

## SEEKING GOD SUCCESSFULLY

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened” (Matt. 7:7-8).

No doubt, most of us have heard these words hundreds of times. Even those in the world are fairly familiar with them. However, most people know nothing about how to seek God successfully. In this study, we will see three things that are required of those who hope to find God.

### Men Must Seek God Completely

In the long ago Moses instructed the children of Israel that they could find God “*if*” they sought Him with “*all*” of their hearts (Deut. 4:29; 2 Chr. 15:12,15; 31:21). In like manner, the psalmist declared, “Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart...With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments” (Psa. 119:2, 10; Psa. 63:1).

Through Jeremiah, God said, “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart” (Jer. 29:13). Notice that individuals would find God “when” they sought him with “all” their hearts. In answering a lawyer’s question about the greatest commandment, Jesus declared, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind” (Matt. 22:37). Do you recall how Philip answered the eunuch’s desire to be baptized? He said, “If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (Acts 8:37). Again, notice the conditional “if.” Only those who seek God completely can hope to find him.

### Men Must Seek God Continually

In a psalm of thanksgiving, David said, “Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD. Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually” (1 Chr. 16:10-11). In like manner, Isaiah spoke of seeking God “daily” (Isa. 58:2). Sadly, God’s people were prone to only seek Him in times of trouble. When things were good, they sought other things instead of Him.

Through Hosea, God warned that the day would come when they would seek Him and not be able to find Him (Hos. 5:6,15; Pro. 1:28). In like manner, Isaiah warned his people to seek the Lord while He could be found and to call upon Him while He was near (Isa. 55:6). Don’t you think that the same holds true for us today?

On one occasion, Jesus said, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me” (Lk. 9:23). Notice the emphasis on “daily.” Those who only take up their crosses on Sunday cannot expect to find Him. If we want to find Him, we must search our Bibles daily as the Bereans did and offer the sacrifice of praise to Him continually as the Hebrew saints did (Acts 17:11; 13:15).

### Men Must Seek God Correctly

Do you remember the story of David and the new ox cart (1 Chr. 13)? Do you remember how that Uzzah lost his life when he reached out to stay the ark? Clearly, the people’s retrieval of the ark shows that they were seeking God. No doubt, they were sincere in their actions. However, they did not find God, at least not in the way that they hoped to find Him (peace & favor), because they did not seek him correctly.

David explained, “Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it. For because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order” (1 Chr. 15:12-13).

After the ox cart became a funeral cart, David and the people went back to doing things God’s way. They had learned that to find God, they had to seek Him correctly (Lev. 10:1-2). Doesn’t the same hold true today? If we want to find God, we must seek him after the “due order.” We must seek him in “faith” and with fervor (diligently seek - Heb. 11:6). Sadly, millions seek God every Lord’s day in their worship, but do not find Him because they do not seek Him after the due order. They do not seek Him “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).

We can be guaranteed of finding God if we seek him completely, continually, and correctly. However, if we leave out any of these things, we will search in vain.

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**Wade Webster** from *Eastside Edifier*

## BEFORE I CRITICIZE

Vain speculation, second guessing, and criticism are games played by idle and indifferent Christians. Such folks exalt themselves to the rank of “Lord” from where they piously pick and peck at others until they have hampered their zeal and hindered their influence. They seem not to know the seriousness of their sin or severity of their punishment. Before I engage in the practice of fault finding I ought to do the following:

**1. Pause and be sure that my heart is right!** Do I really want to help or hinder? Which will I be doing? (Matt. 7:1-2)

**2. Examine my own life to see that everything is in order.** Would I be honest to condemn another when correction is needed for my soul (Matt. 7:3-5)?

**3. Try to put myself in his place!** How would I be doing if I were bearing his burdens or laboring in his stead” (Rom. 15:1-2)?

**4. Remember God’s mercy toward me!** How often have I bowed before Him to plead for grace when I have failed? Should I now be as merciful to a fellow sinner (Matt. 18:21-35)?

**5. Consider the benevolence of others!** My brethren have often borne with me in my failures, therefore can I not now suffer with another (Gal. 6:1-2)?

**6. Remember the hurt I felt the last time someone criticized me!** Can I delight in inflicting the same hurt upon another (Matt. 5:44-48)?

**7. Pray for my brother and myself!** I need to petition the Father for him that he might overcome, and for myself, that I might be forgiven for even considering sinning against him (Acts 8:22).

**8. Go to my brother in humility and love!** There I can confess my short comings before him, and help open his eyes to his own need for repentance.

If I will do these things, I will not only help another to be saved, but I will avert the destruction of my own soul. What greater joy than this could be mine (Jas. 5:19-20)? “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know that he which converted the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”

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**Gene Greer** from *Eastside Edifier*

## **ANNIVERSARY**

Gary and Lynda Cole, 02-14.

## **BIRTHDAY**

John James, 02-10.

## **ILL**

**Wednesday:** Jessica Carter and Millie Robertson.

Jamal Abyad is having difficulties with his illness.

**Those battling cancer:** Jamal Abyad, David Cole, Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

## **HOME BOUND**

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

We welcome Francis Thrasher, who has expressed her desire to work and worship at Park Street. Francis moved from Kansas City, KS and is residing at: 11860 S. Sunset Dr. Apt. 125, Olathe, KS. Her phone is: 894-1186.

## **MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING**

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held this Sunday, February 10, following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

## **SATURDAY SEMINAR**

The 39th Street congregation in Independence will hold a Saturday Seminar on Saturday, February 16 starting at 9:30 AM. See the flyer in the foyer for details about the lessons and speakers.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Sunday AM, 49; Sunday PM, 34; Wednesday PM, 30.

*"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works."* **Hebrews 10:24**

## **Those To Serve**

February 10, 2008

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nemechek**

### **MORNING WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson**  
**SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... John Dodson**  
**PRESIDE..... Chris Edwards**  
**ASSIST..... George Thomas**  
**ASSIST..... John James**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Jared Nelson**

### **EVENING WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER ..... Jeff Nemechek**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter**  
**LORD'S SUPPER..... Chris Edwards**

### **WEDNESDAY 13th**

**SONG LEADER..... Jeff Nemechek**  
**INVITATION ..... Joel Nelson**

## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **Sunday**

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### **Wednesday**

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

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