

## Seeking, Worshipping, Praising, Thanksgiving, and More...

By: Pastor Ronald Marr

We use many words to describe the joyful experience of seeking God: longing, yearning, pursuing, desiring after, searching after, craving for, even burning with desire for Him.

Appreciating this particular emphasis of our relationship with the Lord mustn't deprive us of appreciation for other expressions.

There was a time when I tended, in expressing my relationship with the Lord, to think and speak almost exclusively in terms of worshipping God. Worshipping is expressing our appreciation of God for all the perfections that He is. Other words I use for worship are adoring, honoring, glorifying, exalting, uplifting, magnifying, extolling, and revering God.

And I add to these words that describe His names and characteristics or attributes such as omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence, eternity and infinity. Also word pictures: shepherd, door, way, word, bread of life, water of life, rock, citadel, fortress, and on.

I continue using these with great benefit daily especially in times of sleeplessness, quiet times, and just when I turn to Him throughout the day. I'm sure I always shall.

I have found much help for many years in quietly, peacefully, seeking to rest in the Lord, frequently without words, in the silence of solitude.

## Enemies of Seeking God

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I found myself not seeking God so much as seeking the sense of His presence ... or at least seeking the sense that I was desiring or longing for Him.

Then I found myself trying to follow my own directions with little success.

At length I returned to simply seeking Him, longing for Him, desiring Him both in words and in silent worship, praise, and thanksgiving. When I did, the tears rolled and the joy flowed.

But, had they not, I would have needed ... Oh, so much would I have needed just to continue before God looking to Him as best He might enable.

As pants the hart for cooling streams,  
When heated in the chase,  
So longs my soul, O God, for Thee,  
And thy refreshing grace.  
-Nahum Tate

And continue we must, come what may.

Another of the many enemies of seeking God is hurry ... the demand to get things done ... an urgency inside that presses us with the "have to's" of life. It drags our minds and hearts from God to other things, things, if only we would know it, that are generally far less important than seeking God.

If we give in to this necessity to do, it will ultimately terminate our search for God and lead to terrible spiritual failure and disappoint-

## As a Babe Seeking God

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*"The letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life."*  
- II Corinthians 3:6

It seems we will never learn.

We instinctively seek to know as though to know were life.

Perhaps we seek even to be, but we fail so generally to seek God . . . to our eternal loss. The tears roll as I write. And with them comes joy unspeakable. . . . and pain, too, at the remembrance of the days, the months, the years when I was robbed of the tears, and the joy because I'd lost the how to seek.

I'd forgotten that the seeking could be simply silence and solitude before Almighty God. I know that makes no human sense. But then what genuinely spiritual truth, what divine truth, ever does make sense to the so-limited human mind?

I cannot keep to myself such wonders of the divine, revealed to the seeking heart. I could not if I would. But in the sharing, in the need to share, I see the ugly serpent head of pride wanting to be accepted and praised as something special, where I am just human flesh ... stinking putrefaction that deserves nothing.

... In fact, that has nothing of good about it except what is given it so graciously and generously from the hand of the loving,

giving, perfect God who looks beyond my sin to His redemption in me.

Yet, by God's grace, I dislike even the introspective "I", and long to get back to seeking "Him." And I do so, sometimes in active worship and adoration, sometimes in the silence and solitude of resting in the perfect God.

Now, I know too much. And the knowing makes it difficult for me to seek beyond the human knowing for the God Who cannot be known by human knowing. And this makes it difficult for me to simply seek as a needy, often hurting baby, begging . . . crying . . . for its mother.

Let me, then, be needy, really needy and undeserving, truly undeserving. Not to try to be needy and undeserving just to succeed in seeking God. Rather, simply to return, as God may make it possible, to seek Him in silent solitude or worship, or to turn to scripture or saints for needed stimulation.

For the lack of desire is the ill of all ills;  
Many thousands through it the dark pathway  
have trod.  
The balsam, the wine of predestinate wills  
Is a jubilant pining and longing for God.  
- Frederick W. Faber

ment with the Christian life.

God forbid!

We will always be in danger of this ultimate failure when we don't have open-ended time alone with God. But what to do? For many to ever have open-ended time with God may seem entirely impossible. We simply must find times when it is not impossible: mornings early before anyone is up, Saturday mornings especially, Sunday afternoons, evenings when others are watching TV. If seeking God is our priority, we will find times. If it isn't, we won't.

Life is one long disappointment. But in God there is no disappointment, no matter that sometimes we really believe there is.

So let us find time and ways to come to Him. Only in Him is there satisfaction, liberty, joy, rest, and peace.

Now, none but Christ can satisfy.  
None other name for me.  
There's love, and life, and lasting joy Lord Jesus  
found in thee.

There are still other emphases we may find encouraging in our walk with God, some more helpful to us at one time, and others at other times.

Still none are able adequately to describe the fullness of the possibilities of our relationship with our God, infinite and eternal.

Some people prefer praising God for who He is and what He does.

Others have emphasized waiting on God. Andrew Murray has a wonderful little book of that title.

And the list goes on. The most basic probably is trusting God, then giving thanks, hoping in God, rejoicing in God, coming to Him, looking to Him, listening to Him, receiving from Him.

We fellowship and commune with God ... It's Love. Not just our love to Him, but far more importantly, His love for us.

Use your concordance or Nave's Topical Bible. Look up the scriptures, and be blessed. Start with Matthew 11:28,29: "Come unto me all ye that labor."

*Write to us and request more copies to share.  
As a Babe Seeking God*

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