

Acquiring A Better Life Through The Pursuit of God

A. 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 and obey his voice!**

B. To seek him means you have to renounce other Gods and idols you have placed before seeking him in your life. 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!

II. 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

Remember Moses:

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.*

Here God tells us to seek him:

Isaiah 55:1–3 (NKJV) — 1 “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat (*Taste*). 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. 1 “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, 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.
 - b. Remember the woman at the well came to him and asked for the water.
 - (1) We have to ask for the water
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. And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price.

1. Three essentials to life
2. **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.

3. **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.

- a. *Wine produces gladness of heart*

Psalm 104:15 (NKJV) — 15 And wine that makes glad the heart of man, Oil to make his face shine, And bread which strengthens man's heart.

4. **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.

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

C. **Isa 55:2 Why** do you spend **money** for *what* is not bread, And your **wages** (*NIV Labor*) 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?

WHY ARE YOU KILLING YOURSELF TO GET WHAT WILL NOT GIVE YOU LIFE?

- 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 lifespan! God will guarantee it!*

ONLY GOD CAN GUARANTEE YOU A LONGER LIFESPAN AND HE OFFERS IT TO YOU!

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.

D. 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?

**IF YOU PUT LITTLE VALUE ON THE WRITTEN WORD,
YOU CANNOT BE SURE OF THE SPOKEN WORD WHICH CAN GUIDE YOU DAILY**

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. Two things!

- a. **Listen** – Incline your ear! Pay more attention to him than the world!

- b. **Come** – Come to me! Be devoted to him above all things!

Matthew 11:28–29 (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/listen** from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will **find rest for your souls**.**

- 4. **The key to real success in life is in attending your ears on God’s voice and his teachings and then, not just hearing, but hearing to trust and obey!**

- 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.

E. and **your soul shall live;**

- 1. Life is in hearing his voice

- a. The written word

- b. The Spoken word!

- 2. We must pursue him!

LIFE IS IN HEARING GOD’S VOICE; THE WRITTEN WORD AND THE SPOKEN WORD

- F. **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 everlasting 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. ***Don't let your sins separate you! Run to him!***

4. **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 WITH ALL OUR HEART AND HE SHALL IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR LIVES

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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

8. 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. We are to seek the Lord!

Now to verse 6

G. Isaiah 55:6 **Seek the LORD while He may be found, **Call** upon Him while He is near.**

1. Are you truly doing this? We are to
 - a. Seek and
 - b. Call
2. When are we to do these things?

H. 7 Let the **wicked forsake his **way**, And the **unrighteous** man his **thoughts**;**

1. See two things
 - a. The wicked - their ways
 - b. The unrighteous – their thoughts
 - (1) We are what we think!
 - (a) Thoughts lead to words and words lead to acts
2. We can be wicked because of what we do and
3. Unrighteous because of the way we think!

I. Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. (*Multiply pardons*)

1. *You are never too bad to turn to the Lord. He is willing to receive you!*
2. You may not think they deserve to be pardoned but God says..

J. 8 “For **My thoughts are not **your thoughts**, Nor are **your ways.... My ways**,” says the LORD.**

1. We must seek to have the mind of Christ! EVERYDAY!
Philippians 2:5 (NKJV) — 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
2. We should also seek to act like God
Ephesians 5:1 (NKJV) — 1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

K. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My **ways higher than **your ways**, And **My thoughts** than **your thoughts**.**

1. *To what end are his thoughts*

Jeremiah 29:11 (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.

L. 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,

1. This is the way of the Word of God. It is from heaven!
2. It is productive. Keep seeking it!
 - a. So will we become in the absence of his word in our lives
3. We experience drought when there is no rain. The green turns brown there is budding of fresh fruit
4. We experience a drought where there is no word. That which is green turns brown there is no budding of life

M. **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.**

1. *Reminding us of the sower sowing the Word. Letting us know how we all are able to receive!*
2. *4 ways!*
 - a. *No attention to it – on the Path*
 - b. *Little attention to it – On the Rocks*
 - c. *Attention but more to other things – In the Thorns*
 - d. *Focus on it more than all things! – Fertile Ground*

The results of listening to the voice of God:

N. **12 “For you shall go out (from captivity and bondage) with joy, And be led out with peace (prosperity); The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. (Praise)**

1. Joy - experiencing unspeakable joy
2. Peace - peace flowing like a river
 - a. prosperity shall always be with you
3. We were truly created for the praise of his glory

WHEN WE LISTEN TO THE WORD/VOICE OF GOD AND FOLLOW HIM OUR NEGATIVE SITUATIONS IN LIFE SHALL BE TRANSFORMED INTO BLESSINGS!

O. **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. Your night will be turned in to day
2. your evil will be replaced by righteousness
3. your sadness will be turned to gladness
4. your weeping will be turned to dancing
5. your trials will be turned into triumphs
6. **Do it Now**
7. ISee 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.
8. 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!