

Seeking the Lord

#1 - Break Up Your Fallowed Ground

The place we must begin is an honest examination of the true condition of our hearts.

Scriptures: Hosea 10:12 | Psalm 27:4, Psalm 42:1=2 | Matt. 5:8 & 13:1-11 & v.18-23 | Heb. 12:10-11

What does it mean to seek the Lord?

I heard a preacher once say, *"The evidence of desire is pursuit."* What you seek is what you desire most. How do you know what you desire most? It's actually quite obvious. What is captivating all of your thinking? What are you spending all of your time on? What is it you are striving after? What are you always talking about? These answers will identify the king of your heart.

David says in Psalm 27:4 "One thing I ask of the Lord and this is what I seek: *that I may dwell* in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, *to gaze upon* the beauty of the Lord and *to seek Him* in His temple." NIV 84 (*emphasis added*)

The sons of Korah write, "As the deer pants for the streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" Psalm 42:1-2 NIV 84

In both of these psalms, can't you just feel that sense of deep longing? Words like thirst, pant, desire, longing capture the soul's cry to know God and to be one with him. This is the essence of seeking the Lord. Each person on Earth has an insatiable cry to know God and be filled with His Spirit. We desire to know and be known perfectly. Sadly, due to bad teaching, hurts, fear, ignorance, or disobedience many people do not know anything about seeking the Lord. *Yet this deep cry remains.* So what happens? False idols and comforts are sought out in an attempt to satisfy this inner thirst. Whether it's a relationship, fame, success, material wealth, comfort, self importance, sexual gratification, drugs or something else... these things are a shadow of the fullness of what God has created us for: *oneness with Him.* By putting other things (idols) at the top of your list, you deny the pursuit of knowing God. He wants to be known. So what do we say to this? It is time to seek the Lord. He is the answer. He is the river of living water. He is the source of all joy and purity. I invite you on this journey over the coming weeks to grow in knowing God through seeking Him. Your heart and soul cry out for the living God.

When can you go meet with Him? How about right now?

Where do I begin?

Have you ever heard the saying, *"It's right in front of your nose?"* You then wonder, why didn't I see something that was there all along? Perhaps you weren't looking for it. Or perhaps your eyes were blinded by other things. Jesus Christ says, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." (*Matt. 5:8*) You can't pursue something you can't see (in the physical or spiritual world.) Seeing God isn't done with our natural eyes but rather the eyes of our hearts. Your spiritual vision is directly proportional to the purity of

your heart. Many people are so unconscious of God, His Presence, and even their need for Him. Why? Because when the heart is filthy, impure, hardened... there is no true vision. Spiritual blindness has set in. This is where we must begin. We must honestly examine ourselves and the state of our hearts.

Breaking Up Your Fallowed Ground

Hosea 10:12 - "Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your fallowed (unplowed) ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers righteousness on you."

Meditations on Scripture

Hosea 10:12, Matthew 13:1-11 & 18-23, Hebrews 12:10-11, Matthew 5:8

Questions and putting it into practice

1. Whose job is it to plow up the fallowed ground according to Hosea? Does this surprise you?

2. According to the parable of the sower in Matthew 13, which soil best describes your heart? Identify specific areas that need to be broken up / plowed. (unless your heart is totally pure already.)

3. What are some of the additional ways we are plowed up according to Hebrews? Give a specific and recent example of this in your own life.

4. This week re-read each of the Scriptures and ask the Lord to reveal any hardened areas in your heart that need to be broken up. Then you must fervently repent. This is a painful process. But without it, any further growth becomes impossible. (Make some notes as to what you hear the Holy Spirit say to you in prayer. Key: You must spend time listening and allowing Him to probe you.)

5. Lastly, read through Charles Finney's sermon on repentance. (Ch. 3 of Experiencing Revival.) Link on the website at: divineoverflow.org/thegathering. (Write a few sentences about how this impacted you.)