

## Seeking to the Death

By: Pastor Ronald Marr

It seems that the human cannot well stand much repetition. So, there's always the danger than any approach to seeking God will wear thin.

We do well to find alternate ways to worshipfully seek our God.

If we have any bent toward writing at all, to record our efforts to seek the Lord may be of great help no matter how repetitious we think we are.

From time to time, to sing to God may help our seeking. So may the scriptures, especially those we have hid in our hearts. And so may praise. Or to repeat "God," or "Jesus, or "Lord," or His other names. Or plead with Him for His presence.

To allow open-ended time as often as possible is most vital. And so is to return to seeking Him as frequently as we can.

And so may being grateful to Him ... thanking Him for Himself and Who He is ... especially being grateful for the privilege of seeking Him, and for whatever response we receive.

When we get physically tired or emotionally drained from the seeking, return to the silence of solitude and quiet resting, no matter the result.

Most of all never give up. Never quit.

Beware of having to experience or feel. Be prepared to do without the joy that is sometimes felt and known. Even if peace should flee, let it be so. Else we'll be guilty of seeking something more or less than God ... just God ... only God.

Then we'll be in the greatest danger of wanting to give up seeking the Lord.

## Seeking - Evil Heart or No!

By: Pastor Ronald Marr

As children of God, we can't be truly happy without the joy of longing after God.

But there's so much in us that wants something, almost anything it sometimes seems, other than God.

Horrid, despicable reality!

Oh my God, forgive me, cleanse me, set me free.

Until we see the persistence of our evil heart that wants so much other than God, we will always be in ready danger of stopping our perpetual pursuit of God.

We don't readily remember that there's always in us a terrible rebellion against God, an awful desire to want to find our satisfaction elsewhere than in Him.

I find I'd often rather watch the mind-numbing opiate of TV than put forth the effort required to seek God.

Only rarely can I begin earnestly, eagerly seeking after God immediately that I enter the quiet place. More often it requires application of heart and spirit and the stimulation of active worship, praise, thanksgiving, or silent rest.

My lazy bones would just rather not put out the effort or application.

Today, as I write, I have a good excuse. I'm fighting off a cold. My body wants to rest, and my mind, too.

## A Prayer of Pain!

By: Pastor Ronald Marr

My imperfection is more than I can tolerate.

That I love You so poorly has for long been my deepest pain, my greatest sorrow.

My greatest succor, my purest hope, is that You love me so fully and forgive me so freely.

I preach that my life is in You, my only peace is in believing You, trusting You, resting in You ... that You are totally & absolutely trustworthy, that You will never do me other than good, not ever ... that you are forever overruling all the circumstances of my life so all things ultimately work together for my good, my eternal benefit.

Yet I find myself too often in doubt and discouragement because it does not appear to be so. I find myself displeased with what You allow . . . Even after I have given You willing permission to do or allow in my life whatever You will, whatever You must, to bring eternal glory to You and everlasting good to me and others.

I find myself even sometimes angry with the God who I freely acknowledge to be absolutely perfect, loving, and kind, absolutely capable of doing me only good even in a wicked world.

When I don't find you to the extent I wish, I blame You and wallow in self-pity and pain.

I know that suffering is the purging fire that removes the impurities from the gold of my godly life and prepares me to enjoy more fully walking on streets of gold in endless joy forevermore.

Still I murmur in my soul against the God that allows me to suffer just a little and for a brief moment as compared to the great and eternal benefit laid up for me.

I'm embarrassed that I should have to speak so. And I feel a fool to waste my time on such admissions.

I know that time spent thinking of myself is a waste, only attention to You, submissive and free, is of eternal value.

But, perhaps to know my sin and need may be a healthy prelude to calling on You, looking to You, longing for you, worshiping You, praising and thanking You, even resting and rejoicing in You...

May I accept the reality of the pain that is mine in this sinning world, and having done so, go on immediately to thank You that You are bringing only eternal good from it. And this by no means just for my selfish self, but for all the others that I may be used to bless and benefit evermore.

*"The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain ... and ourselves ... groan ... waiting for the adoption ... The Spirit helpeth our infirmities. ... We know that all things work together for good ... the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ... We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."*

-Selected from Romans 8:18-37

*Write to us and request more copies to share.  
A Prayer of Pain!*

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I didn't want to come to the quiet place. Though I've been here for more than an hour, there is still in me that which doesn't want to stay. After all, I'm sick. I surely have the right, even the need, to rest.

But the truth is, there's always in me that which complains at the application required to seek God, and tries to escape it.

Just as surely as there is a sweet desire in the heart of every child of God to want to know the Lord better, so there's the awful desire not to put forth the effort to seek after Him.

But think a moment. Have you ever found anything easily accomplished that is really worth while? Why should this be different?

Isn't it a shame if my laziness is all that stands between me and the most wonderful experience of life ... and the most worthwhile ... fellowshiping with Almighty God.

May I never again allow the devil to so deceive me as to get me to blame God for my lack of Him, caused by my laziness and misplaced desire.

God forgive. God transform. God renew. Give me a new heart and spirit, one that longs for God more than for all else that is.

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Even if we must leave the quiet place in disappointment, let us leave with a commitment to return to the place of seeking as quickly and for as long as possible.

I cannot do without God. If only to seek Him, if only to so very little find Him. To find Him at all is to give me some faith, some hope, some love without which I do not care to live longer in this physical world. Having once tasted of the good things of God, to be so deprived of them is not tolerable.

I feel I ought not so to speak ... that I should take from God's good hand whatever He chooses as enough for me. But, can longing to experience the God I love, however poorly I love Him, be amiss?

Let me long for Him even to the death, no matter what.

I have seen dying men  
not so grand in their dying  
As our love would have wished ...  
and through lack of desire:  
Oh, that we may die  
Languishing, burning, and sighing,  
for God's last grace and best  
is to die all on fire.  
-Frederick W. Faber

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