

# The Return of the God Seekers

## (Part 1)

Have you ever seen what someone is like when they are late and looking for their car keys?

### A generation can be characterized by seeking after God

#### Psalm 24:6

*This is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face--even Jacob. Selah.*

#### Hosea 10:12-13

*Sow with a view to righteousness, reap in accordance with kindness; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the LORD Until He comes to rain righteousness on you...*

This is something we must do NOW. If not, we may not have the opportunity in future.

#### Proverbs 1:28

*Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but they will not find me.*

### Sometimes God uses afflictions to help us to seek His face

#### Psalm 77:2

*In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord; In the night my hand was stretched out without weariness; my soul refused to be comforted.*

#### Psalm 78:33-34

*So He brought their days to an end in futility and their years in sudden terror. When He killed them, then they sought Him, and returned and searched diligently for God;*

#### Psalm 83:16

*Fill their faces with dishonour, that they may seek Your name, O LORD.*

Sadly with many people, this is still no guarantee that they will seek the Lord:

#### Isaiah 9:13

*Yet the people do not turn back to Him who struck them, nor do they seek the LORD of hosts.*

## 1. What is seeking after God?

To seek is to search, to demand, to desire, to keep trying to obtain, to make efforts, and to get to the bottom of a matter.

One who seeks after God can be described as passionately curious about God and His ways; Relentless in pursuit of God; a God-Chaser; One who has a healthy obsession with God's mind and character; One who is sensitive to and guided by God's opinion on a matter. One who longs for and enjoys His presence.

## 2. Why should we seek after God?

1. One of the main things God is looking for when He examines mankind is "who is seeking after me?"

#### Psalm 14:2

*The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.*

2. God desires all of mankind to seek Him

**Acts 15:16-17**

*'AFTER THESE THINGS I will return, AND I WILL REBUILD THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID WHICH HAS FALLEN, AND I WILL REBUILD ITS RUINS, AND I WILL RESTORE IT, SO THAT THE REST OF MANKIND MAY SEEK THE LORD, AND ALL THE GENTILES WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME,'*

**Zechariah 8:20-23**

*"Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'It will yet be that peoples will come, even the inhabitants of many cities. The inhabitants of one will go to another, saying, "Let us go at once to entreat the favour of the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts; I will also go."' 'So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favour of the LORD.*

3. There is an urgency to seeking after God

**Isaiah 55:6-7**

*Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.*

4. We can return to seeking after God even if we have been far from Him

**Hosea 3:4-5**

*For the sons of Israel will remain for many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar and without ephod or household idols. Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days.*

5. Seeking God was a covenantal practice with consequences for non-compliance

**2 Chronicles 15:12-15**

*They entered into the covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and soul; and whoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, man or woman. Moreover, they made an oath to the LORD with a loud voice, with shouting, with trumpets and with horns.*

6. Those who are in sync with God prioritise seeking after Him

**Psalms 27:4**

*One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD And to meditate in His temple.*

**3. How are we to seek after God?**

1. We are to seek after Him until the breakthrough comes

**Hosea 10:12**

*Sow with a view to righteousness, reap in accordance with kindness; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the LORD Until He comes to rain righteousness on you.*

2. We are to be intentional about seeking after God

**1 Chronicles 22:19**

*"Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God; arise, therefore, and build the sanctuary of the LORD God, so that you may bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the holy vessels of God into the house that is to be built for the name of the LORD."*

3. We are to seek after Him without ceasing

**1 Chronicles 16:11**

*Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face continually.*

4. We are to seek after God whole-heartedly.

**Hosea 5:13-15**

*When Ephraim saw his sickness, And Judah his wound, Then Ephraim went to Assyria And sent to King Jareb But he is unable to heal you, Or to cure you of your wound. For I will be like a lion to Ephraim And like a young lion to the house of Judah I, even I, will tear to pieces and go away, I will carry away, and there will be none to deliver. I will go away and return to My place Until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.*

Wholeheartedly means we are diligent and earnest. This means there is no room for passivity, slumber or being on a personal go slow.

**Proverbs 8:17**

*I love those who love me; And those who diligently seek me will find me.*

**Psalms 63:1**

*O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

It is possible to seek after God so much that some of your physical needs are suppressed or no longer seem significant. My flesh yearns for you. I remember reading God's Word so much it would fill my hunger.

**Deuteronomy 4:29-31**

*"But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul." "When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days you will return to the LORD your God and listen to His voice. "For the LORD your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them.*

**Jeremiah 29:11-14**

*'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. 'Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 'You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.*

5. We are to primarily seek His face.

How are we to seek His face if we can't see His face? A person's face reveals much about his or her character and personality. The Hebrew word for face in the Old Testament is often translated "presence". So we are seeking His person and presence.

**Psalms 27:8**

*When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, O LORD, I shall seek."*

**Psalms 27:4-8**

*One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD And to meditate in His temple. For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; In the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock. And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, And I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.*

## **2 Chronicles 7:14**

*and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

Seeking God's face is more than just prayer. It is possible to pray without fully seeking His face.

## **4. What is the outcome of seeking after God?**

1. You will find Him

### **Isaiah 45:19**

*"I have not spoken in secret, In some dark land; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, 'Seek Me in a waste place'; I, the LORD, speak righteousness, Declaring things that are upright.*

### **2 Chronicles 15:1-2**

*Now the Spirit of God came on Azariah the son of Oded, and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Listen to me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: the LORD is with you when you are with Him And if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.*

### **Acts 17:27**

*that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;*

### **Matthew 7:7-8**

*"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.*

2. You will be rewarded

### **Hebrews 11:6**

*And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*

### **King Asa - 2 Chronicles 14:7**

*For he said to Judah, "Let us build these cities and surround them with walls and towers, gates and bars. The land is still ours because we have sought the LORD our God; we have sought Him, and He has given us rest on every side." So they built and prospered.*

You keep the land He has given you. He establishes you.

In fact, God Himself is your reward:

### **Gen 15:1**

*After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."*

It is only after this that God gives Abraham the promise. When God is your reward, everything else follows.

**God becomes your shield. You live in a place of immunity. He Himself is your reward.**

3. We will be protected

### **Amos 5:4-6**

*For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel, "Seek Me that you may live. "But do not resort to Bethel And do not come to Gilgal, Nor cross over to Beersheba; For Gilgal will certainly go into captivity And Bethel will come to trouble.*

*"Seek the LORD that you may live, Or He will break forth like a fire, O house of Joseph, And it will consume with none to quench it for Bethel,*

4. You will be freed from all your fears

**Psalm 34:4**

*I sought the LORD, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.*

5. He gives us the desires of our hearts

**Matthew 6:33**

*But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

**Ps 37:4**

*Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

Delight here means to be soft and pliable, taking enjoyment in.

**Matthew 13:44-46**

*"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.*

6. We are honoured by God and become candidates for His Favour

**2 Chronicles 17:3-6**

*The LORD was with Jehoshaphat because he followed the example of his father David's earlier days and did not seek the Baals, but sought the God of his father, followed His commandments, and did not act as Israel did. So the LORD established the kingdom in his control, and all Judah brought tribute to Jehoshaphat, and he had great riches and honour.*

**Ezra 8:21-23**

*Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God to seek from Him a safe journey for us, our little ones, and all our possessions. For I was ashamed to request from the king troops and horsemen to protect us from the enemy on the way, because we had said to the king, "The hand of our God is favourably disposed to all those who seek Him, but His power and His anger are against all those who forsake Him." So we fasted and sought our God concerning this matter, and He listened to our entreaty.*

7. We will lack nothing good

**Psalm 34:8-10**

*O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! O fear the LORD, you His saints; For to those who fear Him there is no want. The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing.*

**Lamentations 3:25**

*The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him.*

8. We gain understanding of ALL things

**Proverbs 28:5**

*Evil men do not understand justice, But those who seek the LORD understand all things.*

There is a link between seeking God and gaining understanding.

**Romans 3:11**

*THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;*

**Psalm 14:2**

*The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, Who seek after God.*