

**SERMON: SEEKING GOD'S FACE**

**10-3-22**

**OPENER:**

***2 Chronicles 7:14 Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.***

**In this scripture God gives commands and promises blessings when those commands are obeyed. We are told to humble ourselves, set aside our pride and come humble before God; to repent and turn away from our sin.**

**We are told to pray “AND” “seek His face”. We may think they are the same, but they are not. What does it mean to seek God's face?**

**The word “seek” - “to search out”. To seek something is to crave after it. To seek is to be persistent, steadfast , diligent, focused.**

**We go to God in prayer about many things.....provision, healing, comfort, wisdom, etc. and there's nothing wrong with that. God wants to hear our petitions we make before Him. He wants us to voice our concerns, our needs, our desires. He wants to fulfill them. To vocalize our prayers is to vocalize our faith in God.**

**Seeking these types of things can be called seeking the “hand of God.” It's seeking what he can *do for* us or *give to* us. As I said, there is nothing wrong with this.**

**BUT THERE IS A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP GOD  
DESIRES TO HAVE WITH US.  
IT IS FOUND THROUGH SEEKING THE “FACE OF GOD.”  
WE NEED TO SEEK GOD'S FACE BEFORE HIS HAND.**

***Psalms 27:8: When You said, “Seek My face,” My heart said to You, “Your face, Lord, I will seek.”***

**1.TO SEEK GOD'S FACE IS TO SEEK HIS PRESENCE**

In the Bible, to seek God's face means being face-to-face with God, which is a place of deep intimacy.

The Hebrew word for "face" in the Old Testament is often translated "presence."

**SEEKING GOD'S FACE IS SYNONYMOUS WITH SEEKING  
GOD'S PRESENCE.**

When we think about seeing God's face we think about those moments we enter heaven. That is when we will see God "*face to face.*"

But Scripture teaches that we are supposed to seek God's face, his presence, every day, all day.....

*Psalm 105:4 (NIV) Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.  
Psalm 105:4 (ESV) Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!*

**THE FACE REPRESENTS THE WHOLE PERSON**

**ILLUSTRATION:**

Or what about texting, email, phone calls ,... sometimes we can draw wrong conclusions about what someone means because we can't see their face and expressions.

Our faces express our feelings, our desires, our emotions, To look into someone's face is to have a better understanding of what they are trying to communicate.

The Bible tells us "the eyes are the window to the soul." When we look into someone's face, we are better able to gauge their mood and understand their thoughts. We can tell if they are happy or sad. When we look into someone's face, we can better focus on whatever they have to say.

It is the same way with seeking God's face. When we talk about seeking God's face, it means we are seeking to know Him, understand His character, and hear His voice.

**SO, IN A SENSE, ONE'S FACE REPRESENTS  
THE WHOLE PERSON.**

**IT REQUIRES INTIMACY TO LOOK INTENTLY INTO  
SOMEONE'S FACE.**

**SEEKING GOD'S FACE MEANS DESIRING TO KNOW HIM, TO WANT HIM,  
HIS PRESENCE MORE THAN ANY OTHER THING HE CAN GIVE US.**

*Psalm 63:1-3 (NLT) "O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in your sanctuary and gazed upon your power and glory. Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise you!"*

**2. TWO REASONS GOD INSTRUCTS US TO SEEK HIM:**

**A. HE WANTS TO BE FOUND**

Other than obedience, why do we need to seek God? Why does he tell us to seek him? Is he hiding? No, God is not hiding. The reason God instructs us to seek him is because he wants to be found.

*Proverbs 8:17 (NIV) "I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me."*

*Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV) "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart"*

**B. HE WANTS TO BE KNOWN BY US**

God wants us to seek his face because he wants to be known by us. We can learn a lot about God without knowing him intimately.

Every person has a desire to be known and to be loved. God has this desire as well and he richly blesses those who seek his face.

**3. TO SEEK GOD'S FACE IS TO WORSHIP HIM**

*Psalm 100:4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.*

We don't come into the presence of God like we approach a buddy on the ball field or meet a friend for coffee. We come into God's presence with worship and honor and reverence.

The Hebrew word in Psalm 100:4 is “towdah” and it means to give praise or sing hymns of worship to God. Many times we want to come to God with our own agenda. We want to speak to Him with the words of pleading or asking. Sometimes even demanding, we enter His gates.

Worship is recognition. It is the time when we remember the majesty of God. It is the time when we acknowledge the greatness of God’s character and deeds. It is the time when we fulfill one of God’s strongest desires - Praise!

When was the last time that you really praised the Lord?  
When was the last time that you lifted him up with your honor and adoration?

**CLOSING:**

**ILLUSTRATION:**

I use to travel a lot and have been in many major airports across the country. Experienced delays, put in many frequent flyer miles on planes. Even been on international flights over seas. It’s fun watching families meet at the airport. Wives meet husbands who have been on long trips. Or families meet a son or daughter coming home from the military. In those moments the rest of the world fades away, as they stand watching every person get off the plane. I’ve seen people waving signs, jumping up and down. I’ve heard them shout as they get a glimpse of their loved one exit the plane. .... because the person who matters most is the one they have been waiting to see.

Today, let’s seek God’s face in this crowded, noisy world. People are in the crowd for all kinds of reasons. But it is difficult to ignore a child who is excited to see their dad.

*2 Chronicles 16:9 The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.*

**WE NEED TO SEEK THE FACE OF GOD.  
WE NEED TO SEEK HIS FACE LIKE THERE IS NOTHING ELSE THAT  
MATTERS MORE.**

**FINAL CLOSING:**

***2 Chronicles 7:14-16 Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. ....***

***<sup>15</sup> My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place. <sup>16</sup> For I have chosen this Temple and set it apart to be holy—a place where my name will be honored forever. I will always watch over it, for it is dear to my heart.***