

# Seeking God while Being Sought for by God

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

Introduction:

SEEKING

By Steve Melton, August 2, 2024

Should we seek God or He seek us?  
It is a question rather sublime.  
But, it has been asked.  
From the beginning of time.

God wants us to choose Him.  
Gives evidence to follow His call.  
His presence is so magnificent.  
It would overwhelm us all.

We should seek God with all our being.  
There is a need within our heart.  
Or do we turn our own way.  
Think it's better if we part.

God has sought us through Jesus.  
With love He sent His Son.  
That we should want to be with Him.  
That we all be one in one.

God has sought us first.  
Called us with nature and Divine revelation.  
Will we then seek after Him.  
Become His children in the heavenly nation.

- A. Are we to seek God or are we sought for by God?
1. This discussion dates back into the distant past; Augustine and Pelagius argued about it in 417 AD.
  2. Augustine said that we are unwilling and unable to seek for God without the Spirit opening our hearts and minds.
  3. Pelagius reasoned that we must do it entirely on our own apart from any assistance from God. Both are extreme viewpoints.
  4. Our journey toward God depends upon His outreach to us through the word, His love, and His Providence in providing opportunities and means; and, it depends on our desire and will to find Him that motivates us to diligently, sincerely seek for Him.
- B. Christians often talk about coming to Jesus, turning to Lord, obeying the Gospel, etc. We often encourage people to pursue God.
1. The principle of humankind seeking God is Biblical.

- a. Deut. 4:29; Prov. 8:17; Matt. 7:7-8; Acts 17:27
- 2. The principle of God seeking us is Biblical - 2Thes. 3:2-5 - Four times God is spoken of as the primary agency:
  - a. God delivers (v. 2)
  - b. God establishes (v. 3)
  - c. God guards (v. 3)
  - d. God directs (v. 5)
  - e. God is taking initiative, taking action to help us to become saved, remain saved, and to glorify Him. God is seeking us.
- C. Consider the account of the Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-32
  - 1. At the end, the son returns to his father's home (the son was seeking).
  - 2. However, the father was actively looking for his return, saw him a distance away, dropped everything, ran out to his returning son, and brought him back into the family (the son was sought).
  - 3. Isa. 62:11-12 - We will be called the "Sought out, a city not abandoned."
  - 4. 2Chron. 16:9; Psalm 14:2 - God is seeking to establish a bond with those who will be loyal to Him.
  - 5. Definition: "vqb - baqash - baw-kash: to search out (by any method, specifically in worship or prayer); to strive after; ask, beg, beseech, desire, enquire, get, make inquisition, procure, make request, require, seek for." (Strong's, 01245)
- D. Questions to consider:
  - 1. Why does God want us to seek for Him?
  - 2. Is He far? So far that He cannot be found?
  - 3. What are the rewards of seeking for God?
  - 4. How are we to seek for God?
  - 5. When should we seek for God?

### **I. QUESTION ONE: WHY DOES GOD WANT US TO SEEK FOR HIM?**

- A. The scriptures make us responsible for seeking the treasure of a relationship with God - Matt. 13:44-46
- B. The scriptures make it clear the urgency of seeking God immediately, as there may come a time for us when He will not be found - Isa. 55:6; Ecc. 12:1
- C. The scriptures make it clear that seeking for God will help us to rise above the base mind and behavior of the unbelieving and unredeemed.
  - 1. 2Cor. 3:18; Rom. 12:2

### **II. QUESTION TWO: IS GOD FAR? SO FAR THAT HE CANNOT BE FOUND?**

- A. The scriptures emphatically say "NO!" God wants to be found; He is nearby.
  - 1. Matt. 28:20; James 4:8; Prov. 8:17

### **III. QUESTION THREE: WHAT ARE THE REWARDS OF SEEKING FOR GOD?**

- A. God rewards those who diligently (persistently, carefully) seek for Him.
  - 1. Job 8:5-7; 2Chron. 7:14; Psalm 9:10, 10:4-6; 34:10; Isa. 26:3
  - 2. Zeph. 2:3; Matt. 6:33; Heb. 11:6

#### **IV. QUESTION FOUR: HOW ARE WE TO SEEK FOR GOD?**

A. With all our heart and soul.

1. By obeying His word, the primary manual for life given by our Creator.
2. Daily in personal studies, while not forsaking the assembling together.
3. With a loyal heart and willing mind, because God searches our hearts and understands the true intent of them.
4. Continually.

B. Deut. 4:29-31; 1Chron. 28:9; Psalms 105:4; Jer. 29:13

1. Phil. 2:12; Col. 3:1-2; Heb. 10:25

#### **V. QUESTION FIVE: WHEN SHOULD WE SEEK FOR GOD?**

A. Peaceful times won't last forever.

1. Today is what we have, tomorrow is not guaranteed.
2. We cannot count on ourselves to remain in a humble reflective state of mind throughout life. In time, persons become hardened and reprobate.
3. While it is never too late to seek God, it is good to seek Him when young. Learn the lessons of godly discipline when young and it forms a foundation built on godly wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to navigate the rest of life's ups and downs.
4. Seek Him continually, all the days of your life.
5. Prioritize seeking God above seeking your earthly needs.
6. Seek Him earnestly, particularly when you've sinned. This is because sin separates us from God. Acknowledge and confess your sins to draw closer to Him once again.

B. Lam. 3:27-33; Hosea 5:15; Psalms 63:1-2