JOIN THE SEARCH; SEEK AFTER GOD

Let us never stop seeking after God.

KEY POINTS

- It is critically important that each and every one of us seek out a close, personal relationship with God.
- Most of the congregation have obeyed the Acts 2:38 plan of salvation and repented of their sins, been baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness (remission) of their sins and received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Like the Old Testament Israelites, we have a covenant with God.
- It was under the Abrahamic covenant that Israelite males were circumcised on the eighth day. Under the Mosaic Covenant, Israel made the appropriate sacrifices, observed the feasts and kept the law.
- In spite of their status as Jews under covenant, many (if not most) of them were not actually covenant-*keepers*. Exodus 33 reminds us that they had fallen into Baal worship. God even wanted to walk away from them and leave them in Moses' hands.
- Moses set up a "tabernacle of meeting" a good distance away from the camp where he would go to meet with God. But there is something else we see in that verse. The meeting place wasn't available to just Moses alone:

  > And it came to pass that everyone who sought the LORD went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp (Exodus 33:7).

- Even from those early days, people could seek God, find Him and commune with Him if they so desired.
- In fact, even in the midst of Israel's gross idolatry, Moses was able to ask for and receive a miraculous and magnificent vision of the glory of God (Exodus 33:18-23; 34:5-7).
- The Lord has graciously told us how we should go about seeking after Him:
  - With humility
  - Through prayer
  - Seeking His face (by immersion in His word)
  - Turning away from any sins we are committing

  > If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land (2 Chronicles 7:14).

- Right now, you may feel that your spiritual life is a total farce and you are going absolutely nowhere with God. However, if you have obeyed God's plan of salvation, YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD. You belong to Jesus Christ, and His Spirit is presently, at this moment, living inside you!
- We need to daily remind ourselves of this reality. Tomorrow morning say to yourself, "I am a child of God and He loves me just the way I am!"

KEY SCRIPTURES:
2 Chronicles 15:1-15, 7:14, 11:16, 17:3-4a; Psalm 27:4, 8; 63:1-4; Isaiah 55:6-7

- Then, find a place of prayer and humbly thank God for another day in His presence where you can serve Him and show forth His glory to a lost and dying world.
- Take the time to 'seek His face' by reading a chapter or two from the Word of God and meditate on it all day long. And, of course, make the firm commitment that you will not continue in any sinful activity you know displeases God.
- These are all keys to helping us get out of whatever spiritual rut we may be in, and we can be assured that God responds, as we see in the case of King Asa in 2 Chronicles 15 (verses 2, 4, 8, 15).
- Our Lord Jesus Himself said that if you "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness…all these things [food, clothing, etc.] shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33).
- As a final reminder, the writer to the Hebrews lets us know that our seeking after God will never be in vain. God "is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). We will seek Him and find Him when we seek for Him with all our heart (Jeremiah 29:13).

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. In your opinion, is the desire to seek after God something that comes to a person naturally? Why are there various Scriptures in the Bible that tell us to "seek the Lord"?
2. If we wanted to get in touch with God, what would be the right channels to use in order to do so? Are there certain steps we must take? What are they? Support your answer with Scripture.
3. Reflect: Are you keeping covenant with God? How do/will you seek after Him?

Prayer Time

Lord, it is my desire to seek after You, to learn more about You, and to draw even closer to You. May this desire of mine never wax or wane.

L.G. ice-Breaker: If there was something you really wanted but couldn't afford, would you still try to obtain it?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think about)

! (Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must share)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____