

January 2006

Seek the Lord!

What an odd statement from the prophet Isaiah (55:6)! Is God lost that we need to look for Him? Is He hiding from us?

The apostle Paul says that "evidence of God" is within us. Solomon says that He has put eternity into the hearts of men. The apostle John speaks of the "true light" that is in every man. The Psalmist says twice that only a fool would say there is no God (14:1; 53:1).

It seems that God has put sufficient evidence of Himself into us that He expects, even requires, that we now use that initial thrust within us to seek for Him. Over and over again this is a theme in Scripture. Hebrews 11:6 tells us that He rewards those "who diligently seek Him." The wise men who came seeking Jesus obviously had sufficient evidence to merit the arduous journey and persistence it would take to find this Man/God/King.

Jesus encouraged asking, seeking and knocking (determination) in order to find God. "Seek first the kingdom," He further challenged.

And to Israel, after the scattering to the ends of the earth, the Lord assured, "If from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul."

"You, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you," cried the Psalmist. "The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God." "Those who seek the LORD lack no good thing." "Blessed are those who seek him with all their heart."

There are testimonies from all over the world about people who have been hungry for the Lord, and to whom He has revealed Himself. This is one of the primary ways the kingdom is advancing in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Men and women want to know God. They are looking every place they know to look, then He shows Himself to them—in a mosque, in a synagogue, in a Hindu temple, in a dream or a vision, in unusual ways.

Bill Johnson made a statement that I had never heard and will never forget. "God does not hide things from us; He hides things for us." He wants us to find Him and to find His gifts. He wants us to desire Him. God wants us to be desperate enough that we want Him above all else. And we want His gifts! "Earnestly desire spiritual gifts," urges our brother Paul. Not just tolerate them,

nor even just desire them, but desire them earnestly, for without them we cannot come fully into our intended destiny.

Paul says that sometimes we are “enemies in our minds because of our evil behavior.” In other words, we often do not seek the Lord, because we do not want the answers we are afraid He will give us. In other words, we already know in our hearts what the answers are, but we are refusing to listen to that inner voice because we want to go our own way.

Seeking God is not to be equated with attending a church. You may have attended church all your life, taught Bible classes, and be an officer or a pastor, but never have sought God for who He is.

God is calling us. Listen. And seek Him.

Talk to Him and listen for that internal answer. Read the stories and the advice He has left for us through the prophets and apostles and listen for His directions as you read. Do not allow today's often powerless church to limit your view of Him. He is not telling you these stories to let you know what happened once, as much as He is telling you so that you will know how He wants to work in you and all around you today.

Blessings to each of you and yours as we step into 2006 – B'Shem Yeshua!

Don Finto

The Caleb Company