

Seeking the Lord with ALL Your Heart

"When Thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto Thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek."
"If you seek me, you will find me if you search with all your heart."

How can we have a personal, intimate relationship with God? Does God decide the level of depth? Or do we determine that?

Examples of people in the Bible who had a deep, intimate relationship with God:

- David:

Psalm 27: 4 & 8 - "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; 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 enquire in his temple... When Thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto Thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek."

Psalm 63:1 - "O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water."

- Moses:

Exodus 33:13 - "If You are pleased with me, teach me Your ways so I may know You and continue to find favor with You."

- Joshua:

Exodus 33:7-11 - "Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the "tent of meeting." Anyone inquiring of the LORD would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp.... As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the LORD spoke with Moses....Then Moses would return to the camp, **but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.**"

- Paul:

Phil. 3:8 - "What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ."

We are the ones that decide the depth of our relationship with the Lord. It is the intensity of our desire that is lacking. Jesus offers each of us abundant life in Him; we *choose* whether to embrace it or not.

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more ABUNDANTLY!" (John 10:10)

"We are at this moment as close to God as we choose to be. True, there are times when we would like to know a deeper intimacy, but when it comes to the point, we are not prepared to pay the price involved. The qualifying conditions are more stringent and exacting than we are prepared to meet; so we settle for a less demanding level of Christian living." -Oswald Sanders

Psalm 37:8 - "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good."

Nothing is worth standing in the way of an intimate relationship with our Lord.

Phil. 3:8 - "I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...I consider them RUBBISH, that I may gain Christ."

If we seek the Lord with our whole heart, we WILL find Him.

Jeremiah 29:13 - "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with ALL your heart."

Luke 11:9, - "Ask, and it will be given you."

The Lord Himself longs for an intimate relationship with each of us.

Song of Solomon 7:10 - "I belong to my lover, and His desire is for me"

Jeremiah 31:3 - "I have loved you with an everlasting love, therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn you".

The depth of our relationship with God is based on our knowledge of Him.

"If we look only at God's love, we will not need Him, and there will be no urgency in the message of the cross. If we focus narrowly on God's justice, we will want to

avoid Him, and we will live in terror-fear, always feeling guilty and waiting for punishment.” -Edward T. Welsh

John 16: 13-14 - “When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth...He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.”

We are going to have to root out EVERYTHING that is hindering our relationship with the Lord.

Song of Solomon 2:15 - “Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.”

Don't get discouraged as you seek Him; cling to His promises.

Heb. 11:6 - “He rewards those who *earnestly seek* Him.”

Jeremiah 29:13 - “If we seek Him, we *will* find Him.”

Phil. 1:6 - “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to the day of completion”.

1 Corinthians 2:9 - “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”

Seeking the Lord is an ongoing process that will continue all of our lives here on this earth. Keep pressing on!

Phil. 3 12-14 - “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

Seek and pray for support from fellow-believers.

Proverbs 27:17 - “Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”