

Daily Devotional - The Pursuit of God

June 10, 2020

Approaching God

Read Psalm 86:10-13

For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God. Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name. I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. For great is your steadfast love toward me;

Opening Prayer: - God, sometimes my should feels scattered, incoherent, and pulled apart in a thousand directions. Gather up my diverse needs, my conflicting desires, my jumbled identity, and make a harmonious whole of me, "give me an undivided heart to revere your name." Amen.

This Week's Study: The Pursuit of God

This week we are looking at the theme: "Pursuing God with Great Intensity." This week we are meditating on various passages around this theme and asking God to search and align our hearts so that knowing Christ might become our greatest treasure.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Psalm 27:1-14

Psalm 27:1-14 - 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? 2 When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. 3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.
4 One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. 5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock. 6 And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! **8** You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek." **9** Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation! **10** For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me in. **11** Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. **12** Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence. **13** I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! **14** Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Daily Study Questions

- What are 2-3 truths that stand out to you from this Psalm?
- What is God stirring in your heart as you read and meditate on this Psalm?
- What does Moses pray for in his interaction with God? What can we learn about pursuing God from this?

Application & Meditation

- If you had ONE request of God what would it be? Why?
- How can we know if our pursuit of God is the ONE central pursuit of our life?
- David uses the words 'dwell', 'gaze' and 'seek' as words to describe his pursuit of God. What three words would describe your pursuit of God at this point in your life?

Close in Prayer:

Close by taking some time to slowly pray through Psalm 27

"The truth is that we will not desire God if we don't believe that really God desires us. If God is a powerful person who in reality cares little or nothing about us, we may have a fear-based respect for him, but we will not love him. We will certainly not be satisfied in him. We will keep our distance from him and find our true satisfaction elsewhere. This is, in fact, why many of us feel distant from God. We think he's distant from us, but really we are keeping our distance from him. We don't desire God because we believe things about him that are wrong. And because of that we have grown cynical, disillusioned, and have serial spiritual adulterous affairs with idols in our lives.""

Jon Bloom