

## Doctrine of Seeking

### 1. People seek after various objects.

- Family. *Genesis 37:16 And he said, I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed their flocks.*
- Revenge. *Genesis 43:18 And the men were afraid, because they were brought into Joseph's house; and they said, Because of the money that was returned in our sacks at the first time are we brought in; that he may seek occasion against us, and fall upon us, and take us for bondmen, and our asses.*
- The diagnosis of a disease. *Leviticus 13:36 Then the priest shall look on him: and, behold, if the scall be spread in the skin, the priest shall not seek for yellow hair; he is unclean.*
- A lost animal. *1 Samuel 9:3 And the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses.*
- A place to rest. *Ruth 3:1 Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?*
- A gifted musician. *1 Samuel 16:16 Let our lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on an harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well.*
- Runaway servants. *1 Kings 2:40 And Shimei arose, and saddled his ass, and went to Gath to Achish to seek his servants: and Shimei went, and brought his servants from Gath.*
- Someone who is loved. *Song of Solomon 3:2 I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets, and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not.*
- Good pasture land. *1 Chronicles 4:39 And they went to the entrance of Gedor, even unto the east side of the valley, to seek pasture for their flocks.*
- To murder.
  - ❖ Saul sought to murder David. *1 Samuel 23:15 And David saw that Saul was come out to seek his life: and David was in the wilderness of Ziph in a wood.*

- ❖ David sought to kill Nabal. *1 Samuel 25:26 Now therefore, my lord, as the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, seeing the Lord hath withholden thee from coming to shed blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal.*
- ❖ The Philistines sought to slay David. *2 Samuel 5:17 But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the hold.*
- To lie. *Psalms 4:2 O ye sons of men, how long will ye turn my glory into shame? How long will ye love vanity, and seek after leasing [lying]? Selah.*
- Death. *Revelation 9:6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.*
- Favor with people of importance. *Proverbs 29:26 Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the Lord.*
- Wisdom. *Ecclesiastes 1:13 And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith.*
- Justice. *Isaiah 1:17 Learn to do well; seek judgment [justice], relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.*
- Signs. *Mark 8:12 And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? Verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation.*
- Glory, honor, immortality and eternal life. *Romans 2:7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:*

## 2. People are forbidden to seek after certain things.

- The occult. *Leviticus 19:31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God.*
- Sinful selfish interests. *Numbers 15:39 And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the Lord, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring.*
- Unauthorized entrance into the priesthood. *Numbers 16:10 And he hath brought thee near to him, and all thy brethren the sons of Levi with thee: and seek ye the priesthood also?*

- Fellowship with Amorites and Moabites. *Deuteronomy 23:6 Thou shalt not seek their peace nor their prosperity all thy days for ever.*
- Personal comforts. *Luke 12:29 And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.*
- A divorce. *1 Corinthians 7:27 Art thou bound unto a wife? Seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? Seek not a wife.*

3. Individuals who repented of sinful acts of seeking.

- Balaam. *Numbers 24:1 And when Balaam saw that it pleased the Lord to bless Israel, he went not, as at other times, to seek for enchantments, but he set his face toward the wilderness.*

4. The highest object of affection and the most intense endeavor of the soul is to seek the Lord.

- *Deuteronomy 10:12 And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,*
- *1 Chronicles 16:11 Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually.*

5. In the search for God specific pursuits are to be made.

- Seek His habitation. *Deuteronomy 12:5 But unto the place which the Lord your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come:*

***Special Note.***

During the forty year journey of the Exodus Generation the Lord was to be found in the Wilderness Tabernacle and there the people were to come to meet with Him.

During the days of the United Kingdom the Lord was to be found in the Temple Solomon built where the people came to meet with Him.

Following the Babylonian Captivity the Lord was to be found in the rebuilt Temple where once more the people came to meet with Him.

After the ascension of Christ, the Lord is to be found in the hearts of those who have embraced the new covenant, even the body of the believer which is said to be the Temple of God. *1 Corinthians 3:17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.*

In the Eternal City the Temple of the Tabernacle will be present. *Revelation 15:5 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. In the Eternal City individuals shall meet with the Lord. Revelation 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

- Seek to dwell in the house of the Lord. *Psalms 27:4 One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.*
- Seek peace. *Psalms 34:14 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.*
- Seek the good of Jerusalem. *Psalms 122:9 Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.*
- Seek the Book of the Lord. *Isaiah 34:16 Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.*

6. Those who seek the Lord will enjoy the following.

- A rejoicing heart. *1 Chronicles 16:10 Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.*
- The ability to give praise. *Psalms 22:26 The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the Lord that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.*

7. Instruction is given as to how the Lord is to be sought.

- Continually. *1 Chronicles 16:11 Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually.*
- Deliberately. *1 Chronicles 22:19 Now set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God; arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the Lord God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the Lord.*
- Publically. *1 Chronicles 28:8 Now therefore in the sight of all Israel the congregation of the Lord, and in the audience of our God, keep and seek for all the commandments of the Lord your God: that ye may possess this good land, and leave it for an inheritance for your children after you for ever.*
- By faith. *Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

- Always. *Psalms 105:4 Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore.*

8. Wonderful blessings and promises are given to those who seek the Lord.

### Blessings

- Divine faithfulness. *Psalms 9:10 And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.*
- Inner happiness. *Psalms 40:16 Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The Lord be magnified.*
- A blessed life. *Psalms 119:2 Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. [אֶשֶׁר 'eshher (eh'-sher), happiness; as interjection, how happy!].*
- The ability to walk in liberty. *Psalms 119:45 And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts.*

“Free from the law, O happy condition,  
Jesus has bled and there is remission,  
Cursed by the law and bruised by the fall,  
Grace hath redeemed us once for all.”

### Promises

- The Lord will be found. *Deuteronomy 4:29 But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.*
- Sin will be forgiven. *2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*
- Good things will not be lacking. *Psalms 34:10 The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.*
- Life. *Psalms 69:32 The humble shall see this, and be glad: and your heart shall live that seek God.*
- Wisdom. *Proverbs 8:17 I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.*

***Special Note.***

Spiritual wisdom is the ability to apply right Bible doctrine to the right situation at the right time.

- Understanding. *Proverbs 28:5 Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the Lord understand all things.*

9. When the Lord is not sought after, evil is sure to be performed.

- *2 Chronicles 12:14 And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord.*

10. Terrible judgment follows those who will not seek after the Lord.

- Divine abandonment. *1 Chronicles 28:9 And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.*

11. It is good to enter into a covenant to seek the Lord God.

- *2 Chronicles 15:12 And they [the people of Judah, c. 945 BC] entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul.*

12. A theocratic nation will exercise ecclesiastical judgment against those that refuse to seek the Lord.

- *2 Chronicles 15:12 And they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul; 13 That whosoever would not seek the Lord God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.*

13. Specific instances of people seeking the Lord are noted in Scripture.

- Individuals from all the tribes of Israel. *2 Chronicles 11:16 And after them out of all the tribes of Israel such as set their hearts to seek the Lord God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the Lord God of their fathers.*
- Jehoshaphat. *2 Chronicles 20:3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.*
- Citizens from the cities of Judah. *2 Chronicles 20:4 And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the Lord: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.*

- Many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun. *2 Chronicles 30:19 That prepareth his heart to seek God, the Lord God of his fathers, though he be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary (c. 726 BC).*
  - Hezekiah (b. 736 BC). *2 Chronicles 31:21 And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered.*
  - Josiah. *2 Chronicles 34:3 For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.*
  - Ezra (c. 457 BC). *Ezra 7:10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.*
  - Job. *Job 5:8 I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause.*
  - David. *Psalms 27:8 When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.*
  - Nature personified seeks after the Lord. *Psalms 104:21 The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God.*
14. Some falsely seek the Lord such as the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin during the days of Ezra.
- *Ezra 4:2 Then they [the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin] came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esar-haddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither.*
15. The wicked refuse to seek after God.
- *Psalms 10:4 The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.*
16. As Christians are to seek the Lord, so they are to seek the good of God's people. Sanballat the Horonite was very upset that someone would seek the welfare of God's people.
- *Nehemiah 2:10 When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.*

17. As men are pleaded with to seek God, the Lord is pleaded with to seek out wickedness.

- *Psalms 10:15 Break thou the arm of the wicked and the evil man: seek out his wickedness till thou find none.*

18. The Lord waits and watches and looks to see if any are seeking God.

- *Psalms 14:2 The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.*

19. There is a proper time to seek the Lord.

- Early in the morning. *Psalms 63:1 A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah. O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;*
- Daily. *Isaiah 58:2 Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God.*

20. The psalmist prayed for others who were seeking the Lord.

- He prayed that they be not discouraged. *Psalms 69:6 Let not them that wait on thee, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed for my sake: let not those that seek thee be confounded [discouraged] for my sake, O God of Israel.*
- He prayed that they might have personal joy. *Psalms 70:4 Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: and let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified.*

21. One reason why people begin to seek the Lord is because of a sense of personal sin and shame.

- *Psalms 83:16 Fill their faces with shame; that they may seek thy name, O Lord.*

22. Those that do not seek the Lord or His statutes will never find salvation.

- *Psalms 119:155 Salvation is far from the wicked: for they seek not thy statutes.*

23. It is not wrong to ask the Lord to seek self.

- *Psalms 119:176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.*

24. As men are to seek the Lord so they are to seek Wisdom though it may prove to be elusive.



- *Proverbs 1:28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:*

25. All of the wonderful works of God cannot be fully known even by seeking them out.

- *Ecclesiastes 8:17 Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea further; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it.*

26. According to prophecy Gentiles were to seek the Lord, and they have.

- *Isaiah 11:10 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.*

27. Some people seek to hide their thoughts and deeds from the Lord.

- *Isaiah 29:15 Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? And who knoweth us?*

28. The Lord must be sought while He may be found.

- *Isaiah 55:6 Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:*

29. The Lord shares when He will be found.

- *Jeremiah 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*

30. The greatest priority in life is to see first the kingdom of God.

- *Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

31. The greatest Person to seek is Jesus.

- Women seek Jesus. *Matthew 28:5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.*
- Men seek Jesus. *Mark 1:37 And when they had found him, they said unto him, All men seek for thee.*
- Family members seek Jesus. *Mark 3:32 And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee.*

32. The greatest promise given is that prayer shall be answered.

- *Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:*

33. Some seek to enter heaven that shall never enter in.

- *Luke 13:24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.*

34. Some who seek their lives shall lose them.

- *Luke 17:33 Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.*

35. The Lord Jesus is seeking after souls to save.

- *Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

36. Some people seek for Jesus in the wrong place.

- *Luke 24:5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?*

37. Jesus will inquire of those who seem to be seeking for Himself.

- *John 1:38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?*

38. Jesus did not seek to do His own will.

- *John 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.*

39. The Lord can be sought after for unworthy reasons.

- *John 6:26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.*

40. Some will seek for Jesus and not find Him.

- *John 7:34 Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come.*

41. Some people who seek for Jesus will die in their sins.

- *John 8:21 Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.*

42. It is good to exhort men to seek the Lord.

- *Acts 17:27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:*

43. The gospel commands certain things to be sought after.

- The good of others. *1 Corinthians 10:24 Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.*
- The gift of edification. *1 Corinthians 14:12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.*
- Justification. *Galatians 2:17 But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.*
- Heavenly matters. *Colossians 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*
- A city to come. *Hebrews 13:14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.*

44. Some people seek spiritual confirmation in another.

- *2 Corinthians 13:3 Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you.*