



## SEEKING GOD'S FACE

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Many times in Scripture, God's people are encouraged to seek the face of God.

Webster's Dictionary defines seek as; to look for, go in search for, to try to discover

The Hebrew word for "face" in the Old Testament is often translated "presence." When we seek the face of God, we are seeking His presence.

In Psalm 105:4, God's faithful ones were called to *"seek His face always."*

There are times, though, when we neglect to pursue Him. God's face, His holy character, is often hidden by our human condition and fleshly desires.

David said in Psalm 27:8 (NKJV):

*<sup>8</sup> When You said, "Seek My face,"*

*My heart said to You, "Your face, Lord, I will seek."*

Psalm 105:4 (AMP) expands the meaning:

*Seek and deeply long for the Lord and His strength [His power, His might]; Seek and deeply long for His face and His presence continually.*

### **But, what happens if we seek *His hand* first?**

It seems that for most of us it is easier to seek God's hand first.

After all, we have a lot of needs and so do family, friends, co-workers, and others that we pray for. But, would you go up to someone and ask for things from them over and over, only making requests. Never to really get to know them, share with them or embrace them, or just enjoy just being with them. Sometimes that's how we treat God.

Sometimes, like He's a Genie or Santa Claus. I make my requests and wait for God to deliver. Then we can become disappointed when He doesn't deliver. That's not a very good relationship especially if one is always the giver and the other is always the taker.

I remember listening to Pastor Robert Morris on TV one day. He talked about when he was younger, that he wanted an SUV and he prayed and asked God for an SUV and God said no. He couldn't figure out why God would say no because he could think of all kinds of good reasons why he should have an SUV. It would be good

for his family and for his ministry. It's so easy to think of all the good reasons why we should have this request granted.

So, he went ahead and looked for an SUV. He found one he really liked and he bought it. But, not long after he purchased this SUV he started having mechanical problems over and over. He even had flat tires. This went on for some time and then he decided it was time to get rid of it and get something more practical, something that was not going to cost so much and to get out of constant repairs.

Not long after he got rid of this SUV, someone came up to him to give him an SUV. They told him they wanted to give it to him months ago, but the Lord had told them not yet. The Lord had a perfect time, but Pastor Robert didn't want to wait.

He would have been more blessed by waiting. If he had waited, he wouldn't have had to spend money for an SUV and he wouldn't have had to pay for a lot of repairs and all the frustrations that came with it. It taught him a great lesson, that God knew what He was doing and when was the right time.

Here's a personal story that I experienced and what I learned from the Lord:

In 2005, my aunt was dying from stomach cancer. I prayed and asked God to heal her many times and many family members were praying also.

The Lord showed me in a dream what He was going to do. I loved it. It was an answer to prayer. In the dream my aunt and I took a plane and went to Russia where she was going to be healed. Russia just meant it was a place that neither one of us had been to before and it was a foreign land to us.

When we arrived they took us to the place where she was going to be healed. They took my aunt to one room and they put me in another room to wait. In this room there was one desk and two chairs. I was in one chair and there was a man in the other chair waiting for someone.

After a while someone came in with a small bag of gold coins and threw them down on the desk and a couple of the gold coins rolled out. I didn't want to touch them because we were in a foreign land and didn't know what would happen, so I told the man in the chair next to me that he could take them if he wanted them.

A short time later someone came in and threw down two newspapers on the desk. I didn't want to touch these either. I still thought, I am in a foreign land and do not know what would happen, so I told the man he could have the newspapers also.

Not long after that, they brought my aunt out and she had been healed, so we went on our way to the airport and flew home. She was totally healed and that was the end of the dream.

A day or two later I went to visit my aunt and told her about the dream and I thought she was going to be healed.

It was one or two weeks later that she passed away. I couldn't understand why. I asked the Lord what the dream meant if she wasn't going to be healed. Why did I have the dream?

I kept praying and asking the Lord what the dream meant. About a month later the Lord showed me that the gold coins represented the streets of gold in heaven and that one newspaper had her birth date on it and the other one had her death date on it.

I didn't want to see those dates or hear that she would be in Heaven. I had my own idea of how God should answer.

God gave her the ultimate healing in Heaven. She had no more pain and no more cancer. She was full of life in Heaven. God did heal her, just not the way I had planned it should be done.

We cannot see all that God is doing or how it will all fit together unless or until He reveals it. We can't see the completed picture. We only see in part and yet we sometimes want to tell God how it should be done. He must have a good laugh sometimes.

It's like telling a pilot how to fly after we have read a book about flying, but have never flown before. The pilot would probably just laugh or think to himself or herself, "They don't know what they are talking about."

### **What does it mean to seek God's face?**

Jesus sought the Father before doing anything.

John 5:19 (NLT)

*<sup>19</sup>So Jesus explained, "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself. He does only what He sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does."*

The Lord's Prayer in *Matthew 6:9* starts with, *"Our Father in heaven, may Your name be honored."*

The way to get to where God wants us to be is to spend quality time in His presence, seeking His face. Lift Him higher and exalt Him with praises and while you are in His presence, the things that are such big obstacles to us, seem to diminish because we see our God bigger than our circumstances.

You may still have the same trials you had before you went to seek His face, but now your perspective is more in alignment with His perspective and all things are possible with God and He will bring us through, if we will seek His face and lay down our own agenda.

Remember the story of David and Goliath in 1 Samuel 17? Goliath was a giant that was over 9 feet tall and David was just a youth (probably a teenager), the youngest of 8 sons and he was a shepherd. His 3 oldest brothers were in the army. You would not, in the natural, consider David any match for Goliath.

Goliath wore a coat of armor that was about 125 pounds. Probably David didn't weigh much more than Goliath's coat of armor and David didn't wear any armor. Goliath also had an armor bearer that went before him carrying a huge shield. For 40 days Goliath had been coming before the Israelites and taunting them twice a day.

David didn't understand why no one was willing to go out and fight Goliath. So, he told King Saul he would go and kill Goliath. David came to Goliath with a slingshot and 5 smooth stones.

Goliath was insulted that they had sent out a boy to try and kill him. No armor, no real weapons, just a feisty and bold boy. He never even considered that David would be able to take him down.

1 Samuel 17:45

*<sup>45</sup> Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.*

*<sup>48</sup> So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. <sup>49</sup> Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.*

After this we read that he cut off the giant's head and the rest of the Philistine's went running and the Israelite army pursued them.

What Goliath didn't know was that he would be fighting God. He had no chance to win. God is bigger and better than any Goliath! That means even Goliaths in our own lives can be overcome because of God.

David had no doubt that he would be able to overtake and conquer the giant because he knew His God. He had face to face time with God often. If God said to do it, he knew he would be victorious. He worshiped and loved the Lord his God and God loved David. God said, "David is a man after My own heart."

Jeremiah 29:13 (NKJV)

*<sup>13</sup> And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.*

Matthew 6:33 (AMP)

*<sup>33</sup> But first and most importantly seek (aim at, strive after) His kingdom and His righteousness [His way of doing and being right—the attitude and character of God], and all these things will be given to you also.*

I remember one time I had been praying and thanking the Lord for His goodness and His ways and when I was done I asked Him to show me what to do for Pastor Appreciation day for Pastor Will and I left it with the Lord. I had no clue what we would do.

I left to go and meet Chuck to get something to eat. While I was sitting at the table, Chuck went up to order for us. I wasn't thinking about Pastor Appreciation Day at that time when all of a sudden the Lord had downloaded to me His plan for Pastor Will. I took out a pen and some paper and just started writing it down. It had to do with the many hats that he wears as the Pastor. (Pastor, Counselor, Teacher, Chaplain, Presbyterian, etc.) I can't remember all now.

The leaders and some others each wore a black baseball cap with one of those titles and then told a little about that title. The amazing thing was that I didn't know what or how that day was going to come together and in a matter of a few minutes the Lord showed up and gave the plan. I think Pastor Will was blessed and people got to know a little more about what he does, which is a lot.

We need to get to know the Lord by spending time reading His Word, in praise and worship, and in prayer. It has to be intentional, a desire, a longing to be intimate with the Lord.

When you read His Word, ask Him to reveal Himself to you. When you sing to the Lord, sing from your heart, not your head and when you pray, humble yourself before your Lord and Savior and seek His face, desiring to know Him better.

I remember counseling with someone quite a few years ago about prayer. Because all their prayers were about asking for things from the Lord all the time. No real praise or worship. They were just kind of going

through the motions of what they knew. I asked the person to take one day to just praise the Lord and thank Him and don't petition Him for anything. The look on the person's face was like, "Are you kidding?" They said, "Don't ask for anything?" It was like, really?

I wanted this person to get to know the God that wants relationship with them. The God that wants to have a conversation together.

If you really want a closer walk with the Lord I would encourage you to start with praising God for all He is and His many blessings He has already given to you. When you sense His presence, listen with your heart for His direction.

If you haven't done this before ask the Lord to help you. Start with maybe 5 or 10 minutes of just thinking of all the ways you can praise Him and thank Him for the blessings he has given you. Maybe take a Psalm and read it out loud and meditate on it. (maybe Psalm 91 or Psalm 23). Just start and see what the Lord will show you. It may seem awkward to you at first. Don't give up. God will meet with you if you seek Him with a humble heart, desiring to be with Him.

Jesus often withdrew from the crowd to be alone with the Father and seek His face. He got His instructions from the Father. He said, "*I do what I see the Father doing.*" How much more do we need to do the same?

If you seek God's hands, you will miss His face. If you seek His face, you will get His hands also.

When we seek God's face first, we will also find His hand of power. Seek to know His character, His heart, His presence, His will. That takes time. Pray words that acknowledge who He is:

- "Lord, You are Almighty and powerful."
- "Lord, You are the great I AM, no one is greater than You."
- "Lord, You are love, no one loves me like You do."
- "You are my shelter in the storm."
- "You are the Great Physician."
- "Lord, all authority is in You."
- "Lord, You are the creator of everything – Heaven and earth and everything in them."
- "Lord, You have all wisdom."
- "You are the great Shepherd who takes care of me."

In his book, Transforming Prayer, Daniel Henderson wrote:

All true prayer exists for the glory of God

And is based in the worship of God

Focused on the face of God

Shaped by the Word of God

Inspired by the Spirit of God

Offered through the Son of God

Aimed for the will of God

Experienced by true children of God

In Psalm 84:1-2, King David said:

*How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!*

*My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; My heart and my flesh call out for the living God.*