

Seeking God

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Introduction

Sacred Scripture repeatedly emphasizes the importance of seeking God (Psa. 119:1-3; Acts 17:24-28).

*Psalms 119:1-3 ... 1 How blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the law of the Lord. 2 **How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, Who seek Him with all their heart.** 3 They also do no unrighteousness; They walk in His ways. (NASB95)*

*Acts 17:24-28 ... 24 “The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; 26 and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 **that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him**, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His children.’ (NASB95)*

Seek the Lord according to the divine pattern

We must seek the Lord according to the divine pattern (Deut. 12:1-7; 1 Chron. 15:11-15).

*Deuteronomy 12:1-7 ... 1 “These are the statutes and the judgments which you shall carefully observe in the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess as long as you live on the earth. 2 “You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess serve their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. 3 “You shall tear down their altars and smash their sacred pillars and burn their Asherim with fire, and you shall cut down the engraved images of their gods and obliterate their name from that place. 4 “You shall not act like this toward the Lord your God. 5 **“But you shall seek the Lord at the place which the Lord your God will choose from all your tribes, to establish His name there for His dwelling, and there you shall come.** 6 “There you shall bring your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the contribution of your hand, your votive offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock. 7 “There also you and your households shall eat before the Lord your God, and rejoice in all your undertakings in which the Lord your God has blessed you. (NASB95)*

*1 Chronicles 15:11-15 ... 11 Then David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel and Amminadab, 12 and said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' households of the Levites; consecrate yourselves both you and your relatives, that you may bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel to the place that I have prepared for it. 13 **"Because you did not carry it at the first, the Lord our God made an outburst on us, for we did not seek Him according to the ordinance."** 14 So the priests and the Levites consecrated themselves to bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel. 15 The sons of the Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the poles thereon, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the Lord. (NASB95)*

Seek the Lord with all our heart

We must seek the Lord with all our heart (1 Chron. 22:17-19; 28:6-10).

*1 Chronicles 22:17-19 ... 17 David also commanded all the leaders of Israel to help his son Solomon, saying, 18 "Is not the Lord your God with you? And has He not given you rest on every side? For He has given the inhabitants of the land into my hand, and the land is subdued before the Lord and before His people. 19 **"Now set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God; arise, therefore, and build the sanctuary of the Lord God, so that you may bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord and the holy vessels of God into the house that is to be built for the name of the Lord."** (NASB95)*

*1 Chronicles 28:6-10 ... 6 "He said to me, 'Your son Solomon is the one who shall build My house and My courts; for I have chosen him to be a son to Me, and I will be a father to him. 7 'I will establish his kingdom forever if he resolutely performs My commandments and My ordinances, as is done now.' 8 "So now, in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the Lord, and in the hearing of our God, observe and seek after all the commandments of the Lord your God so that you may possess the good land and bequeath it to your sons after you forever. 9 **"As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.** 10 "Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be courageous and act." (NASB95) Seek the Lord in times of apostasy*

Seek the Lord in times of apostasy

We must seek the Lord in times of apostasy (2 Chron. 11:14-17; 2 Tim. 3:13-17).

*2 Chronicles 11:14-17 ... 14 For the Levites left their pasture lands and their property and came to Judah and Jerusalem, for Jeroboam and his sons had excluded them from serving as priests to the Lord. 15 He set up priests of his own for the high places, for the satyrs and for the calves which he had made. 16 **Those from all the tribes of Israel who set their hearts on seeking the Lord God of Israel followed them to Jerusalem, to sacrifice to the Lord God of their fathers.** 17 They strengthened the kingdom of Judah*

and supported Rehoboam the son of Solomon for three years, for they walked in the way of David and Solomon for three years. (NASB95)

2 Timothy 3:13-17 ... 13 But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (NASB95)

Seek the Lord from the land of captivity

We must seek the Lord from the land of captivity (Deut. 4:25-31; Hos. 3:1-5).

*Deuteronomy 4:25-31 ... 25 “When you become the father of children and children’s children and have remained long in the land, and act corruptly, and make an idol in the form of anything, and do that which is evil in the sight of the Lord your God so as to provoke Him to anger, 26 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will surely perish quickly from the land where you are going over the Jordan to possess it. You shall not live long on it, but will be utterly destroyed. 27 “The Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord drives you. 28 “There you will serve gods, the work of man’s hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. 29 **“But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul.** 30 “When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days you will return to the Lord your God and listen to His voice. 31 “For the Lord your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them. (NASB95)*

*Hosea 3:1-5 ... 1 Then the Lord said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by her husband, yet an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the sons of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love raisin cakes.” 2 So I bought her for myself for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a half of barley. 3 Then I said to her, “You shall stay with me for many days. You shall not play the harlot, nor shall you have a man; so I will also be toward you.” 4 For the sons of Israel will remain for many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar and without ephod or household idols. 5 **Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the Lord their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the Lord and to His goodness in the last days.** (NASB95)*

Conclusion

Consider the sad examples of Rehoboam (2 Chron. 12:13-14) and Asa (2 Chron. 14:2-4; 15:1-2, 8-15; 16:7-14).

2 Chronicles 12:13-14 ... 13 So King Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem and reigned. Now **Rehoboam** was forty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the Lord had chosen from all the tribes of Israel, to put His name there. And his mother's name was Naamah the Ammonitess. 14 **He did evil because he did not set his heart to seek the Lord.** (NASB95)

2 Chronicles 14:2-4 ... 2 **Asa** did good and right in the sight of the Lord his God, 3 for he removed the foreign altars and high places, tore down the sacred pillars, cut down the Asherim, 4 and **commanded Judah to seek the Lord God of their fathers and to observe the law and the commandment.** (NASB95)

2 Chronicles 15:1-2 ... 1 Now the Spirit of God came on **Azariah** the son of Oded, 2 and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Listen to me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: the Lord is with you when you are with Him. **And if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.** (NASB95)

2 Chronicles 15:8-15 ... 8 Now when Asa heard these words and the prophecy which Azariah the son of Oded the prophet spoke, he took courage and removed the abominable idols from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities which he had captured in the hill country of Ephraim. He then restored the altar of the Lord which was in front of the porch of the Lord. 9 He gathered all Judah and Benjamin and those from Ephraim, Manasseh and Simeon who resided with them, for many defected to him from Israel when they saw that the Lord his God was with him. 10 So they assembled at Jerusalem in the third month of the fifteenth year of Asa's reign. 11 They sacrificed to the Lord that day 700 oxen and 7,000 sheep from the spoil they had brought. 12 **They entered into the covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and soul; 13 and whoever would not seek the Lord God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, man or woman.** 14 Moreover, they made an oath to the Lord with a loud voice, with shouting, with trumpets and with horns. 15 All Judah rejoiced concerning the oath, for they had sworn with their whole heart and had sought Him earnestly, and He let them find Him. So the Lord gave them rest on every side. (NASB95)

2 Chronicles 16:7-14 ... 7 At that time **Hanani the seer** came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, "**Because you have relied on the king of Aram and have not relied on the Lord your God, therefore the army of the king of Aram has escaped out of your hand.** 8 "Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubim an immense army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the Lord, He delivered them into your hand. 9 "For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars." 10 Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in prison, for he was enraged at him for this. And Asa oppressed some of the people at the same time. 11 Now, the acts of Asa from first to last, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel. 12 **In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa became diseased in his feet. His disease was severe, yet even in his disease he did not seek the Lord, but the physicians.** 13 So Asa slept with his fathers, having died in the forty-first year of his reign. 14 They buried him in his own tomb which he had cut out for himself in the city of David, and they laid him in the resting place which he had filled with spices of

*various kinds blended by the perfumers' art; and they made a very great fire for him.
(NASB95)*

Therefore, let us seek the Lord while Isa. 55:6-7; Amos 5:4-7 *Isaiah 55:6-7 ... 6 **Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near.** 7 Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the Lord, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.* (NASB95)

*Amos 5:4-7 ... 4 For thus says the Lord to the house of Israel, "**Seek Me that you may live.** 5 "But do not resort to Bethel And do not come to Gilgal, Nor cross over to Beersheba; For Gilgal will certainly go into captivity And Bethel will come to trouble. 6 "Seek the Lord that you may live, Or He will break forth like a fire, O house of Joseph, And it will consume with none to quench it for Bethel, 7 For those who turn justice into wormwood And cast righteousness down to the earth."* (NASB95)