

YOU HAVE TO DO MORE

HOW do I do more?

Mediocre ministry or sainthood is neither ministry nor sainthood. It's a hobby.

[Heb 11:6 KJV] 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.*

How do we seek God?

So you don't need me to tell you what you already know. But what I wanted us to examine some scenarios in the Bible of seeking God for providence and direction.

Judges 18:3-end (Start reading in 17)

The background of this book, and this chapter in particular is a nation that had practically drowned in its own sin. At this point even though we are in judges, there is no Judge over Israel and no King.

We read 17 to understand how deep this thing goes. The Levite was

- Out of position – not in Shiloh to worship as he was supposed to be
- Out of authority – his father in law was calling the shots
- Racist – he wouldn't stay in Jerusalem because it wasn't under Israelite occupation at the time
- Callous – he slept through the night knowing his wife was being raped in the street. When she died, he showed no emotion, he chopped her up to start a war. He never owned his piece in this.

Then Israel which had been so divided suddenly unifies in the name of vengeance and decides to murder Benjamin because of this incident.

Look at the rules they set in place BEFORE they went to seek God.

- Everyone stayed
- If you leave you die
- Murder our kin
- Picked these soldiers

THEN they **finally** go to seek God in **Verse 18** and look at what they ask *"The Israelites went up to Bethel and inquired of God. They said, "Who of us is to go up **first** to fight against the Benjamites?" The LORD replied, "Judah shall go first."*

What should the question have been? "Should we fight?"

See if this Levite had gone to Shiloh where he was supposed to be all along, he could have brought the matter before the high priest and avoided civil war.

But because they sought the Lord, he answers them.

Why? Jer 29:13, Deut 4:29, Amos 5:4-6, Luke 11:9 – They sought the Lord. **Finally.**

Gibeah's sin against Israel was egregious and needed to be dealt with. But they needed to back track.

They fight. They lose. They regroup.

Regardless of how wrong and how much sin is going on, this right here is admirable. They did what God said, it didn't work the way they thought at all, and they went back to him. They didn't give up and try to re-do on their own.

Verse 23 we see a little bit of a different approach.

[Jdg 20:23 NIV] 23 *The Israelites went up and **wept before the LORD until evening, and they inquired of the LORD.** They said, "Shall we go up again to fight against the Benjamites, our fellow Israelites?" The LORD answered, "Go up against them."*

Now we see some skin in the game before God. They took a little more time before approaching God. But they are still missing it – our fellow Israelites.

This isn't a question that should be asked. Anyway – same result.

By the end of day 2 they had lost **1/10** of their army.

Then....

[Jdg 20:23, 26-28 NIV] 26 *Then all the Israelites, the whole army, went up to Bethel, and there they sat weeping before the LORD. They fasted that day until evening and presented burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to the LORD. 27 And the Israelites inquired of the LORD. (In those days the ark of the covenant of God was there, 28 with Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, ministering before it.) They asked, "Shall we go up again to fight against the Benjamites, our fellow Israelites, or not?" The LORD responded, "Go, for tomorrow I will give them into your hands."*

We have moved from seeking God to SEEKING God. Now they are doing more. Suddenly everyone remembered the protocol for approaching God. Now they are being DILIGENT (Heb 11:6).

- All – totality, perfect
- Whole – all the people
- Weep – to cry in humiliation, to sound as drops falling

- Fasted – abstain from food
- Presented – went up, climb up, grow up, ascend
- Burnt offering -
- Fellowship/peace offering

Biblical commentators have given this offering a variety of titles. "Peace," "[fellowship](#)," "praise," and "thanksgiving" are the most common. However, the *Keil-Delitzsch Commentary* states that the most correct is "**saving offering**".

- sweet-savor offering, indicating that no sin is involved in it, and thus it is most *satisfying* to [God](#). The word "satisfying" is important to understanding this offering.
- the votive and the free-will sacrifices are connected with the expectation of benefit

What is super fascinating is that God gave his answer up front. They never assumed they heard Him wrong, but some stuff had to change – some things had to come out and they had to seek God hard. As a natural outcome of seeking God, things started to change in the ranks.

Repentance increased. Respect increased. Order and Obedience increased. God didn't tell them to do any of that, it came from within them.

Nehemiah 1:3-11

Nehemiah for years was considered the same book as Ezra because they are contemporaries. Ezra sought the Lord in a very spiritual manner, making it priority to teach the Law and the Word while Nehemiah sought the Lord in a very tangible, natural work. But it wasn't enough to build a wall, he had to build a people (where Ezra came in) that would stand on their own in God.

He understood this project was more than just restoring a city. If he could get people to work together on this act of restoration while giving them the law (understanding) of what they were doing, it would restore them as well. This is why when there is a call for workers in the house it is so important to step up and do more. It develops you causing you to seek even more. It's a reciprocating relationship.

The Israelites living in the land at this time were fairly passive. They tried to adapt to the culture around them by intermarrying and creating political ties which made the state of Jerusalem even worse.

Nehemiah hears about the state of Jerusalem and decides instantly he needs to DO SOMETHING. Mind you he had it pretty good in the palace as long as no one tried to poison the king.

In contrast to Judges, Nehemiah acknowledge God upfront, takes the time to praise him and represents of the sin of his people before he asks a single thing of God and all this is in preparation to seek the King. Imagine how much more we have to prepare to seek out the king of Kings.

Sometimes we have to seek God in order to seek God.

[Neh 1:4 KJV] *4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned [certain] days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,*

Sat down = literally to sit, or be seated. When you get bad news, people tell you to sit down because it steadies you. The idea or concept behind it is to create a dwelling spot or still place.

Weep = literally to cry. Idea behind it is to distill or flow by drops. Distilled water is water that has had many of its impurities removed through distillation. Liquor removes other substances so it's concentrated.

Mourn = be sad, walk with your head down (as in humility or sorrow)

Faster = abstain from food, idea is your mouth being shut.

Pray = to intercede or judge a matter

Then we see the manner in which he begins to seek out God

[Neh 1:6 KJV] *6 Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.*

Nehemiah comes in humility, repentance, in intercession and confession.

There is so much respect for God and his majesty in Nehemiah's heart and that made a difference upfront. He didn't have to approach the king three times. It only took once.

Jesus in the Garden sweating blood – Luke 22:44

[Luk 22:42-44 NIV] *42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." 43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. 44 And being*

in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

[Luk 22:43 KJV] 43 *And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. 44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

Very interesting response here. Jesus prays, is strengthened which causes him to be in anguish and pray more earnestly to the point his sweat was like drops of blood.

And (does not appear in NIV but appears in greek literal translation) = conjunction more closely meaning BUT. I love dogs and I love cats. I love dogs BUT I love cats more. But is used to introduce contrast.

Angel (appeared = revealed) – this is a messenger angel, not a warring angel.

Strengthened – from primary root meaning to be endowed with power to do extraordinary deeds and to overcome.

Ah-ha! Now we know what kind of strength he received, we know he understood this is not passing from me. If it was, I wouldn't have received strength to do extraordinary deeds. Basically he realized God provided his way through it, there was no getting out of it.

His reaction? Anguish at the revelation.

Anguish - "agony," was used among the Greeks as an alternative to agon, "a place of assembly;" then for the contests or games which took place there, and then to denote intense emotion. It was more frequently used eventually in this last respect, to denote severe emotional strain and anguish.

The struggle was with his flesh.

This is not the answer he was hoping for. And when had he EVER been denied of a request of the Father? His response however, was to seek God more earnestly. By this point he knows he isn't getting out of it.

Prayed – means prayer. But in this case it comes from two words. First word is a preposition that implies direction (against, toward, to, among, at, towards). Second word means to wish to God.

Wish - feel or express a strong desire or hope for something that is not easily attainable; want something that cannot or probably will not happen

Earnestly – root word meaning stretch or strained, comparative meaning that there was straining and stretching in prayer before the strength, but now its even greater.

Sweat like great drops of blood – great implies thick or clotted in appearance but the idea behind it is nourishment, sustainment and nurture. **The word blood is literal blood but again the idea behind it is the limitation of humanity.**

SO Jesus is praying more earnestly and what happens is he begins to **excrete** or get rid of the **things that would feed into the limitations of humanity**.

Falling to the ground – why is this so important? Why is it called out that they fell to the ground?

Because the ground is where flesh was formed of, and its where our flesh goes to die.

The limitations of his humanity were dying and they were being cast down in shame and humiliation (falling) so he would be able to ascend and do the most ever done, in the will of God. **We need to do more because Jesus did it ALL.**

Additional Notes

1. Seeking God
2. Preparing to Seek God
3. Desire to Seek God
4. Nuts and Bolts
5. Results

I. SEEKING GOD

- A. Broad
- B. Requirement
- C. In order to align (to God's will)
- D. Revelation/understanding
- E. Before starting anything (direction)

[1Pe 1:10-12 NIV] 10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the **greatest care**, 11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

[1Pe 1:10-12 KJV] 10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace [that should come] unto you: 11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. 12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

Seeking started with a promise and ended with revelation or greater understanding.

Prophets are people who are not without relationship with God. A prophet is one who hears or sees the things of God, yet they had to search/seek.

The phrase to search diligently in the means to search after, or thoroughly investigate; it was first used to *tell of a dog sniffing out something with his nose*. It was in this way that the prophets searched to find out the time of Messiah's appearance.

SAR Dogs

What are they used for? What do you know about Search and Rescue dogs?

How are they trained?

Games which lead to rewards. They enjoy it. The reward is based in relationship with their trainer. They live for praise. They live for the well done, thy good and faithful servant.

The moment it becomes work, they stop. When they enjoy it, they will literally work themselves to death.

[Psa 14:2 KJV] 2 *The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, [and] seek God.*

The context of this is that everyone else was saying there was no God and acting like it. God was looking for any that understood, yes there is a God AND lets go find him.

[Psa 27:8 KJV] 8 *[When thou saidst], Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.*

[2Ch 31:21 KJV] 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.*

[Psa 10:4 KJV] 4 *The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek [after God]: God [is] not in all his thoughts.*

Thoughts means in all his plans, his desires, when you are thinking about what to do. Christian Education we were discussing the purpose of the Holy Ghost and I said it's there to give me insight on how God wants me to act. Wicked men don't seek God to know how he thinks to know how he wants them to act or devise their plans.

[Rom 2:7 KJV] 7 *To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:*

[Col 3:1 KJV] 1 *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

II. PREPARATION

A. Prepare the heart

B. Remove idols

C. Remove people

Esther prepared to approach the King

2Ch 12:14 KJV *And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD.*

What is it that he didn't do that was considered preparation?

- he grew remiss in the worship of God
- he did not pray, for wisdom and grace
- he did not consult the word of God, nor take directions from it
- he didn't apply the word
- he did evil (had sensual habits) because he was never determined for that which is good.
- he was surrounded by the wrong people

What little good he did was transient.

Ezr 7:10 KJV *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.*

What did Ezra do correctly?

- Studied the law/word
- Acted on it/applied it in teaching it
- made it his chief business.
- to learn what sins or errors were to be reformed
- learned what duties were to be performed.
- The idea of the original is not 'preparedness for the unforeseen', but 'fixity and stability of purpose'.
- No mere investigation of the letter, but for the sake of ascertaining the true principles of practical life also known as precepts.

Seeking God requires removing idols

[2Ch 34:3 KJV] 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.*

He was able to only get so far and then had to remove idols. Just because we made it to a certain point doesn't mean we don't have an idol to remove. We have to seek out what they are.

And people...even if they say they are seeking God.

Ezr 4:2-3 KJV *Then they 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 Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither.*

3 ***But** Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, **Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God;** but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us.*

And sin in General

[2Ch 34:21 NIV] 21 *"Go and inquire of the LORD for me and for the remnant in Israel and Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the LORD's anger that is poured out on us because those who have gone before us have not kept the word of the LORD; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written in this book."*

2Ch 30:19 KJV *[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.*

Secondary meaning of **seek** is to allow oneself to be sought (particular to God).

Eze 34:11 KJV *For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, [even] I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out.*

III. DESIRE

- A. Comes from conviction
- B. Comes from pleasure
- C. Comes from trials
- D. Comes from curiosity
- E. Comes from hunger

F. Comes from want

G. What if I don't have any hunger or passion?

1Ch 16:10-11 KJV 10 *Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.*
11 *Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually.*

Creates Hunger

John 6: 26 KJV *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.*

Not many of us have ever truly hungered for our dream. Complacency pulls us into apathy and laziness.

Some of us have hungered for the blessing. And in that we think God should be pleased at least we are seeking it from him. BUT you have to do more. You have to desire HIM above miracles, but because of the fullness of partaking in him. It's how we move from needing miracles to performing them.

We pray for signs miracles and wonders but as believers, we are supposed to perform them, not need them. This is the DO! The more we seek him the more we become one with him and become the DOERS of the word, not just hearers. As believers, we should be walking in a place of blessing and provision.

The seeking is the difference between mis-quoting scripture such as speaking things that are not as though they were and speaking according to His will because we know it.

Phi 2:21 KJV *For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.*

IV. METHOD

A. Reading

B. Prayer

C. Fasting

D. Meditation

E. Daily Routine

[2Ch 20:3 KJV] 3 *And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.*

[Dan 9:3 KJV] 3 *And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:*

Isa 34:16 KJV *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.*

Remember how hard we sought in 3 min last week? Give three **good** min to God a day.

Isa 58:2 KJV *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.*

Bible app on your phone. There are SO many reading plans, including one called SEEKING GOD.

Psa 119:15 KJV *I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.*

What the heck is a precept?

Precept - a general rule intended to regulate behavior or thought.

In God's case his rules are how we are to operate but also how he operates the universe. How God operates the universe sets a lot of foundation how we are to look at the things around us and boldly question the world we live in.

Meditation helps us focus on the word before we enter into prayer. You may notice a lot of times I read scripture before I pray in service because I want us to be focused when we go into prayer. I also want God to speak through that word and pray that word so we can go up higher into the spirit.

Psa 119:27 NIV *Cause me to understand the way of your precepts, that I may meditate on your wonderful deeds.*

Meditation helps us gain understanding of how God operates in that supernatural realm so we can likewise do more in the supernatural realm. It helps the word so we can do more with it. At home depot it was a supernatural event because God was speaking and I knew his precepts of blessing of caring for the poor and of obedience.

Psa 143:5 NIV *I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done.*

Meditation helps us remember or recall God's character or actions or words directly to us.

Jos 1:8 NIV *Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*

In order to do more you have to know what to do and how to do it. Joshua was really good at not just getting direction, but getting methodology from the Lord.

V. RESULTS

A. Reward

B. Fruit

C. Action

James 2:18-26 KJV *Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. 19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. 20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*

Works and action are a natural outgrowth of revelation and understanding gained from seeking God.

1Chronicles 22:19 KJV *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.*

Reward

Jer 29:13 KJV *And ye shall seek me, and find [me], when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*

Psa 22:26 KJV *The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.*

Psa 119:2 KJV *Blessed [are] they that keep his testimonies, [and that] seek him with the whole heart.*

Consequences

[2Ch 15:12-13 KJV] 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.*

[Hos 5:15 KJV] 15 *I will go [and] return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.*

[Hos 10:12 KJV] 12 *Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for [it is] time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.*

[Zec 8:21 KJV] 21 *And the inhabitants of one [city] shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also.*

Resources

<https://bible.org/seriespage/8-worse-worst-judges-17-21>