

# *Lord, You are the Treasure I Seek*

## ***Key Scripture***

*“O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind You [follows hard after Thee]; Your right hand upholds me.”*

*Psalms 63:1-8 NKJV*

## ***Portion for the Journey***

History tells of the Gold Rush that captured the hearts and minds of tens of thousands of men and women in the mid-1800's. Men forsook everything, families, homes, friendships, and jobs to travel across land and sea to search for gold. Some invested incredible sums of money to pay for maps that promised to lead them to the gold. This passion that grabbed men's hearts and souls was so powerful that it was referred to as "Gold Rush Fever." Some became wealthy but most never found what they were looking for, in fact, many of them found a counterfeit to the riches they sought that resulted in complete disappointment. It was called, "Fool's Gold."

Do you remember a time when you sought for something desperately? What was it and what created the desperation? Have you felt this same desperation for God?

His worth is of far greater value than any earthly riches, precious gem or mineral on this earth. A.W. Tozer said, 'The man who has found God for his treasure has all things in One.'<sup>1</sup> God not only calls us to seek Him with our whole heart, He makes the incredible promise that if we seek Him, we will find Him. He promises that we will not be disappointed!

*“My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you, Make your ear attentive to wisdom, Incline your heart to understanding; For if you cry for discernment, Lift your voice for understanding; If you seek her as silver And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will discern the fear of the LORD And discover the knowledge of God.”* Prov. 2:1-5 (NASB)

## **Why Do We Seek Him?**

1. **He draws us.** It would be impossible to find God if He were not planting the desire in our hearts and willing to let us to find Him. John 6:44; Job 11:7-8; Rom. 11:33 (AMP); Isa. 55:6-11
2. **He has called us to seek Him with our whole heart, mind, soul and spirit and strength** repeatedly in His Word. We are called to focus on Him as the "one thing" needed. This pursuit of God requires the expenditure of every fiber of our being. We can hold nothing back in the effort to seek God. Deut. 4:29; Jer. 29:11-14; Ps. 119:1-3; Ps. 27:4-7

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<sup>1</sup> The Pursuit of God by A.W. Tozer 1948

3. **We were created to seek Him.** God places within us a hunger and thirst for Him! We were created in His image with the capacity to know our Creator and enter into relationship with Him. The more we know Him the more we will want to know Him. John 17:3; Ps. 73:25-26; Ps. 42:1-2; Phil. 3:8; Acts 26:18, Matt. 5:16, Matt. 3:16; 2 Cor. 4:4,6; Mark 4:19; Col. 3:2; Heb. 12:2; Ps. 73:25-26

4. **We seek the thing we love the most.** Jesus said the Greatest Commandment is that "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." Note that we are commanded to love our God with the same intensity that we are called to seek Him. If we love Him as we are commanded, we will seek Him. Luke 10:27 (NASB77), Matt. 22:37; Luke 10:27; Deut. 6:5

5. **We realize our desperate need for Him.** He is the way, the truth and the life! We realize that apart from Him we can do nothing. We seek Him in time of need. We realize the world's desperate need for Him. John Piper said, *"There is a hunger for God that goes beyond the desire for private experience. It longs for public display of His glory in the world. It longs for the great dishonors against our God to be set right. It is not content to hope for private revelations of His saving help, as precious as they are. It yearns for the open triumph of His hand in the establishment of God-exalting truth and righteousness—in universities, in courts of law, advertising, media, television, radio....It is driven by a passion for the supremacy of God in all things for the joy of all peoples."*<sup>2</sup> John 6:68; Matt. 6:13

6. **We are to seek His Kingdom:** Luke 12:22-32; Matt. 6:33

7. The ultimate end of our pursuit is that we might know Him and enter into a personal relationship with Him. When we **seek His Face, we are seeking His "Presence" and the favor of His countenance (face) upon us.** This entails drawing near to His throne to be near to Him. 1 Chron. 16:11; Ps. 105:4 (Amp), Ps. 113:5; Ps. 123:1; Ps. 11:4; John 17:3

**Seeking the LORD is possible and finding Him is attainable!!** Repeatedly the Lord commands us to seek to seek Him with all of our heart, mind, soul and spirit. We are promised that when we do this, we will find Him. All the other things we seek, things the LORD assures us that He knows we need them and they will be given to us, if we seek Him. God honors our faithfulness no matter how pathetic our efforts as long as He knows we are doing it with our whole heart. He looks at the intent of our heart and meets us at whatever place that is. Examples: Seek the LORD, He promises that we will find Him. Draw near to Him, He will draw near to us. Open the door to His knock, He will come in and sup with us. Hosea 6:3; 1 Chron. 28:9; 2 Chron. 15:1-4; Jer. 33:3; James 4:8; Heb. 11:6; Rev. 3:20-22

**PRAYER:** Father, I want to know You! You are the treasure that surpasses anything we could possibly want on this earth. I thank You for Your call to seek Your face and the promise that if we seek You, we will find You! Send Your Holy Spirit to lead me and guide me on this path. I know that I cannot do it alone. Thank you that while I seek to follow hard after You, even then Your right hand upholds me. I want to dwell in Your presence and see Your Glory! I want to know You and to understand Your Word and Your ways. Teach me how to accurately handle the Word of Truth!! I pray that You will open my heart and mind today, to understand Your Word and to apply it to my life. LORD, please search my heart and show me if there is anything that I need to confess or change that would hinder me from hearing Your voice. Thank you, that You will forgive me and cleanse me from all sin if I confess my sins to You! Help me to let Your light shine on all areas of my life!! In Jesus Name, Amen!!

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<sup>2</sup> A Hunger for God by John Piper, 1997

## *Digging Deeper In the Word:*

**Biblical Definitions of 'Seek:** What do these tell you about the heart that is seeking God? How do these words affect your understanding of how you will seek the LORD?

1. Greek 327 "anazeteo" means 'to search out, to seek, especially to worship God with zeal and desire. Desire involves the idea of urgent need, great effort is implied. See Matt. 7:7-8; 6:28-34, esp. 33; Acts 17:22-31, esp. 27, Col. 3:1 (Amp); 1 Pet. 3:11 (Amp)
2. Greek 3713 "orego" means to seek with great desire, to reach or stretch out toward, of longing after, hence the mental effort of stretching oneself out for a thing, to reach after, yearn Heb. 11:16
3. Greek 1934 "epizeteo" means to crave, long for, eagerly seek, demand, to search for with intensive effort, to strive after, to desire earnestly. Root: 2212 "zeteo" Acts 12:19; 13:7; Luke 4:42; Matt. 12:39; 16:4; Mark 8:12; Luke 11:29; Acts 19:39; Phil. 4:17; Matt. 6:32; Luke 12:30; Rom. 11:7; Heb. 11:14; 13:14
4. Hebrew 1156 "bea" means to ask, desire, pray, request seek, make petition. From 1159 means to search for, requesting compassion and divine Grace from God, represents prayer, especially in a crisis. An Aramaic word that appears only in Daniel (2:18; 2:13; Dan. 6:7, 7:16) Root 1158: "ba ah" to swell up, rise to a boil, to seek, ask, or request. A rising of desire or interest. Isa.64:1-4
5. Hebrews 7836 "shaqar" means 'to be up at dawn, to rise early at any task with the implication of great earnestness, effort, to search for with painstakingly care, to rise and seek diligently, early in the morning.' Read Isaiah 26:7-9
6. Hebrew 1245 "baqash" means 'to aim, beg, desire, eager, hold, investigate, look, plead, pursue, search, require, and desire.' This word means to seek, require, search for by any means primarily by prayer and worship. From 1243 "baqqara" which means "to plough" or generally to break forth, to inspect, admire, care for, make search, seek out. The idea of breaking through of the dawn, morning, Sense of a long night of searching and praying for the safety and the protection of the early light of dawn. Star Spangled Banner "...and the flag was still there!" Ps. 59:16.
7. Hebrew 1875 "darash" to tread or frequent, worship, diligently. To seek, inquire of, to examine, requiring or demanding. Refers to studying the Law of the Lord, Ezra 7:9-10; God's people seeking after God Hos. 10:12; Amos 5:4

### **How do we seek the LORD?**

1. **We are to seek Him in the Word.** His Word guides us in our search. John 5:39; Jer. 29:11-14; Ps 27:8; Ps. 119:18 (AMP)
2. **We are to seek Him through prayer, fasting, and thanksgiving.** We cry out to Him. Dan. 9:3; Ps. 145:18-20; Isa. 55:6; Prov. 2:3-6; Joel 2:12-13;

3. **We seek Him through Worship.** Worship brings us into His presence. God is enthroned in the praise of Israel. Worship moves the hand of God. Several of the Greek and Hebrew words for “seek” actually mean “worship.”

Ps. 22:3; 1 Chron. 16; John 4:21-24

4. **We seek Him in His creation and His works.** Ps. 19:1, 6; Job 12:7-8; Ps. 111:2; Rom. 1:20

5. **We are to seek Him in circumstances.** God’s goodness fills the earth. We need to look for Him and His lovingkindness in all circumstances. When we go through trials ask God to show you what He wants you to learn and to respond in a way pleasing to Him. Ps. 33:5-6; Rom. 8:28

6. **We seek Him in stillness.** We listen for His voice. We learn to recognize His voice in times of quiet. Ps. 46:10; Hab. 2:20; 1 Ki. 19:12; Job 26:14

7. **We are to seek Him in humility, righteousness and holiness.** We are called to break up our fallow ground through repentance. Seek to remove our hardness of heart and seek His righteousness. Matt. 5:6; Hos. 10:12; Ps. 11:7; Ps. 24:1-6

**Meditate on these passages where the Bible uses the word “seek.” As you read these passages, make some notes beside each reference regarding what it is telling you about seeking the LORD. Why did they seek the LORD? Note the promises and conditions God gives for those who seek Him. Ask the LORD to stir your heart to hunger and thirst for Him and to desire His presence!**

Psalm 42:1-2; Psalm 27:4-8 (AMP); Jer. 29:12-14; Isa. 26:8-9; 2 Chronicles 15:12-15; Ps. 34:4-5, 10-11; Heb. 11:6; Luke 11:9-13; 2 Chron. 7:14; Matt. 6:31-33

*What Is God Speaking to You?* Summarize what the Spirit has shown you. How can you apply this lesson to your life today?

***Responding to God:*** Tell the LORD how this study on seeking Him has touched you. You can write out your prayer here, if you would like. When we study the Word, we should always be moved to talk to the LORD about what He is showing us. Sometimes our prayers take the form of repentance, where we tell Him that we see we are falling short of what His best is for us. Sometimes our prayers take the form of requests, where we ask Him to work in our hearts to bring us to the place that we see is desirable from His Word. Sometimes our prayers take the form of petitions, where we bring our needs before Him, and sometimes they will be intercessions for others, that they will also learn His ways. It is a good idea, when we pray, to pray it first into our own lives, and then, pray it out for others as well... our loved ones, other believers, or anyone that the LORD puts on your heart.

**Let's pray together:** LORD, I want to commit my whole heart to seeking You!! Help me to desire You more than anything else. LORD, wherever my heart is NOT wholly committed to You, I ask that You will help me to desire You more...to desire You above all else. Forgive me for my half-heartedness! Forgive me for my complacency! Forgive me for being lukewarm. Please forgive me for not making knowing You my first priority. Lord, give me a heart that is desperate to know You!! Thank you that where I fall short, You never do!! In Jesus Name, Amen!