

# Are we DILIGENTLY Seeking GOD Himself?

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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

**Summary:** *We may study and pray daily, but does that make us “seekers” after God? WHY is it crucially important to seek our Maker? What does “seeking” mean? If you would like to seek HIM, and feel His presence in your life, you’ll benefit from this message. What does “seeking God diligently and first” – look like? What is promised for those who are diligent seekers? This is one of the most important concepts we can possibly cover.*

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A warm welcome from Orlando to children of the House of God in Yeshua our Messiah – whom most of you might call Jesus Christ.

I recommend you hear the audio to get the stories and illustrations in full, as I don’t have the means and time to write them all out word for word. The best thing is to print off these notes and use them AS you listen to the audio. You’ll get the best experience with this site by doing that.

*This topic today is one of the most important topics that could possibly be covered.*

## **Examples – stories: (hear the audio for full details):**

- Have you ever lost or misplaced something of high value? A missing diamond earring? A missing wallet.... (My story – back-tracked to doctor’s office...) Whatever that valuable “something” was... how hard did you try to find it?
- My daughter as a 4 yr old had become separated from my wife and me – each thinking she was with the other parent. Jesus himself had gotten separated from his own family too (Luke 2:40-50). So it happens. The full story of what happened with my daughter is on the audio. How we desperately looked for her. When someone of value gets separated from us, we search so hard, so diligently.
- Another time – in London –we saw a distraught boy about 10-11 yrs old, crying, as we crossed over Tower Bridge or one of the bridges in London. He had become separated from his father and family. The father came back – urgently and diligently searching for his missing son.
- How diligently would you seek your Father – if *you* were the lost child?

*If our heavenly Father is not intimately close to us, if we have become separated from Him, we should be looking everywhere, with all diligence, to “find” Him in our lives again.*

## **Hebrews 11:5-6**

“By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6 But 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 diligently seek Him.**"

Diligently seeking God is far more than just daily prayer and Bible study.

Interesting 3 words here. "*Diligently*"; "*Seek*" and the 3<sup>rd</sup> word is WHO it is we are seeking: GOD Himself. Millions of people have searched the scriptures, and have learned scripture and verse, and still have never come to know the Author.

**John 5:39-40**

"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to ME that you may have life."

I pray daily. I study daily. But I contend that what Scripture is telling us goes way beyond just daily prayer and study. And if you haven't started even that much as a daily habit, you certainly are not yet diligently seeking God. But that's just a starting point. *It's possible to know the book – and miss the author!*

So let's talk about that today: "Diligently seeking God". I speak my heart to you. I realize I need to seek my God more diligently. And I fear that I'm not alone. The House of God in these end times, I fear, is in disarray, disunited, the spiritual temple needs cleansing, a new revival is overdue in the land. Are you with me? Do you feel the same? Do you sense the lukewarmness among so many of – US?

*Look at the end time prophecies and comments about the state of God's people.*

- **Laodicea** – Revelation 3:14-22-- definitely picturing end time people – for Christ is depicted as already knocking on the door. With the previous 2 church groups in Revelation 3 – Yeshua is saying he is coming, coming soon... Anyway, Laodicea is so lukewarm it makes our Master want to vomit! He warns her (us) to repent, to see our naked and wretched condition and quit thinking everything's OK.
- Christ: "When the Son of Man returns – will he find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:8
- The end time is characterized as when the love of many grows cold. Matt 24:12

So we obviously need this topic.

On audio – I discuss how people would be far more interested in a deep doctrinal discussion or some new prophetic insight (who exactly are the 144,000; or what year exactly will Christ return) – but talking about seeking God diligently is likely to evoke yawns. *If you're yawning over this topic, you really need this message.* (lol)

*Our Heavenly Daddy, Abba – who is also GOD ALMIGHTY, El Shaddai, and God Most High – is looking to see if anyone in fact is seeking him.* Don't be among the wicked proud, who don't seek God and never think about God. Are you and I searching for our God?

**Psalm 10:4**

"The wicked in his proud countenance does not **seek** God;

God is in none of his thoughts.”

Be honest. How often does GOD come into your thoughts throughout the day? Seeking God is not just something we do when we get out of bed and pray – or when we go to bed and pray. When I realized our 4-yr old wasn't with us, diligent seeking began to happen, believe me!

*Seeking God – Biblically – is something we do periodically throughout the day. We're checking in with Abba! Frequently! And Psalms 14:2 says YHVH is looking down to see if there are “ANY who understand, who seek God”.*

*Seeking God is something that includes being very aware of His presence at all times. At all times. We are now the temple of God – because His Spirit dwells in us. We are – in a sense – holy ground, for the shekinah glory is within us (or should be!).*

This is something even for our youth, for the kids and children and teens and young adults!

**Ecclesiastes 12:1**

**Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth,**

Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say,  
"I have no pleasure in them"

Ecclesiastes 12:1 is interesting because the Hebrew original word there – translated “Creator” – is actually a plural word in the Hebrew. Remember your “Creators”.

Young's Literal Translation: “Remember now also thy Creators...” Do you remember Genesis 1 – when *Elohim*, a plural word for “God”, says, “Let US make man in OUR image....”? I just thought I'd throw that in.

When we've really “messed up” – and God has punished – YHVH gives the road back to Him in Deut 4:27-31. Very simply: seek Him with all your heart and all your soul. But it's too bad that too often it takes really bad times to make us start to really seek our God!

**Deuteronomy 4:27-31**

“And YHVH will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord will drive you. 28 And there you will serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. 29 **But from there you will seek YHVH your God, and you will find Him IF you seek Him with ALL your HEART and with all your soul**. 30 When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to YHVH your God and obey His voice 31 (for YHVH your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.”

Lack of seeking ends us up in a mess. Getting out of the mess is by seeking Him.

There's an interesting verse about Solomon's son Rehoboam and why he went astray:

**2 Chronicles 12:14**

“And he did evil, because he did not **prepare his heart to seek YHVH**”

**Holman... “...because he did not determine in his heart to seek YHVH”**

If you read the Chronicles, you'll see how when Judah had a righteous king who LED the people to seek their God, the YHVH blessed and prospered them. One of my favorite stories is 2 Chronicles 20- - Jehoshaphat – who led all Judah to seek their God with all their being when 3 big foreign armies came up against them, and YHVH blessed them with a great victory.

The Greek word for “diligently seek” in Hebrews 11:6 is just one word in Greek – meaning to *diligently seek*! Strong's 1567 – *Ekzeteo*

**SEEKING: WE DON'T SEEK that which we think we already have, or don't need. Ponder that. If you're not diligently seeking God, you think you already have all you need of Him.**

*Paul said his goal was to come to KNOW HIM (Christ) (Phil 3:9-10), implying he realized this seeking to come to know our Savior would be a lifelong aim.*

**So are you with me?** So this study is a sharing of my own recent study and repentance. *I was still praying every day. I was still studying every day. But I had gotten away from seeking HIM and was focused on just knowledge and information for a while. There's a huge difference.*

“Seek DILIGENTLY”: YOU figure this one out. Are you seeking Father diligently? If you realized your father had gotten separated from you, and you needed him badly, how hard would you look for him?

Same word for “seek” is used in the Septuagint version (Greek version) of the Old Testament – describing how GOD seeks out his people who got separated from him. He compares himself to a good shepherd diligently seeking the lost sheep – see Ezekiel 34:10-12; and recall the story of the shepherd who went looking for the one lost sheep out of the 100 – and kept looking until he found it – and then joyfully celebrated (Luke 15).

**Matthew 6:25-34**

"Therefore I say to you, **do not worry** about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 28 **"So why do you worry** about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

31 **"Therefore do not worry**, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

**33 But seek FIRST the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.** 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

All the basic necessities of life we worry about will be provided if we seek FIRST the kingdom and His righteousness. **Psalm 34:10** says any who seeks YHWH shall not lack any good thing! It's a similar Greek word in Matthew 6:33 – zeteo. The Greek word for “first” means “first of all, before all else.”

### **EVIDENCE WE'RE NOT TRULY SEEKING HIM DILIGENTLY AND FIRST**

**But first, here are some signs that show us we REALLY need to get back** to seeking God – diligently and FIRST. As I go over these points, I'm not preaching AT you as much as I'm bearing my own soul – some things I see in my own life from time to time and these become times I realize I really need to start seeking again, much more earnestly!

- **You feel a distance between you and our Abba. You know you're not walking hand –in hand with him. You really don't feel his PRESENCE in your moment-by-moment existence.**  
IN the early church, when they prayed for faith (Acts 4:23), the place they assembled was shaken, to show them God had heard them! When Paul and Silas prayed and sang in jail, at midnight, they *knew* God was there – as the chains broke off and the prison doors swung open. God has not taken a leave of absence. But maybe WE have!
- **You're slipping into sin more and more and excusing yourself.** You're drinking too much, too often. You're too casual and lax with the Sabbath. Or you're delving into internet sites one shouldn't be in. Tithing? Well, forget that. You're using profanity more and more easily - and using abbreviations in your texts and emails. You're sinning more easily – and know it – but don't really care that much.
- **You just know God isn't blessing you.** And yet there are so many verses that promise He will take care of us and our needs IF we seek him. But everything's going wrong. And then more goes wrong. **I don't mean you're just not being blessed, I mean it even looks like you're even being cursed!** Well then it's time to wake up; to seek God with all your heart. It's certainly easier to seek God when we are having a rough time of things – need a job, need healing, and need answers!
- **Your prayers – when you actually bother to pray – aren't getting answered.** It's been a long time since you've seen a real healing (I don't mean the surgery went well, I mean a real healing.)
- **You've lost your “first love”. You've lost the JOY of being a child of God.** You've lost the joy of salvation. You're honestly just not excited anymore about things biblical. Honestly, you haven't done earnest Bible study for weeks and weeks!
- We know we're really not seeking GOD diligently – coming to know HIM – because we **WORRY a lot**. *Someone who perfectly knows Abba will never worry or fret.* I'm not there yet. How about you? Worrying means we think Abba (our dear Father) is not up to the task and problems we see ahead.

- **We're not at PEACE in our hearts.** *We're not experiencing our Abba's divine favor and joy to be with us.* We fear him more than we enjoy and love Him. Love casts out fear, remember. And 1 John 4:17 says we have boldness – in Christ – as we look forward to the judgment.

**1 John 4:17-19**

"Love has been perfected among us in this: **that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.** 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. 19 We love Him because He first loved us."

We experience His love, his favor, his peace, his joy, when we seek HIM --and not just data. Let's get past being like the Greeks in Athens in Paul's day who constantly were looking for "some new thing" to talk about (Acts 17:21).

I could go on and on... but if what I've just described sounds like you, then you and I need to seriously get back to seriously looking for our heavenly father!

**HOW IS "DILIGENTLY SEEKING" DESCRIBED? What does it look like?**

**Seeking God is described:**

- As a newborn infant seeking its mama's breast or milk. You've surely watched or heard a newborn infant scream until it got what it wanted and needed: mama's milk.

**1 Peter 2:1-2**

"Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 **as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby...**"

But spiritually we may not even be aware of our spiritual hunger!

**Matthew 5:6**

Blessed are those who ***hunger and thirst for righteousness,***  
For they shall be filled.

- **As a thirsty panting deer looking for water.**

**Psalms 42:1-2**

As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When shall I come and appear before God?

Is this you?

- **It's like desperately groping to find Someone in a dark room (dark time)**  
**Acts 17:26-28**

And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so **that they should SEEK (zeteo) the Lord, in the hope that**

**they might grope (feel – KJV; reach out – Apologetics) for Him and find Him,** though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and

move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

- Seeking must be with ALL our heart (SO many verses about this). It's ALL-OUT!

**Jeremiah 29:10-14**

"For thus says YHWH: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. 11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says YHWH, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. **12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.**

- **"Diligently seeking": we stay at it until we know we have the connection**  
*When Yeshua prayed, we read that even HE, even HE – prayed ALL NIGHT at times.* Like the time he had to pick the 12 disciples. He prayed all night long. Have you and I ever done that? (Hear the audio for more stories and examples of this)

**Luke 6:12-13**

"Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and **continued all night in prayer to God.** And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles."

**Psalms 77:2**

**In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord;**

*My hand was stretched out in the night without ceasing;*

My soul refused to be comforted.

I just have to wonder – how are we doing as a people – seeking our Father, our Maker, our Savior, our God Most High? Look what was said to King Solomon by YHVH:

**2 Chronicles 7:12-16**

Then YHVH appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. 13 When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, **14 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. 15 Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place [WE are the holy temple of God today].** 16 For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.

YHVH goes on from there to warn Solomon that if he, his descendants or the people wander from the living God's true way, he will remove their blessings. Be sure to hear my sermon about the New Covenant. In the New Covenant, our faith is in Christ, his life, his perfect obedience and we are "in him". In the new covenant, we are promised we can't be separated from the love of God (Romans 8:30-31) and He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5-6) – for when we are one with Him, HE BECOMES OUR ezer – our HELPER!

In the NEW Covenant, which I'll be covering soon, our Abba will not forsake us – never. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ (Rom. 8:35-39). We are in Christ and so now when we turn back to God, He is like the Father of the prodigal son; the father sprints to his returning son even before he hears his words, and joyfully celebrates his return.

**“...Seek first ... AND HIS righteousness...”**

Now back to Matthew 6:33 for a minute: there we're told to “seek first the kingdom of God and HIS righteousness” and then we're promised that all our needs will be provided.

So for a few minutes, let's focus again on **seeking GOD'S righteousness, HIS righteousness, not our own.** That's why Paul and Peter say over and over that we can't ever become righteous enough on our own, even WITH the Holy Spirit we still fail and stumble. But only ONE Righteousness will be allowed in God's kingdom, and that is perfection, HIS righteousness.

Let me just read a few verses about that, spoken of by the prophets, Peter and Paul:

**God's righteousness that we receive by FAITH IN Christ:**

**Hebrews 11:7**

“By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and **became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.**”

**2 Peter 1:1**

“Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,  
To those who have obtained like precious **faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ...**”

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and so many others also spoke of the righteousness of God that is given to us.

**Isaiah 54:17** for example says the servants of God have a righteousness which “is from ME.” As we read the verses in Romans, remember that to be “justified” means to “be made righteous” or “be made right” with God.

**Philippians 3:8-9**

Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, NOT having my OWN righteousness, which is from the law, **but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from GOD by faith;**

**Romans 3:21-24**

21 But **now the righteousness of GOD apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,** 22 **even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.** For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,



**Romans 9:30-32**

30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, *even the righteousness of faith*; 31 but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has NOT attained to the law of righteousness. **32 Why? Because they did not seek it by faith**, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.

*SO BACK TO THE POINT: are we seeking diligently our God, and HIS righteousness by faith in Jesus?* It's by faith because it is something HE provides. I've just read some very clear verses about that. And Romans 5:16-19 clearly states he wants to gift it to us. **2 Corinthians 5:21** is also ultra-clear. God's righteousness is a GIFT. There's no way you'll achieve that level of righteousness on your own or even with God's spirit while we are corruptible flesh. But it's gifted to us by faith. We seek it earnestly by asking for it.

**Are you seeking HIM – or just looking for KNOWLEDGE AND DATA?**

I want to remind us again of what Hebrews 11:6 says – that our Creator “is a rewarder of those who diligently seek HIM”.

Can you admit that ever since you realized there's so much to learn that the Bible actually says – and not what we were always taught – that after a while we love all this “new truth” (new to us) and miss the point! **Remember John 5:39-40.** You can search the scriptures for eternal life and end up missing the point of the book: pointing to Yeshua!

And God Himself can get LOST in all of this excitement for what many call “new truth”.

When we meet a new brother or sister in Christ, do we ask,

- “When did you come to the knowledge of the truth” (which IS important too) – meaning the sabbath, holydays, and the data we all have learned.
- Or do we have more interest in asking the new brother/sister: **“When did you start to come to know Abba and our Savior”?**

We all know something at least *about* God. But do we have a strong connection with HIM? Do we feel his presence? Do we connect with him all through the day, since we're coming to know him powerfully and intimately? We can be like JOB, knowing all *about* God but not knowing HIM. Job: “I've heard of you... but now I see you. I get it!” (Job 42:5).

**I say again, searching for and seeking God is more than our daily prayer and study. It's us contacting him throughout the day – maybe dozens of times – each day.** Touching base frequently. We try to be with him and so we're asking Him to be with us at all times – just like my daughter at 4 yrs of age and I. I wanted her and I to stay close. We're his children, and compared to him, we'll always be his little children (in this life at least) and He'll want us close-by at all times. Diligently seeking him is realizing we've not “stayed close” lately and so – like all relationships – there's an ebb and flow.

I do have a sermon on knowing HIM – March 15, 2006.

<http://www.lightontherock.org/index.php/component/preachit/message/that-i-may-know-him?Itemid=>

(Discuss checking out the 120 sermons on the website).

**HOW DOES ONE SEEK FIRST the kingdom of God and His righteousness**

We're told to put him first; to seek him first (Matthew 6:33). God won't slide into first place. We have to PUT him there. That's why I'm giving this message. Remember the end-time church is warned that we think we're OK. I don't. I realize most of us need to get much, much closer to our Abba, our dear heavenly Daddy – and soon. Tough times are coming and we need to stay close!

Lesson of the manna. I recently gave a sermon about the lessons of manna and feasting on Yeshua, as HE is what the manna being *rained down* from heaven in great quantity – pictured.

There are so many lessons from the story of *manna* ("what is it") as I covered last time. You can read the description of what happened in **Exodus 16, especially verses 13-21**. The 2 main points I wanted to review were:

- They were to gather their spiritual bread daily except on the Sabbath. Do we seek our Savior daily?
- Each one gathered what they needed; some more than others (vs. 17-18). There will be some days -- maybe after a hard sleepless night with a sick child – that you simply get up too late to do a full Bible study before having to leave for work. But get something in – even just a few verses. Pray- even if only for a few minutes. Get your manna each day. Even a little can go a long way.
- You could not gather a lot one day and think it would last a few days. You had to gather it EACH day. Hmm. We have to collect our relationship with Yeshua each day too. Yesterday's one hour study won't work as being "enough" today.

**Exodus 16:13-21**

13 So it was that quails came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp. 14 And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground. 15 So when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "**What is it?**" **For they did not know what it was.**

And Moses said to them, "**This is the bread which YHVH has given you to eat.** 16 This is the thing which YHWH has commanded: '**Let every man gather it according to each one's need**, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.'"

**17 Then the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less.** 18 So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one's need. 19 And Moses said, "Let no one leave any of it till morning." 20 Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. **21 So they gathered it every MORNING, every man according to his need. And when the sun became hot, it MELTED.**"

*If we don't put God first, the opportunities to feast on Yeshua – the living Word of God, the living Bread – can “melt away” and be lost for that day too, just like the physical manna would melt away if not collected early in the day. PUT God into first place. Seek FIRST the kingdom of God and HIS righteousness.*

**John 6:32-37**

32 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 **For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**"

34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always."

35 **And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life.** He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe.

**John 6:47-51**

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. 50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

- Discuss how ....
- **Cutting out much of what takes up our time.** Social media, TV, laziness, ... OK to have hobbies, etc. but just not at God's expense!
- **Going to bed early enough. Why – so can get up early enough to put Him FIRST.**

Judged by what we've been given. MANNA IS STILL BEING RAINED DOWN on us. Are we getting up and picking it up?

**Lesson from Martha and Martha – keeping the ONE THING the one thing**

Mary and Martha – the ONE thing....

**Luke 10:38-42**

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

41 And Jesus answered and said to her, "**Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about MANY things. 42 But ONE thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part,** which will not be taken away from her."

**\*\*\*\* I like to think of Bible study and prayer as my PERSONAL ONE-ON-ONE "DATE" with Yeshua. Have you ever thought of it that way?**

That private morning devotional time – first thing in the day, before the sun is up or at least the first thing in the day for you whenever that is (if you work the night shift) should be very precious and intimate. Look forward to it! It's my appointment with my big brother, my King, my Savior.

During this morning appointment of "keeping the one thing the one thing", I ask for Him to speak to me, to open my heart and mind to him, and to show me His way and lead me to a closer walk with him. Remember: we're seeking him DILIGENTLY.

**WHY? WHY do we need to seek God? Here are a FEW of many key reasons**

**SO WE CAN GROW spiritually. Bible study is our BREAD from heaven. Seeking God makes us grow.**

**1 Peter 2:1-2**

**"Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, THAT YOU MAY GROW THEREBY..."**

We've all seen- and heard – newborn babies wanting that milk!

**FOR DOCTRINE, CORRECTION, INSTRUCTION**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 says so much, in a nut shell**

**"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction** in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be **complete, thoroughly equipped** for every good work."**

*In my personal "date" time with Yeshua my King, I speak this verse out before I begin: "Please, my Master, speak doctrine to me, speak life to me. Please Master, gently correct me and let me be open to your reproof and correction and your teaching. Help me as I come to you in study. Help me be equipped for every good work. Wash me by your word – to the praise and honor of your holy name, Amen."*

The phrase "given by inspiration of God" is just one word in Greek meaning God-breathed.

**"Given by inspiration of God" is just one word in Greek – "GOD-BREATHED". Many of the newer translations render it that way – God-breathed. Frankly we come to know God largely by reading his word.**

**We seek God diligently so we're not going into spiritual battle without our sword.**

**Ephesians 6:14-18**

**"Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.**

17 And TAKE the helmet of salvation, **and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always** with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints”

*Are we really daring to go into our daily spiritual battles against the flesh, the world and Satan – without our sword? Without our offensive weapon? But that's what we're doing when we don't seek first our great God and receive his Word.*

**We pray and study TO GROW IN FAITH**

**Romans 10:17**

So then **faith comes by hearing**, and hearing by the word of God.

***Seeking God in prayer and study WASHES AND CLEANSSES us.***

**Ephesians 5:25-28**

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify **and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word**, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

**Psalms 119:9-11**

**How can a young man CLEANSE his way?**

**By taking heed according to Your word.**

10 With **my whole heart I have sought You;**

Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!

**11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.**

**Putting God first and seeking Him results in restored BLESSINGS from God.**

**When we aren't seeking Him diligently, we FEEL the lack of blessings.**

**Hebrews 11:6 – He's a rewarder of those who seek him.**

**In Haggai 1:1-11**, please read it sometime on your own – Haggai gets a message from God to tell the returning exiles that the REASON they weren't being blessed was because they weren't putting the rebuilding of God's House ahead of their own houses. So God was holding back the blessings – and in fact sent drought, famine and troubles!

**Haggai 1:6-11**

"You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm;

And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes."

7 Thus says YHVH of hosts: "Consider your ways! 8 Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified," says YHVH. 9 ***"You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?" says YHVH of hosts.***

***"Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house. 10 Therefore the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its fruit. 11 For I called for a drought on the land and***

the mountains, on the grain and the new wine and the oil, on whatever the ground brings forth, on men and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands."

Then the returning Jews responded and finally got their act together – and YHVH says He will now begin to bless them:

**Haggai 2:18-19**

18 'Consider now from this day forward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, from the day that the foundation of YHVH's temple was laid – consider it: 19 Is the seed still in the barn? As yet the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have not yielded fruit. **But from this day I will bless you.**"

**2 Chronicles 31:20-21**

"Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah, and he did what was good and right and true before YHVH his God. 21 And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, in the law and in the commandment, **to seek his God, he did it with all his heart. So he prospered.**"

So our priorities – put God first. Don't labor for the bread that perishes but for the spiritual bread, which is Christ. Seek GOD himself. (Jon 6:26-27).

The story of the widow of Zarephath is all about a widow who believed Elijah, put him- and God – first, and as a result she was amply fed until the drought ended. (1 Kings 17:8-16).

We're told also in 2 Chronicles 26:3-5 that as long as king Uzziah sought YHVH, God made him PROSPER.

So seeking God is GOOD. He's far more likely to prosper those walk with him.

We are coming up to some very, very hard times ahead and we're going to have to have this faith that God will continue to provide for us. We'll have that faith if we know HIM and are seeking HIM FIRST.

*Think of seeking after God as walking with him daily, holding his hand. Recently I went on a walk with my daughter and her family and I delighted to walk hand in hand with my daughter Heather – yep, the same one we almost lost has 4 boys of her own now. But I just loved walking hand in hand with my grown up daughter.*

*As a father, and as a grandfather – I just love it when my kids and grandkids show any interest in us, and seek me, or call me up and want to spend time with me. I am so thrilled when I see and hear the thrill of my grandsons when they learn they're coming to Poppy and Nan's home for a few days. Our Abba in heaven is the same way when you say "HI Abba, I couldn't wait to be with you again!"*

**It makes me realize how much JOY we could give Abba in heaven, to just "touch base" with him many times a day**, every day; to ask him how things are going. Just minutes ago I even apologized to Him for not giving him more of that joy by calling on him more. He LOVES to help.

**Abba delights to see us wanting to be with him; to search him out; to call on him. He just loves it! GIVE HIM THAT JOY, my brothers and sisters. PUT**

**HIM FIRST. He's done so much for us, surely we can all repent of our distance we've put between him and us.**

Our father's such a great treasure! Search him out like the most valued possession you have.

Let's seek God – our Father himself, and YESHUA our Lord – as we would seek for hidden treasures we knew were nearby (**Proverbs 2:1-9**), for THEN we will “find the knowledge of God” (v.5). HE is our pearl of Great Price – and HE is what we should be seeking. (Matthew 13:44-46).

- He will fill us with his wisdom, his knowledge.
- He will bless and prosper us. He will take away our worries.
- We will know we are ready for the tests and trials coming ahead – as we DO have our sword of the word of God in our hands.
- We'll receive his instruction and correction – and get back on the right path.
- We'll know He's right there. We'll feel His holy PRESENCE in our life....

And as a result, we will experience the joy of His presence too. Our heavenly God-Most-High Father/Abba is the happiest Being in the universe. I can't wait to meet him in person. I can't wait. And you know what? He can't wait to meet YOU in person. He's looking forward to it, I promise you. HE is a wonderful Being, full of joy, mercy, kindness like no other. Let's come to know him. But we can't know him, unless we SEEK HIM with all our being.

And when we seek Him like that, he PROMISES us, He will be found of us. He will reveal Himself.

**Isaiah 55:6-7**

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

**Psalms 105:3-4**

Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek YHWH!  
Seek YHWH and His strength; Seek His face evermore!

This is going to be a wonderful journey! Let's put our heavenly Daddy first, seeking him with all our being, all our heart, all our might, and with all our soul.

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If you have questions or comments, I'd love to hear from you. It is encouraging for me to hear from you.*