

# GOD THE SEEKER

Have you heard of the term “seeker services”? They are church services designed to attract new people, unbelievers, who are seeking a relationship with God.

And it's a good thing to be seeking a relationship with God. A famous song from the oratorio “Elijah” is entitled “If with all your heart you truly seek Me, you will ever truly find Me, thus saith your God.” (Taken from Jeremiah 29:13.)

God wants us to seek Him, and I know we are all trying to do that. But it is important to appreciate that God is also seeking us, and in fact the reason that we seek Him is that He first seeks us.

1 John 4:19 “We love because He first loved us.”

All throughout Scripture, God reveals Himself as a Seeker. It started right back in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:8-9 <sup>8</sup>“Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

Right from the creation God sought communion with human beings. He knew where Adam was and what had happened, but He still came searching and calling for Adam, reaching out for Adam, you might say. You could even call this the first ever game of “hide and seek”!

He then reached out to many specific individuals throughout history. For example, He reached out and told Noah to build the Ark; He called Abraham to leave his birthplace and go to a land He would show him. He grabbed Moses' attention at the burning bush. Moses tried to get away from Him, saying he wasn't worthy for the job, but God was after him to lead His people.

Deuteronomy 7:6B “The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.” God chose, or sought out, the people of Israel.

God describes poetically the way He reached out and sought Israel because He loved them in Ezekiel 16:8 “Later I passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your naked body. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign LORD, and you became mine.”

Isaiah 65:1-2 <sup>1</sup>“I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, ‘Here am I, here am I.’ <sup>2</sup>All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations”.

Even though they rejected Him, God sought them with His whole heart.

Hebrews 1:1-2 <sup>1</sup> “In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.”

He sent prophet after prophet to them. And then He sent Jesus who showed how eagerly and passionately He seeks mankind by being willing to die for us. That is surely the ultimate in reaching out! God showed He would stop at nothing in His desire to seek and pursue humankind! No price was too high to win our hearts.

Jesus put it clearly and directly in Luke 19:10. “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” He showed His attitude in parables like that of the shepherd who left 99 sheep to seek the one lost one, or the woman who combed through her entire house looking for a lost coin, or a merchant seeking fine pearls, or a waiting father incessantly scanning the horizon for the return of a prodigal son.

The pages of the Bible are permeated with the seeking of God. He is “God the Seeker.” Amazingly, the completely omniscient, self-sufficient God who owns everything and needs nothing, is seeking for something, and believe it or not, that something is us, weak and pathetic as we are! We have all sinned and gone astray, yet He prizes us.

John 17:24 “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”

Jesus desires us, to be with us, and not only us, but He wants to draw all people to Himself.

John 12:32 “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

This is a mystery we can’t fully understand, that He would desire us when we are so insignificant in comparison with His endless glory and infinite worthiness. This is so amazing that it’s worth looking at a few more Scriptures to prove that I’m not just making this up!

Psalms 149:4 “For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory.”

Isaiah 65:19A “I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people;”

Zephaniah 3:17 “The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”

Isaiah 43:1, 4-5 <sup>1</sup> “But now, this is what the LORD says—he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.” <sup>4</sup> Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life. <sup>5</sup> Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west.”

He has summoned each of us by name too, and we are precious and even honoured in His sight.

Zechariah 2:8 “For this is what the LORD Almighty says: “After the Glorious One has sent me against the nations that have plundered you—for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye.”

We are the apple of His eye. It certainly is remarkable that an infinite God loves these weak physical creations so much.

The Psalmist wondered with amazement, “What is man that you are mindful of him?” (Psalm 8:4). This was quoted in Hebrews of course, and Job also wondered the same thing:

Job 7:17 “What is mankind that you make so much of them, that you give them so much attention, “

One of the ways God’s seeking for us is described in His Word is as romantic love. He loves us as much as an eager bridegroom seeks a bride. I guess the love between a man and a maid is the greatest epitome of human love—and that’s the type of love God has for us!

Isaiah 62:5 “As a young man marries a young woman, so will your Builder marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.”

Isaiah 54:5 “For your Maker is your husband—the LORD Almighty is His name—the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; He is called the God of all the earth.”

Jeremiah 31:3 “The LORD appeared to us in the past saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.”

Song of Solomon 4:9-10 <sup>9</sup>“You have stolen my heart, my sister, my bride; you have stolen my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace. <sup>10</sup>How delightful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much more pleasing is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume more than any spice!”

Song of Solomon 7:10 “I belong to my beloved, and his desire is for me.”

The whole Song of Solomon shows the depth of the love God has for His Church, His bride. The New Testament attests to this too:

2 Cor. 11:2 “I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to Him.”

Ephesians 5:25 “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.” He wants to marry us, and will do of course—the wedding festivities are described in the Book of Revelation. God doesn’t only seek us; He desires and pursues us as a bridegroom pursues a bride that has completely captivated his heart. And just as a bridegroom wants his love reciprocated, God wants us to seek Him in return.

This is where we get to the action step of the sermon. How does God want us to respond to His reaching out to us?

Jeremiah 29:11-13 <sup>11</sup>“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup>Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup>You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” First, He woos us, and then we respond. He wants us to do this with all of our heart.

John 6:44 “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

First of all, God reaches out to us and draws us, then we come to Him and reach out to Him.

Psalm 14:2 “The LORD looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.” God wants us to seek after Him. He is filled with the desire to find people who will respond to His pursuit and seek Him back.

In the 1960's an Australian pop group called “The Seekers” came to prominence. Some of their songs had biblical relevance:

“Turn, Turn, Turn” – words from Ecclesiastes.

“Love is Kind, Love is Wine”

“We Shall Not Be Moved”

“Open Up Them Pearly Gates”

“O Sinner Man”

“I’ll Never Find Another You” {Ewe!} – Christians are like sheep. The first line of that song has a biblical reference: “There’s a new world somewhere they call the Promised Land.”



Well, here’s your chance to be one of the Seekers! God wants you to seek Him. You are very special to Him because He’ll never find another you!

Responding to God’s pursuit of us by pursuing Him back is actually the purpose of life. This is what He created us for, to reach out for Him and find Him, and live in a marriage covenant relationship with Him forever.

Acts 17:26-27 <sup>26</sup> “From one man He made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup> God did this so that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from any one of us.”

“From one man” reminds me of the famous “Creation of Adam” painting by Michelangelo, which shows the extended hand of God reaching out to the man He had made. This started right from the beginning and has carried on ever since! {Picture from Wikipedia}



John 17:3 “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” This is what life is all about! Knowing God, loving Him, building a relationship with Him.

Psalms 45:10-11 <sup>10</sup> “Listen, daughter, and pay careful attention: Forget your people and your father’s house. <sup>11</sup> Let the king be enthralled by your beauty; honour him, for he is your lord.”

This is about God (“your Lord”) and the Church. Because God loves us, we should leave behind our past way of life and any of the ways of Satan or the world, and honour God and show our love to Him. Follow Him with all our heart, as a bride with her groom.

John 4:23 “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.”

He is the Seeker, but wants us to respond in worship of Him. That’s our part. But remember He doesn’t only seek us, He seeks others, He seeks all mankind. And He wants us to be like Him—so He wants us to seek others, to seek all mankind, and encourage them to seek Him as well.

Why did Jesus seek His disciples? He said to them, “Come and I will make you fishers of men.” He sought them so they would seek other men and point them to God, sharing His love with them.

John 20:21 “Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” This applied to the disciples—and to us too! The Father sent Jesus to earth with a mission. And so He sends us out with a mission, to reach out to others as He reached out to us.

But people like to hide from Him. We’re all like Adam and Eve. They hid from God in the trees of the Garden, and so does the whole world. They don’t want to hear from Him. There’s no place for Him in the marvellous modern world of science and technology. “We can do very well for ourselves without having God in the picture, thanks.” We want to eat of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, taking to ourselves the decisions as to what is right and wrong and keeping clear of God.

But God called out to the man “Where are You?”

Right from the beginning He was the Seeker, and He wants us to be seekers too. He wants us to call out to mankind “Where are you going?” and show them that God loves them and they are included in His plan for the world. He wants us to seek Him and to seek others to seek Him.

That is the story of “God the Seeker”, the God who reaches out to each and every one He has created!