INTENTIONAL PURSUIT

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Sunday Message [October 25, 2026]

Sermon Summary: In this week's message, Savanna challenges us to move beyond casual or convenient engagement with God and into a place of desperate, intentional pursuit of His presence. Drawing from Psalm 63:1 and Jeremiah 29:12-14, the message emphasizes that genuine spiritual hunger is demonstrated through consistent, daily pursuit of who God is rather than what He can do. We are warned against the danger of idolizing spiritual encounters and becoming spiritually complacent, and urged as believers to cultivate deep intimacy with God through prayer, worship, and surrender. The central call is for the church to prepare itself through intentional time with God so that it can be a vessel for the miraculous works He desires to release.

Scripture References:

- Psalm 63:1, which describes a deep, desperate thirst and longing for God's presence
- Jeremiah 29:12-14, which speaks of God being found by those who seek Him with their whole heart
- Philippians 3:10, in which Paul expresses the desire to know Christ deeply and personally
- Luke 9:23, where Jesus calls His followers to daily self-denial and surrender

Key Points:

- Spiritual hunger must be desperate and intentional, not casual or convenient
- Seeking God requires the whole heart, not partial commitment, as expressed in Jeremiah 29:12-14
- The greatest danger to spiritual growth is becoming content with yesterday's encounter rather than pursuing the next
- The church must stop worshiping encounters and redirect focus to the God who makes encounters possible
- Genuine hunger is demonstrated through pursuit, which develops intimacy with God
- God deserves our best, not our leftovers in terms of time, attention, and energy
- Pursuit of God must be a daily, consistent walk, not limited to emotionally charged worship moments
- Small distractions, not major ones, are most likely to quietly pull focus away from time with God
- The depth of pursuit is measured by consistency of surrender, not intensity of encounter
- The congregation is being spiritually prepared for a greater outpouring of God's presence and power

QUOTES:

“Spiritual hunger moves beyond words and into intentional pursuit.”

“The greatest danger to spiritual growth is becoming content with yesterday's encounter.”

“We have to stop worshiping the encounters and intentionally pursue the one who makes the encounters possible.”

“We want the fire, but are we willing to maintain the altar?”

“The evidence of a genuine encounter with God isn't just about what happened in the room. It's what changes in our lives after we leave it.”

“You cannot pursue God wholeheartedly while consistently giving him whatever time, attention, and energy you have left over. God deserves more than our leftovers.”

:There’s a difference between knowing what God can do and knowing who God is. An encounter can introduce you to his presence but intentional pursuit develops intimacy with him.”

“The depth of your pursuit is not measured by the intensity of the encounter, but by the consistency of the surrender.”

“Things are a distraction only if we allow them to be a distraction. Things will take our focus off God if we allow them to.”

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Theme of Intentional Pursuit

Day 1: Desperate Hunger

Reading: Psalm 63:1-8

Devotional: David did not approach God casually. His hunger was desperate, raw, and consuming. He was not seeking what God could provide -- he was seeking God himself. It is easy to drift into a routine of religious habit while losing the burning desire that once drove you to your knees. Ask yourself honestly: is your pursuit of God desperate or merely convenient? Desperation before God is not weakness -- it is wisdom. It declares that you cannot survive without him. Let that holy desperation be the posture of your heart today.

Reflection: Where has your hunger for God grown casual, and what would it look like to pursue him with desperation today?

Application: Set aside ten uninterrupted minutes today -- no phone, no noise -- and simply tell God you need him.

Day 2: Seeking With Your Whole Heart

Reading: Jeremiah 29:12-14

Devotional: God does not reward half-hearted seeking. In Jeremiah 29, the promise of being found by God is directly tied to seeking him with the whole heart -- not with good intentions, not with partial effort, but with everything. This is not a word of condemnation but of invitation. God is not hiding from you. He is waiting to be pursued. The depth of what you discover in God will always be proportional to the depth of your pursuit. A whole-heart pursuit is not about perfection -- it is about direction. Point every part of yourself toward him.

Reflection: What parts of your heart have you withheld from God, and what would full surrender look like in your daily life?

Application: Write down one area of your life where you have given God partial attention, and pray specifically over that area today.

Day 3: Knowing Him, Not Just Knowing About Him

Reading: Philippians 3:7-11

Devotional: Paul's greatest ambition was not to accomplish great things for God -- it was to know God. There is a profound difference between knowing what God can do and knowing who God is. Many believers are well acquainted with the works of God but remain strangers to the person of God. Encounters can introduce you to his presence, but only intentional, daily pursuit develops true intimacy. Just as any meaningful relationship requires consistent communication and time, your relationship with God deepens only through deliberate investment. Do not settle for knowing about him when you can truly know him.

Reflection: Do you spend more time studying God's actions than pursuing God's heart? How can you shift that balance?

Application: Before reading Scripture today, ask God to reveal something about his character -- not just his activity -- and journal what he shows you.

Day 4: Taking Up the Cross Daily

Reading: Luke 9:23-26

Devotional: Following Jesus is not reserved for mountaintop moments when worship feels electric and the atmosphere is charged with emotion. Jesus makes it plain -- discipleship is a daily act of surrender. Sometimes pursuing God looks like worshiping when you feel nothing, praying when words will not come, and remaining obedient when the season makes no sense. The depth of your pursuit is not measured by the intensity of your encounters but by the consistency of your surrender. Daily cross-bearing is not glamorous, but it is the road that leads to the deepest intimacy with Christ.

Reflection: Are you following Jesus only when it feels powerful, or are you committed to the daily, quiet act of surrender?

Application: Identify one daily habit -- morning, evening, or during a commute -- where you can consistently invite God into your routine this week.

Day 5: Cultivating Intimacy, Not Just Chasing Encounters

Reading: Psalm 27:4-8

Devotional: It is possible to become so captivated by what God does that you lose sight of who God is. Powerful services, healings, and moments of glory are gifts -- but they were never meant to become the destination. When the encounter becomes the idol, pursuit stops and complacency begins. God is limitless. You can never exhaust his presence, which means there is always more to seek. Do not let yesterday's encounter become today's ceiling. Be grateful for every moment he has moved, but let that gratitude fuel a hunger for what he wants to do next. There is always more.

Reflection: Have you been worshiping an encounter rather than the God who made it possible? What would it look like to shift your focus back to him?

Application: Thank God specifically for one powerful moment he has given you, then ask him in prayer what he wants to do next -- and listen.