



July 27, 2025

Glenn Garvin

BIG IDEA – God has been chasing humans from the beginning. He wants us to run after Him and pursue others with that same love .

Scripture Focus – Psalm 139:7 I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence!

TAG – You're It!

The game's ancient, the rules are simple: one chases, the other runs. Turns out, God's been playing since the beginning of time—relentlessly pursuing every human heart.

But He's not just chasing *you*. He's inviting you into the game—to run *after* Him and pursue others with the same love that found you.

We all long to be seen, known, and loved. So don't just sit on the sidelines. Let God tag your heart... then go tag someone else's.
#ChasedByGod #TagYoureIt #ABetterUs #RelentlessLove

There is something amazing that happens in the simple childhood game called “tag.” No one knows who invented it, but it's been around since the days of Ancient Greece!

Simple game, simple rules:

People chase, the other one runs – avoiding being “tagged!”

A simple game that's been played for thousands of years – every Sunday after all the adults leave the auditorium, our children run through these isles and chairs sometimes even playing TAG. Oh, please don't think its sacrilegious for children to play, even in the church sanctuary - their pastor gives them permission to do so.

I know one thing for sure, **everyone has a deep-seated need to be chased, not in a stocker way, but to be known and loved.**

What does RELENTLESS PURSUIT look like?

Who's coming after me? Who knows, who cares - whether I live or die, when I love or lose love, when I'm healthy or sick?

When you think about it, God is into tag.

English poet Francis Thompson, in 1890 wrote the poem, "[The Hound of Heaven](#)," exploring the themes of divine pursuit and grace, depicting God as a relentless seeker of the human soul.

God is into this relentless pursuit of us. Every minute of every day since the beginning of time, He's after every human heart on the planet.

The crazy thing is, God also wants us **in the game of tag as well.**

He designed us and chases us, not to just be caught or tagged, but to pursue him as well as pursue others.

Some of my favorite New Testament Bible stories are about Jesus' having these divine appointments:

- **Zacchaeus in a tree in Luke 19**
- **Woman at the well in John 4**
- **The Mad Naked Man in Mark 5**
- **Even the disabled man by the poolside lounge in John 5**



God's record of pursuit

Right from the beginning, God came after us.

Old Testament

- **God went looking for Adam.**
 - **Genesis 3:9** "But the Lord God called to the man, 'Where are you?'"
Even after Adam and Eve sinned, God didn't abandon them — How do we feel about God coming after us when we've really messed things up?
- **Even after Moses destroyed the first copy of the 10 commandments, God came after Moses!**
 - **Exodus 34:1. Exodus 34:6-7** - "The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, "Yahweh! The Lord ! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But I do not excuse the guilty. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children and grandchildren; the entire family is affected— even children in the third and fourth generations."

- Nobody writes about God's relentless pursuit better than David in the Psalms!
 - Psalm 23:6 – "Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever." The Hebrew word for "follow" can mean "pursue"—God's goodness *chases after us*.
 - Psalm 139:7-12 "I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night— but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you."
- God reaches out, even to those who ignore or reject Him. Hosea is one of those books that is raw and unfiltered, but absolutely telling about our nature, our will and desires. I wouldn't recommend you do what Hosea did unless you were 100% sure God spoke to you!
 - Hosea 1:2 "When the Lord first began speaking to Israel through Hosea, he said to him, "Go and marry a prostitute, so that some of her children will be conceived in prostitution. This will illustrate how Israel has acted like a prostitute by turning against the Lord and worshiping other gods."
 - Even after all the things that Hosea's wife Gomer had continued to do – even while married to him, God still pursued her! Hosea 2:14 - *"But then I will win her back once again. I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her there."*
 - God uses the language of romance to describe how He woos His wayward people.

💡 In the New Testament — Jesus, the Good Shepherd

- Jesus paints Himself as the shepherd who goes on a rescue mission—for one lost soul.
 - Luke 15:4 (*Parable of the Lost Sheep*)
"If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it?"
- Clear, simple, and direct: Jesus came looking for us.
 - Luke 19:10 *"For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."*
- His pursuit isn't passive—it's *sacrificial*.
 - Romans 5:8
"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."



What are we pursuing?

Everyone is chasing something—a career, money, power, respect, a clean house, or even the perfect family to show off on social media.

I believe that God demonstrates his pursuit of us so that we will in turn pursue Him & others!

In a marriage relationship, chasing your spouse will help you cherish your spouse

—not just tolerate your spouse, not just co-exist with your spouse, not just stay married to your spouse, **but cherish your spouse.**

In the same way chasing others helps us cherish others! Not just tolerate, but really love others the way God loved us!

Isn't that what Jesus told his disciples to do as he got closer to the end?

This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. John 13:35 AND 15:12.

Over time, **routine just takes over**, and whether it's your **life-mate, roommate or your church-mate**, we slowly drift into the **rut of regularity!**

Without resolve, routines rule our lives!



Intentionality

This is where intentionality is required!

Most people are awake for approximately 960 minutes per day or about 16 hours.

And most of us are busy for every single one of those minutes!

Busyness is not next to godliness!

How do we say no to GOOD in pursuit of a GREATER US.

Especially when we have:

- **Constant clutter.** Busy lives are often displayed in mess.
- **Addiction to a speedy pace of life.** You want everything to go faster. You talk faster; you don't want to wait in line; any type of delay makes you impatient.
- **Extreme multi-tasking.** You try doing several important things at once, convincing yourself that you need to go faster.
- **Superficial relationships.** You stay on the surface with your spouse and most other people, because depth requires time.

- **Relationship fatigue.** You're too tired, drained, and preoccupied to give to the people who need and deserve your love the most. Instead, they are the ones who get cheated and receive your emotional leftovers.
- **Spiritual emptiness.** You're not taking time to connect with God.

Busyness quiz:

As you reflect on the above question, add a check mark to the statements that best describe you.

Check all that apply:

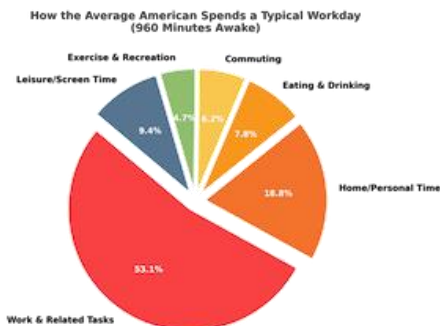
- ☐ I'm constantly stressed.
- ☐ I'm easily angered.
- ☐ It seems as though I'm always letting others down.
- ☐ Truth be told... I'm joyless.
- ☐ I feel like I'm in survival mode.
- ☐ Other_____

The average person wakes up and decides how to spend about 960 minutes per day!

How we spend our minutes?

What are we doing with 960 minutes?

Activity	Minutes	Hours
Work & related tasks	510	8.5
Home/personal tasks	180	3
Eating & drinking	75	1.25
Commuting (average)	60	1
Exercise/recreation	45	0.75
Leisure/screen time	90	1.5
Total	960	16



10% - 96 minutes or 1.6 hours It would be 96 minutes or 1.6 hours of our day. That's a lot!

But if we just gave...

1% = 9.6 minutes a day or just a little over an hour a week!

What would happen if we just took 10 minutes a day to reach out to someone.

Or just 1 minute to reach out to 10 people a day!

To text, call or email someone and let them know:

- **You were thinking about them.**
- **Praying for them.**
- **Just checking to see how they are doing.**
- **Sharing good news or some celebration moment!**

We follow through when we are intentional and make a plan!

Make a plan or be intentional about listening to the Holy Spirit when he drops someone's name into your head!

We are going to give you a plan in your hand.

You were given a bag of tiny clear glass marbles.

Take it out and carefully pour the marbles into your hand. You should have 10 marbles.

If someone is missing your marbles, raise your hand!

This week your challenge is to spend your 10 marbles on 10 individuals by reaching out via text, phone or email just to see how they are doing. That's one minute a marble!

Now, if that is just too much to manage then just spend 10 minutes on 1 individual – ten minutes for all ten marbles. If you want to make a habit of it, just keep your little marble pouch handy and choose another 10 folks next week, or give one person 10 minutes per week.

Post on social media under **#minutemarble**

How can we get in the game rather than just watch it being played around us. Let God catch us, then we can even chase after him.

Also, chase after others who are struggling, unseen, unnoticed, maybe even hurting.

SCRIPTURES

Genesis 3:9

But the Lord God called to the man, 'Where are you?

Exodus 34:6-7

The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, "Yahweh! The Lord ! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But I do not excuse the guilty. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children and grandchildren; the entire family is affected— even children in the third and fourth generations.

Psalms 23:6 Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.

Psalms 139:7-12 I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night— but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you.

Hosea 1:2

When the Lord first began speaking to Israel through Hosea, he said to him, "Go and marry a prostitute, so that some of her children will be conceived in prostitution. This will illustrate how Israel has acted like a prostitute by turning against the Lord and worshiping other gods.

Hosea 2:14

But then I will win her back once again. I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her there.

Luke 15:4 If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it?

Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.

Romans 5:8

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

John 13:35 & 15:12 ON SCREEN

This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.

NOTES

- Connect often
- Ask questions
- Go a little deeper

Relentless pursuit is a choice that includes intentionally chasing and cherishing.

Strengthening your relationship muscles – your heart.

Deepening Kindness: Intentionally Bringing Value to someone

- Calling, Texting, Emailing
- Appreciate through affirmation
- Argue about something you share with a friend (sports, gaming, specialty glass, yardsales, kids, shows or movies)

Ephesians 4:32 - Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Colossians 3:12 - Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Micah 6:8 - No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

1 Corinthians 13:1-7 - If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing. Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

Romans 12:10 - Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

DUAL REWARDS

The joy of building eternal friendships

Paul's reward and crown is who?

After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you! 1

Thessalonians 2:19.

The abundant life is not a solo pursuit; it's a relational pursuit of Jesus and others.

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. John 10:10 NLT

Other versions like the New Living Translation and The Message (paraphrase) translate "abundant life" as "a rich and satisfying life" and "better life than they ever dreamed of," respectively. The words may vary, but the primary focus is that Jesus came offering a fullness of life.

Jesus boldly proclaimed that He came for you to have life and have it more abundantly. He didn't say:

- "I have come that you might be busy."
 - "I have come that you might be stressed."
 - "I have come that you might be overwhelmed."
 - "I have come that you might be irritated."
 - "I have come that you might feel devalued and do the same to others."
-



Crowns in heaven

Matthew 27:29 and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said.

Mark 15:17 They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him.

John 19:2 The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe

John 19:5 When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

Paul mention of crowns

1 Corinthians 9:24-25 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

Philippians 4:1 Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? 20 Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

2 Timothy 2:5 Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules.

2 Timothy 4:8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Writer of Hebrews mention of being crowned

Hebrews 2:7 You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

James mentions crowns

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Peter mentions crowns

1 Peter 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you [elders vs.1] will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

The Apostle John mentions crowns

Revelation 2:10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Revelation 3:11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

Revelation 4:4 Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.

Revelation 4:10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

Revelation 6:2 I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.

Revelation 9:7 The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces.

Revelation 12:1 A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head.

Revelation 12:3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and
