and His person. Again, one of the ways we continually stay in the presence of God is by keeping our minds stayed upon him.
  - ii) There is a huge difference between seeking His face and seeking His hand. Some believers are busy seeking His hand and, on many occasions, they do not receive. If we seek His face, we will not be found wanting.
  - iii) If we seek things, we hinder them. The way we get what we need is by seeking the Lord, the very source of good things and all we need. Our needs are met as we keep our eyes on Jesus.

## 7. Obedience

One quite ignored way we can seek the Lord is through obedience to the Lord. If we are not obedient to the Lord, we are not truly seeking Him. Obedience to the Lord helps to keep our mind fixed upon Him.

- a) Romans 1:5 "By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:" (Emphasis mine)
- b) Romans 16:26 "But now is made manifest, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:"

## 8. Acts of service

Most people think seeking the Lord is down to what we do for the Lord, but that is not the whole truth. What we do such as serving the Lord is rather a part of seeking the Lord, not the only thing.

It is possible to be busy working for the Lord and not be seeking Him because your mind is stayed or focused on something else.

- a) Giving
- b) Helping others
- c) Ministering to others.
- d) Serving and volunteering in church

In conclusion, when we seek the Lord, we do reap huge benefits to it. This is not the reason we should be seeking Him but there are benefits anyway.

Psalm 34:4 I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

- a) When we seek the Lord, He hears us. God has a heart and ears to hear. It may not look like so, but He truly hears us.
- b) To prove that He hears us, He delivers us. God is a renowned deliverer.
- c) Even more, when HE delivers us, He does not deliver us from some of our fears, but ALL of them. What a promise! Father I receive and believe this promise in Jesus; name because You who has promised is faithful (Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)