

How Seeking God's Face Will Prolong Your Life

- I. Quest for a better quality of life
- B. We do all sorts of things to improve the quality of our lives.
1. We try to eat right
 - a. all types of diets and fads
 2. We exercise
 - a. purchased the tools to do so
 - (1) going to the gym
 - (2) walking
 3. To improve the quality of life we choose different careers.
 - a. we spend many years trying to learn those things which will get us ahead and let us live life better.
 - b. The list goes on
 4. Paul said
- 1 Timothy 4:8 (NKJV) — 8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.**
- C. Almighty God said regarding his word

Deuteronomy 32:46–47 (NKJV) — 46 and he said to them: “Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe—all the words of this law.

47 For it is not a futile thing for you, because it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong *your* days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess.”

- D. Truly, more certainly, you can prolong your life if you will take the time to come to know the voice of God. He will speak to you daily to guide you along the path of life.
1. He has promised this!
 2. That is his desire for us!
- E. We must train ourselves to know the spoken voice of God. He is speaking to us so we might experience life more abundantly!
- F. We join our churches and become involved in its activities, but this is not what God is looking for. He is looking for those with a mind to serve him with their whole heart
- G. A call to seek God! To learn of him!
Matthew 11:28–30 (NKJV) — 28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”
- H. There are many things we may seek in life. But all are incomplete and never fulfill us completely. Yet we spend years of our lives foolishly pursuing those things that really have no value

SEEKING GOD’S FACE WILL PROLONG YOUR LIFE

- I. Satan does everything he can to keep us from hearing the words of life.
1. This we know from the beginning.

Job 33:14 (NKJV) — 14 For God may speak in one way, or in another, Yet man does not perceive it.
Matthew 13:9 (NKJV) — 9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

- J. I have heard so many stupid things people blame on the Lord thinking they have heard his voice.

1. Proclaiming so many things that are clearly against the word of God.
 2. So many lies are told on God. So many really don't know how to discern his voice from all the many other voices.
 3. They think they have heard from God and they have heard from demons.
 4. They are too proud to take advantage of the wisdom of proven men and women of God.
- K. When we come to know the voice of God, he can protect us from all sorts of troubles.
- L. In this world, we will have trouble but our Lord has promised us he will deliver us from all of them. We just have to listen to him!
1. We have to stop focusing on our problems and the negative things in our life.
 2. We have to learn to start listening to hear the voice of God!
 3. He will speak to us just like the mother and father will speak to his children to keep them from harm.
Luke 13:34 (NKJV) — 34 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!
- M. Even when we are experiencing troubles, we need to come to understand that God is still speaking to us to lead us out of the trouble.
1. We must listen to hear his voice to know how to overcome the trouble!
1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV) — 13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will

not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able,

but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

N. We must not become fixated on our circumstances. We must listen to hear the voice of God in the midst of our trials.

**C. S. Lewis, the prolific author and lay theologian, said
“God whispers to us in our pleasures,
speaks in our consciences, but
shouts in our pains.
It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”**

IT IS TIME WE BEGIN ASKING THE LORD TO SHOW US HIS WAYS THAT WE MIGHT KNOW HIM AND RESPOND TO HIS VOICE TO PROLONG OUR LIFE

II. What we learned last week to prolong our lives and improve the quality of it.

A. Four things to do

1. Study His Word

a. set aside a time and place each day

2. Meditate on His word

a. *remember the breathing exercise and the monkey mind*

3. Pray to know His ways

a. *seek the face of God instead of his hand –
Look to hear from him!*

4. Learn to listen for his voice

a. be quick to hear and obey

B. STUDY HIS WORD

1. Set aside a time and place each day.
2. Become familiar with the written word. It will not change. Memorize it.

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (NKJV) — 4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord *is* one! 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 “And these words which I command you today **shall be in your heart. 7 **You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.** 8 **You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.** 9 **You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.****

C. MEDITATE ON HIS WORD

1. Remember the breathing exercise and the monkey mind

Psalm 1:1–3 (NKJV) — 1 Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight *is* in the law of the Lord, **And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.**

D. PRAY TO KNOW HIS WAYS BY SEEKING HIS FACE

1. After we have a solid foundation in his written word, then, we are better able to hear his spoken word and have the certainty that we have heard from God and not another.
2. Seek his face instead of his hand
Psalm 103:7 (NKJV) — 7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.

*Exodus 33:13 (NKJV) — 13 Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, **show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight.** And consider that this nation is Your people.”*

*2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV) — 14 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and **pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.***

3. We will talk more about knowing his ways and seeking his face today

E. God’s Way!

Jeremiah 29:11–14 (NKJV) — 11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

14 I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you

from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.

Luke 12:29–32 (NKJV) — 29 “And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind.

30 For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things.

31 But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. 32 “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

1. It is God's way to bless you!
 - a. **Say it!**
2. To get these blessings and prolong our lives we must learn to seek the Lord!
 - a. ***If I want to prolong my life I must learn to seek the Lord!***

- F. To seek him means you have to renounce other Gods and idols. He said
- Exodus 20:3–6 (NKJV) — 3 “You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,***

6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

1. What are they today you say?
 - a. Your will, your way, your thoughts, your desires and feelings that are not of him.
 - b. Things that are of an impure heathen life.
2. Do you spend more time on the job than you do in serving God
 - a. **Then your job is your idol**
3. More time in your fixing your home than your temple of God –
 - a. **then your home is your idol**
4. spending more times with relationships i.e. boyfriends, girlfriends
 - a. **then your boyfriend/girlfriend is your idol**
5. What have you placed more emphasis on than the study of the word and prayer over God?
 - a. **Whatever that thing is, it is your idol**
6. Do not be deceive you cannot mock God, he demands first position in your life!

III. If we seek him. by praying to know his ways, not just praying for his blessings, greater blessings are fulfilled in our lives. God is calling us!

OUR FATHER IS CALLING US TO SEEK HIM SO HE MAY IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR LIVES

Isaiah 55:1–3 (NKJV) — 1 “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend money for *what is not bread*, And your wages for *what does not satisfy*? Listen carefully to Me, and eat *what is good*, And let your soul delight itself in abundance. 3 Incline your ear, and come to

Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you— The sure mercies of David.

A. Come to the waters.

1. Water relieves and removes thirst as nothing else will.
2. What are you thirsty for? God can quench your thirst
 - a. Whatever you desire he can meet it.
 - b. Name some things, He can satisfy all your needs
3. Here he tells you it is for you to come to him and not him coming to you!
 - a. If you want life it is for you to do the work to come.
4. See he says **BUY**. What does he mean **without money and without cost**.
 - a. **Buy** with your time in study of his word and worship to him
 - b. God does not sell himself to us
 - c. He does not sell his love or his mercy
 - d. It is ours simply for the asking
 - e. Money cannot buy God nor his blessings and a man is a fool to think he can purchase anything from God
5. ***What God wants is your heart and you seeking him with all of it!***
6. You must want God in your life and show it by dying to yourself. He will not force himself on you to make your life better!

B. Water speaking to a new opportunity for life. Being regenerated. New joy and peace in life. A fresh start. Forgiveness of the past failures. Life abundantly

Psalm 1:3 (NKJV) — 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

- C. **Wine** speaking to a spiritual revival - A new anointing with him, excitement and joy in life

Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV) — 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

- D. **Milk** speaking to physical nourishment - Of which the body is restored to life and vitality simply because of the power of the Lord's renewal

Proverbs 27:27 (NKJV) — 27 *You shall have enough goats' milk for your food, For the food of your household, And the nourishment of your maidservants.*

1. These things from God will cost you nothing but your commitment to him.

- E. **Isa 55:2 Why do you spend money for *what is not bread*, And your wages for *what does not satisfy*? Listen carefully to Me, and eat *what is good*, And let your soul delight itself in abundance.**

1. Bread is called the staff of life. Meaning that which supports life. The life in your body.
 - a. Why waste your time and energy on things that do not support your life? Things that after you spend your time trying to get them you will still perish.
 - b. Your time is too precious. Life is but a moment. Why seek that which will not prolong your life

- c. This stuff of the world cannot sustain you.
Even real food cannot keep you truly alive
- d. You may seek after
 - (1) money
 - (2) jobs
 - (3) Education
 - (4) promotion
 - (5) prestige
 - (6) fame
- e. These things can not add one minute to your life. Why are you killing yourself to get what will not give you life? Why be a fool for that which will mean nothing in the end?
- f. You are being hoodwinked, conned, robbed, and how long will you remain in your darkness?

2. Jesus said

John 6:35 (NKJV) — 35 And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

John 6:48–51 (NKJV) — 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. 50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

3. You work for things that really don't satisfy you but for a little while

- a. World things truly cannot satisfy you, why do you persist in killing yourselves in getting them God asks?
 - b. ***You make foolish investments of your time. Tell me just what can the world offer that will keep you from death?***
 - (1) Yes, you are going to die and without Christ, the pain of death will be felt twice
 - (a) Death of the body
 - (b) Death of the soul in hell
 - c. You work hard and still don't get ahead.
 - (1) Each day you have to work, and work your fingers down to the bone
 - (2) Can't you see it is all meaningless. No matter what you get it still isn't enough----you still need more!
4. ***Why don't you realize that if you spent the same amount of energy you spend on worldly pursuits on seeking God, you will increase your return! God will guarantee it!***
5. He says what he offers is more than the world can. Consider what he says when we taste of what he has to offer:
- Psalm 34:8–10 (NKJV) — 8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! 9 Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! ***There is no want to those who fear Him. 10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.****
- Psalm 36:8–12 (NKJV) — 8 They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your***

house, And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. 9 For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.

F. Isaiah 55:3 (NKJV) — 3 Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live;

1. He who has created your soul, knows what the soul needs to live. He offer's it to you free of charge
 - a. It is by your hearing that you may live
Mark 4:24 (NKJV) — 24 Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given.
 - (1) It is therefore necessary that you hear correctly. Are you at a place to hear the word of life?
2. Here he says again Listen. Then come to him, he is the one that will give the water that is life.
Isaiah 44:3–4 (NKJV) — 3 For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring; 4 They will spring up among the grass Like willows by the watercourses.'
3. The key to real success in life is in attending your ear unto God and his teachings and not just hearing, but hearing to do!
 - a. He states
 - (1) **"Hear me"** meaning "Obey me!" so your soul may live
 - b. And to what end?

3 John 2 (NKJV) — 2 Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

G. Isaiah 55:3 ...And I will make an everlasting covenant with you— The sure mercies of David.

1. This is a restoration of the covenant broken by Adam. A personal covenant just between you and God. Think of how wonderful! This relationship with you and God can never be broken.
 - a. This is fulfilled in Christ Jesus!
2. **He wants to be your friend!**
 - a. Do you want to be his?
 - b. He is ready to help you in your life's journey but he that desires a friend must first show himself friendly
 - (1) be friendly towards Jesus
3. **everlasting covenant** - A promise never to leave us if we submit to his will
 - a. This is also the best thing we can do for our children.

OUR FATHER IS CALLING US TO SEEK HIM SO HE MAY IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR LIVES

- H. God is looking for those who are seeking him. He will show himself strong for them

Psalm 14:2 (NKJV) — 2 The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, **To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.**

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NKJV) — 9 For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, **to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.**

- I. You and I make a terrible error when we are not focused on seeking God in all we do. This was the problem with the life of Rehoboam.
2 Chronicles 12:14 (NKJV) — 14 And he did evil, because he did not prepare his heart to seek the LORD.
- J. Too many are seeking their own benefit and missing the best blessing of God. This type of action about self is abhorred by God. He calls such a person a prostitute
Nu 15:39 39 You will have these tassels to look at and so you will remember all the commands of the Lord, that you may obey them and not prostitute yourselves by going after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes.

SEEKING GOD'S FACE WILL PROLONG YOUR LIFE

- K. Many of us already have a religion we are committed to. Many are part of a denomination or a church but scripture does not command us to religion but to relationship
Isaiah 55:6–12 (NKJV) — 6 Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.
- 8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.**
- 10 “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall**

accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

12 “For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; And it shall be to the LORD for a name, For an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

1. See while he may be found. There will come a time when he will not be found, and all those who have turned away will find he has turned away from them.

L. There is a time to find him and the time is now

SEEK THE FACE OF GOD AND TRULY LIVE A LONG AND PROSPEROUS LIFE!