

This Summer
Part 3
Why I Pursue God
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I. Introduction

- a. This series focuses on avoiding the temptations that could interrupt or break our spiritual rhythm to build a deeper relationship with God when others tend to neglect Him.
 - i. Part 1 – Why I Give
 - ii. Part 2 – Why I Stay Connected
- b. Part 3 is about why I pursue God.

II. Pursuing God

- a. Pursue means to follow someone in order to catch them.
- b. We go after, long for, desire, search and seek God when we pursue Him.
 - i. Seeking is the conscious fixing or focusing of our minds, attention and hearts on God.
 - 1. This process involves getting through the natural means to God himself.
- c. We can find examples of what pursuing God looks like in the book of Psalm.
 - i. Psalm means praises are were primarily written by King David.
 - 1. Through his Psalms, we can comprehend David's love and passion for God.

Psalms 63:1-8 NIV

You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no water.
² I have seen you in the sanctuary
and beheld your power and your glory.
³ Because your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.
⁴ I will praise you as long as I live,
and in your name I will lift up my hands.
⁵ I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

⁶ On my bed I remember you;
I think of you through the watches of the night.

⁷ Because you are my help,
I sing in the shadow of your wings.

⁸ I cling to you;
your right hand upholds me.

III. Staying Connected

- a. Anyone who loves God usually does not intend to fall away or become disconnected.
- b. Becoming disconnected usually occurs when we allow things to disrupt the rhythm of our walk with God.
- c. The key to our success in maintaining a strong relationship with God is sticking to a spiritual rhythm in every season of life and situation.

IV. God First Priority

- a. God wants to bring us to the place where everything else in our life is a distant second and he is our first priority.
- b. David passionately pursued God this way in Psalms 63 regardless of his current situation and time necessary to hear his voice.
- c. Historians say that Psalms 61-63 was written during Absalom's rebellion (2 Samuel 15), which was a terrible experience for David.
 - i. David's son Absalom was trying to steal the kingdom from his father by telling the people what they wanted to hear.
 - ii. He wanted to pull them away from the leadership that God has placed in their life.
 - iii. Absalom's revolt forced David out of his own palace.
 - iv. David chose to sing Psalms 63 despite feeling low, betrayed and lonely.
- d. Like David, we should make God our priority, even when times are hard, busy or stressful.

Mathew 6:33 NIV

³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Proverbs 8:17 NIV

I love those who love me,
And those who seek me diligently will find me.

Psalm 119:10 NIV

With my whole heart I have sought you;
Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!

V. 3 D's of pursuing God

a. Decision

- i. Seeking God goes beyond feelings and starts with a decision.
- ii. A commitment to diligently seeking God can involve getting up early or journaling daily.

Psalms 27:8 NIV

My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"
Your face, LORD, I will seek.

b. Desire

- i. Every person that has been created by God has a desire to know him better.

Psalms 42:1-2 NIV

¹ As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.

² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?

- ii. When we fully realize our desire for God, we do the following:

1. Wait for the presence of God
2. Give towards Godly missions.
3. Change plans and schedules to be able to spend time with God.
4. Think about, praise and pray to God throughout the day.

c. Determination

- i. The woman with issue of blood in Luke 8:43-48 was determined to press through the crowd to touch Jesus for her healing.
- ii. Her faith and determination to access Jesus was what made her whole.