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Jeremiah wrote a letter from Jerusalem to the elders, priests, prophets, and all the people who had been exiled to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar. [2] This was after King Jehoiachin, the queen mother, the court officials, the other officials of Judah, and all the craftsmen and artisans had been deported from Jerusalem. [3] He sent the letter with Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah when they went to Babylon as King Zedekiah's ambassadors to Nebuchadnezzar. This is what Jeremiah's letter said:

[4] This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives he has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem: [5] "Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce.

Jeremiah 29:1–5 (NLT)

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Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you
may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! [7]
And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you
into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine
your welfare."
[8] This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says:
"Do not let your prophets and fortune-tellers who are with you in
the land of Babylon trick you. Do not listen to their dreams, [9]
because they are telling you lies in my name. I have not sent them,"
says the Lord.

Jeremiah 29:6–9 (NLT)

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[10] This is what the Lord says: “You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again. [11] For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:10–11 (NLT)

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[11] For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

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[12] In those days when you pray, I will listen. [13] If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. [14] I will be found by you," says the Lord. "I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land."

Jeremiah 29:12-14 (NLT)

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[12] Then you will call on me and come and pray to me,
and I will listen to you. [13] You will seek me and find
me when you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:12–13 (NIV)

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[12] Then you will call on me and come and ***<u>pray to me</u>***, and I will listen to you. [13] You will ***<u>seek me</u>*** and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:12–13 (NIV)

<u>Hebrew</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
(hit)pallel (v.12)	Pray	verbal, intentional communication
darash (v.13)	Seek, Pursue	whole-life pursuit, devotion, orientation

You can pray without pursuing God, but you can't pursue God without prayer.

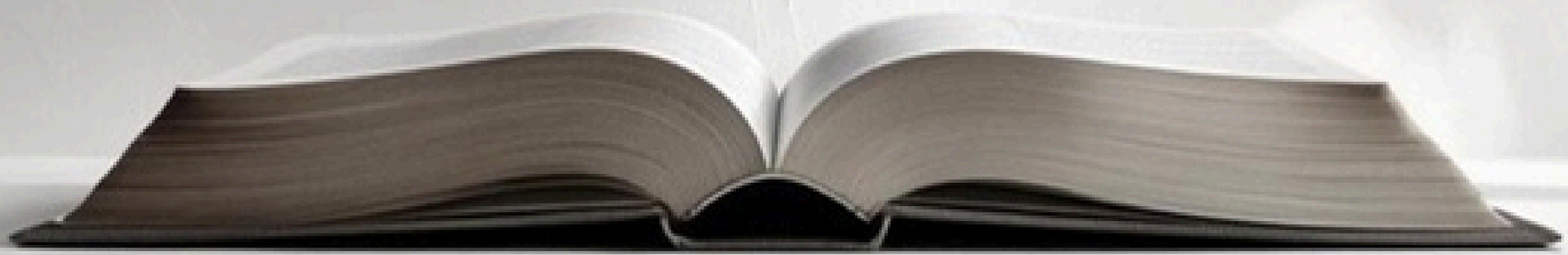
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When we pray God listens,
when we pursue Him
we ***Experience Him.***

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PURSUING GOD

The Pathway to Deeper Encounters with Him



When we pray God listens,
when we pursue Him
we ***Experience Him.***

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Experiencing God requires a heart undivided in its love and devotion for Him.

"***If you look for me wholeheartedly***, you will find me."

Jeremiah 29:13 NLT

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[13] You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. [14] I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back from captivity…

Jeremiah 29:13–14a (NIV)

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