

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Thess. 5:23

I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind. I will firmly establish his priestly house, and they will minister before my anointed one always.
1 Samuel 2:35

FAITHFUL MEN

1 Samuel 23, 24, 26

WEEK #: 18

Athletes who play team sports tend to play one of two kinds of positions. Some athletes specialize in defensive positions while others specialize on offense. Christianity can be similar.

People often experience more of a defensive Christianity whereby they seek to stop behavior or highlight what should not be done. They try to block temptation and tackle huge entanglements rather than fix their eyes on the goal line. In these scenarios, people tend to be most happy when sin is avoided. If we are not careful, this kind of personal walk requires far too much energy and work. In this mindset, obedience tends to be the primary goal and the level of obedience can often determine our level of peace. With wonderful motives and the right self-discipline, we will assuredly be content. The problem with this kind of a personal walk is that while well intended, it ultimately caves in under the weight of temptation and enticement. Adam and Eve caved when they began to fixate on the one thing they could not do. When we focus on something in life—it only gets bigger. Think about that.

Athletes tend to score more on offense. Obedience isn't the result of the pursuit of obedience, but the pursuit of love for those who love Christ and obey him. Trying to stop things coming at you at a high speed is difficult when we cease to seek Christ.

For the most part David didn't defend. David pursued God. What are you doing? Early in the morning David sought God.

- Are you in pursuit of God or in a defensive mode against sin?
- Are you seeking first the kingdom of God or hoping to behave your way into a deeper relationship?
- Seek him that he may be found. Knock that the door will be opened. Seek first the kingdom of God.
- Consider journaling the up and down times during your personal walk with Christ and try to ascertain whether you were on offense during the up times or perhaps playing defense during the down times.
- What does it mean to seek God and be a "God-Chaser" more so than one being chased?
- How can you improve in this area? We should stay in high pursuit of God asking him for greater desire, passion, understanding and love more than we should be trying to stop, impede or block the power of entangling sin. Remember, we tend to score more points on offense.

Gary