

Unnecessarily Seeking

From: Know and Believe:
A Lifetime Journey toward Rediscovering God's Love for You

Taken from Chapter 13: Seeking God's Love
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Clearing Up Misconceptions

Misconception #1

We find God when we seek Him with all of our hearts.

This scripture is often used to teach we need to “seek God.” Like any other passage, it must be taken in context.

Jeremiah 29:10-14

*For thus says the Lord: 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 the Lord, 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.** ¹⁴ I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.*

Those words were spoken to “the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon” (vs.1). As explained in Chapter 3 of this book, different covenants include different ways in which believers relate to God. His indwelling presence was not enjoyed by Israel at that time, and they were in exile. We do not need to seek God in the sense of finding Him. This has already taken place.

Misconception #2

Seeking God's Kingdom

The following verse is also used inappropriately. “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” To whom was Jesus teaching this principle? The Jews. We Christians already sought God's kingdom, and indeed found it and were brought into it by grace through faith.

Colossians 1:13

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

James 2:5

Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

This same principle holds true for this verse: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.” We sought after righteousness. We found it by grace through faith. He made us the very righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21). Now that we are filled, we need only give thanks for this glorious gift.

Misconception #3**Hungering and Thirsting for God**

Most of us have been told something is wrong with us if we do not have a hunger and thirst for God in our hearts. This is not true, my friend. In fact, there is a *reason* we don’t have a hunger and thirst for God. The reason for this is so obvious: how could we have missed it for so many years?

John 6:35

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.”

Jesus did not come to earth, suffer, die, and rise from the dead so we would feel hungry or thirsty for Him, and it is fair for us to examine why we feel this way. He came to give us life. The only reason we would need to *cultivate* hunger and thirst would be because we aren’t *supposed* to be hungering or thirsting for God—ever again. We are to be satisfied. Yes, we go through difficult times that can be devastating, but when it comes to our relationship with God, we have a superabundance of all we need.

Misconception #4**Desperation**

Let us define “desperate.” Webster’s first definition is as follows:

a : having lost hope b : giving no ground for hope

Really? If there is anything a Christian has, it is hope, for we serve the God of hope.

Romans 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

When we are convinced of God's love for us, it is more natural to hope in God than to fret. We may *feel* desperate; things might *look* desperate, but we are never without hope. No matter what happens in this life, we can hope in the God of hope who fills us with all joy and peace in believing in Him and in His love. Instead of striving to stay "desperate for God," let us endeavor to abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us not continually exalt our woes and troubles; rather, let us exalt our God for whom nothing is impossible.

*Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God
has been poured out in our hearts
by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

Romans 5:5