

THE RESULTS OF RIGHTLY RESPONDING TO A REMARKABLE REQUEST

Although I didn't point it out last week, I want to direct your attention to what I have written on the bottom left of the inside cover of your bulletin: "Attitudes for 2026: Humble, Hungry, and Hope-filled!"

Why are those good attitudes to have for 2026? Because they are good attitudes to have every **day**... of every **year**... for the rest of **your** life!

Why is it important to be **humble**? Because God tells us in both James 4:10 and I Peter 5:6 to "humble yourselves." And one of the best ways to humble ourselves is to "judge ourselves"—to closely examine our lives—like we looked at last week.

Why should we judge ourselves? Because God says we should...and because God gives us positive examples of those who did...and because God disciplines us if we don't...and because self-judgment **now** directly impacts our rewards in the **future**.

How do we judge—how do we evaluate—ourselves? First, by having an **attitude of humility**. Simply put, we **will not want** to examine our lives if we have an attitude that says, "I am fine just the way I am, thank you very much!"

But we also need to have an **accurate standard** to judge ourselves by! **What** is that standard? **The Word of God!** We are to compare **our lives** to what **God wants our lives to be** based on what He says in His Word—not on how we "stack up" against others!

And we need **an assistant** in this heart-searching, don't we? **Why?** Because our hearts "are deceitful above all things and desperately wicked!" **Who** is our assistant? God the Holy Spirit! In fact, right after God says our hearts are wicked, He says through the prophet Jeremiah in Jeremiah 17:10 "I the Lord **search the heart**, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."

This morning, I want us to look at a **second** attitude we should have: **hunger**. And the hunger I'm talking about is obviously not for **physical** food—it is a hunger for **God Himself!** And—not surprisingly—**David** is the one God uses to teach us about "hungering" for God.

Please take your Bibles and turn to Psalm 27; follow along as I read verses 7-14. The thought we are going to be zeroing in on today is found in the title of the message: "The Results of Rightly Responding to a Remarkable Request."

What is the **request**? Notice the first part of verse 8: "When thou saidst, Seek ye my face..." What was David's **response** to God's request? "...my heart said unto Thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek." It should be fairly obvious that **David** had a hunger for God—and God wants us to have that same kind of hunger. But do **we**?

First, let's consider... **1. A remarkable request**

Notice again the beginning of vs 8, "When Thou saidst, Seek ye my face..."

Why am I suggesting this is a **remarkable** request? **Three** reasons:

Because of... **A. The Requester**

Who is the **requester**? **Thou!** **Who** is "Thou"? The **LORD!**

How do we know that **the LORD** is the requester? Because that is who **David is talking to** in vs 7!

'But Pastor, the first three words in vs 8 **are in italics**—and you've told us before that if words are italicized, they were **added** by the translators!'

That's true—they were added! But the addition did **not change** the meaning—it **clarifies** it.

David is talking **to the LORD** in verse 7—and he hears a voice say, "Seek ye my face." The voice is obviously **from the LORD** because that is Who David **directs His response to**: "my heart said unto Thee, Thy face, **LORD**, will I seek."

So **who** is the requester? The **LORD**—Jehovah...Yahweh...the one true God—is the **requester**. Why is that important? Because **not every request**—from every requester—“carries the same weight,” does it? For example, in a military setting you have 3 groups of people—those you “outrank,” those that “outrank” you, and those of **equal** rank.

Which requests carry the most weight? The ones from the people who **outrank** you!

And the LORD, of course, **outranks** everyone! So let's consider for just a moment some of the things God says about Himself in His Word.

Isaiah 40:22 “It is He that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as **grasshoppers**; that **stretcheth** out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:”
--People are like grasshoppers compared to God!

--The heavens—so vast that we don't truly know the number of the stars—were created so effortlessly that the picture is of a woman who stretches out a curtain—or a man who sets up a tent!

Isaiah 44:24 “Thus saith the LORD, **thy redeemer**, and He that **formed thee from the womb**, I am the LORD that **maketh all things**; that **stretcheth forth the heavens** alone; that **spreadeth abroad the earth** by myself;”

--Here we again see that God stretched out the heavens and the earth **by Himself**—needing no assistance—and that He **made all things**—including each **one of us**!

Isaiah 57:15a “For thus saith the **high and lofty One** that inhabiteth eternity, **whose name is Holy**; I dwell in the **high and holy place**...”

--Here we are reminded that God is high...and lofty...and Holy—and that He “inhabits” eternity. What does “inhabiting eternity” mean? It means God always has been; there is not a time when God did not exist!

And in **Daniel 5:23**, Daniel says to King Belshazzar of Babylon “But hast lifted up thyself against **the Lord of heaven**...and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in **whose hand thy breath is**, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:” Our very breath is in God's hand!

Much, much more could be said—and many more verses could be looked at—but here's one last thing we need to be reminded of: **Malachi 3:6a** “For I am the **LORD, I change not...**” That means the God who described Himself in the Bible—that was completed a little under 2000 years ago—is the same God today! He has not changed! (See **Hebrews 13:8**).

The requester, then, is the LORD—the One who created all things...and the One who always has been...and the One who dwells in the high and holy place and whose very name is Holy!

Next, let's consider... B. The recipients of the request

Who is the request to? **David!** How do we know? Because **He responds** to the request! “When Thou saidst, Seek ye my face; **my heart** said unto Thee...”

But the request isn't **just to David!** God requests **all of us to seek Him!** We have ample proof of that in the Bible—and not just from David!

--God said **to Solomon**—David's son—after he built and dedicated the temple the words found in II Chronicles 7:14 (which many of you know).

--The prophet Isaiah wrote in **Isaiah 55:6** “Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near.”

--God through the prophet Jeremiah said in **Jeremiah 29:13** “And ye shall seek me, and **find me**, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” What a wonderful promise!

--And God said to the prophet Hosea in Hosea 10:12 “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.”

But these are all verses from the **Old** Testament? What about the **New** Testament?

Jesus said in **Matthew 5:6** “Blessed are they which do **hunger and thirst** after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” Can we “hunger and thirst after righteousness” without seeking God?

No; we can’t! Since **God is righteous**, to seek after righteousness is to seek after God!

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:33** “But seek ye first the **kingdom of God**, and **His righteousness**; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Sure sounds like seeking God to me!

And let’s not forget what we learned in our study of Colossians. **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.”

One more reminder about the phrase “seek those things which are above” in Colossians 3:1—it is not merely an invitation or request; it is a **command!** The same is true of what Jesus said in **Matthew 6:33** “But **seek ye first** the kingdom of God...”

Next, let’s think about...C. The “remarkableness” of the request

What is it about God’s request—His invitation—to David...and by extension **to us**—that makes it so remarkable? **One reason** is because of who the request **is from**—God Himself!

Another reason is because of who the request **is to**—sinners that deserve judgment—not grace and mercy! And yet a **third reason** is because of what an amazing, remarkable request it is—in a **good way**!

I say “in a good way” because there are some requests that are “remarkable” because they are **border-line ridiculous!**

Example: In the middle of August, Louise and I brought our two grandsons—Graham and Westley—to the Badlands, Mount Rushmore, and Custer State Park.

Our 12-year-old grandson uttered a “remarkable” request—on more than one occasion! The request: **he wanted to drive!** If my memory serves me right, even Graham thought that was a “remarkable request”—but **not** in a good way!

So what is it that makes **this request** so remarkable—in a **good** way? What is so amazing about being invited by God to **seek His face**? Because we understand from the context that God is saying to David—and us—I want you to **seek me!** I want you to come **into my presence** and **be with Me** and **talk “heart-to-heart” with me** as a friend talks to His friend!

Think of that! The thrice-holy God says to you and me, “Come near to me!” What a compassionate, forgiving spirit God has in order for Him to desire to fellowship with us! As I thought about this, I couldn’t help but think of what Joseph said to his brothers after he revealed himself to them.

Most of you know the account. Joseph’s brothers initially wanted to kill him, then decided to sell him instead. Joseph ended up in Egypt, was falsely accused by his boss’ wife and ended up being thrown into prison. God not only got Joseph out of prison, Joseph was put in charge of the corn distribution for the entire nation of Egypt—to include selling it to people from neighboring countries. Joseph’s brothers came to buy corn and on their second trip to Egypt, **Joseph revealed himself** to them. What was their response to finding out that the brother they had sold—and lied about to their father—was now the “right-hand” man of Pharaoh, the leader of the world’s super-power at that time in history?

Genesis 45:3b “And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence.” And rightly so! They were guilty...and deserved judgment...and were standing before the judge! But what did “judge Joseph” say?

“Come near to me, I pray you” Joseph said in Genesis 45:4. Oh the tenderness in those words! ‘Don’t be afraid; don’t stand far from me. Come near!’

And that, my friends, is what God means when He says, “Seek ye my face!”

I hope that amazes you! The Psalmist was amazed that God even paid attention to the things on earth! **Psalm 113:4-6** “The Lord is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens.

⁵ Who is like unto the Lord our God, who dwelleth on high, ⁶ Who **humbleth Himself to behold** the things that are in heaven, and in the earth!”

But God doesn't just **behold** the things on earth—He invites us into His presence!

Next, let's consider... **2. The right response to this remarkable request**

--What is the **right response** to God's request to seek Him? The response **that David had!**

--What was **David's response**? "When thou saidst, Seek ye my face, my heart said unto Thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek." Notice the **two characteristics** of David's response.

A. It was **immediate**

How do we know it was immediate? There seems to be no delay—and no hesitation. There is no request for an explanation—and no questions like, "What's in it for me?"

God said "seek;" David said, "**I will** seek." **Spurgeon wrote:** "Oh, for more of this holy readiness! Would to God that we were more plastic to the divine hand, more sensitive of the touch of God's Spirit." (*Treasury of David*, Vol 1, pg 488)

I think you'd agree that that is how we **should** respond, but the question is **how do we** respond? Do we **obey right away**, or do we evaluate the request to see if it "makes sense"—to us—before **deciding whether or not** we will do what God says?

Not only was it **immediate** obedience... B. It was whole-hearted

Notice again our verse: "...my **heart** said unto thee."

--The response was not **in his mind** where he could **agree** it was a good idea, but not follow through with **action**.

--And the response was not **with his mouth** where he said **he would do it** but failed to do what he said he would do.

--He answered with his **heart**—meaning his entire being; "every ounce" of himself, so to speak.

Does God want us to be **whole-hearted** in our seeking of Him? He does, doesn't He?

Again, notice the verses I have for you on your outline.

Psalm 42:1-2 "As the hart [deer] panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?"

Psalm 63:1 "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;"

Psalm 73:25 "Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is **none upon earth that I desire beside thee.**"

Psalm 84:2 "**My soul longeth**, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: **my heart and my flesh crieth out** for the living God."

Psalm 119:2 "Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, and that **seek Him with the whole heart.**"

Psalm 119:10 "**With my whole heart have I sought thee:** O let me not wander from thy commandments."

Lastly, let's consider... **3. The results of responding rightly to a remarkable request**

So what are **the results** of whole-heartedly seeking God? What are the **benefits and blessings** to us if we do that? What do we "get out of" spending time in God's presence?

Please take your Bibles and turn now to Psalm 16. Psalm 16 is another Psalm of David, but we also know it is a Psalm about Jesus. Peter preaches from this Psalm in Acts 2, and we know that verse 10 is a reference to the resurrection of Christ.

But there are truths in **verse 11** that apply to us as well as to the resurrected Christ.

A. God will show us the path of life

--Was Jesus shown the path of physical life after He was physically dead? Yes; He was brought back to life!

--Will God lead us on the path to a physical resurrection after our bodies are dead? Yes; He will!

--But...God also shows us the path to eternal life now—and will guide us in our every day lives as we seek Him!

B. God will give us fulness of joy

--Was that true of Jesus after He rose from the dead? Of course!

--Will we have fullness of joy in heaven? We sure will!

--Can we have fullness of joy—now—in God’s presence? Yes; we can! You’ve heard me say this before, but here it is again: God is more concerned about **our holiness** than He is about our **happiness!** But...God is **not against us having joy** because He tells us where to find joy and “pleasures for evermore.” Where are they found? In His presence—and at His right hand!

We sometimes forget that a desire Jesus had was for His disciples to have the joy He had!

--**John 15:11** “These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your **joy might be full.**”

--**John 16:24** “Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, **that your joy may be full.**”

--**John 17:13** “And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have **my joy fulfilled in themselves.**”

C. God will give us pleasures for ever

--Was that true of Jesus? Was He given pleasures forevermore after He rose from the dead?

He certainly was!

--Will we have pleasures for evermore in heaven? Yes; beyond our ability to comprehend!

--But are there no pleasures now? There are pleasures now, aren’t there?

--The pleasure of a peace that passes all understanding!

--The pleasure of being loved by the One whose name is Love!

--The pleasure of being guided and directed by Him!

--The pleasure of being provided for—and protected by—Him!

What are the results—what are the benefits and blessings—of responding like David did and seeking God with all our hearts?

--Being shown the path of life to heaven—and how to live while here on earth!

--And having fulness of joy for ever in heaven—but also having a taste of that here on earth!

--And having pleasures—forever—in heaven, but also having pleasures now on earth!

But they are not found where the world looks for them; they are found in heart-to-heart fellowship with God. God is saying to each of us: “Seek ye my face.” Are you doing that?

If not, why not? Why settle for less than what God wants to give you?

So what would God have us do based on what we’ve heard this morning?

1. First, God expects each of His children to “seek Him”—with all our heart!

--Are you doing that? Many of us are not!

--If not, admit to God—not me—that your heart is cold and hard—then ask Him to stir a desire within you to seek Him. Will He answer that prayer? He certainly will!

2. Second, it is important to realize that this invitation is to God’s children. God is the **Creator** of all of us, but He is not everyone’s **Father!**

Before we can have **fellowship** with God, we need to have a **relationship** with God. To become His child, we need to **accept His way** of being adopted into His family.

What is God’s way to be adopted into His family? Through Christ!

Acts 4:13 “Neither is there salvation...”

John 1:12 “But as many as received Him...”

I John 5:12