

Seeking the Lord

Seeking the Lord

One thing I was never taught is that God requires man to seek Him continually all the days of our lives. In the first century, the Jewish Christian converts had to learn how to worship God outside the temple, as the one-time sacrifice of Jesus obsoleted the entire temple system, and replaced it and Passover with Holy Communion. But they either continued or re-started the daily habits of seeking the Lord continually.

[NOTE: For more detail on Seeking the Lord, please see our free eBook, *Spirit Power Dynamics* and the *Seeking the Lord* Article, on the website Articles page.]

The basic assumption of the New Testament is that the reader had memorized the first 5 books of the Bible, and most of the rest of the Old Testament, and lived a lifestyle of continually seeking the Lord in right faith-actions, which by itself is 3-6 hours per day, every day. The goal of this seeking the Lord is to *koinonia* connect to and with God in spirit, *zoe* life, and truth (the Word of God, the Scriptures) and to *zao* live a connected, *koinonia* union and interchange life all day, every day, in everything you do.

Gentile converts had to learn to stop doing what they did daily to worship their heathen idols and get blessings from them, and replace that with worship of God by the Lord Jesus in what developed into Holy Communion and the right faith-action lifestyle. The average heathen idolater spent some 3-6 hours every day seeking by various activities blessings from their gods, if not more. This is still true in idolatry and heathen religions around the world. Even the Muslims pray 5 times a day for all to see. At 30 minutes per prayer time, this public demonstration is some 2.5 hours per day.

In the first century, when a Gentile got converted, they were entered into a 3 year program to memorize the first 5 books of the Old Testament, the Pentateuch. Then another 4 years to memorize the rest of the Old Testament. And in the process to follow such as Psalm 105 on seeking the Lord every day. This went on for some 300-500 years and got lost as the church structure developed. And along with that went the power of the church in supernatural events. We are re-discovering the miracle power of continually seeking the Lord every day.

Grace: We are *sozo* saved by grace and access the benefits of grace by *pistis* faith actions in this life. By grace we have an eternal home with the Father. Rom 4:16 “Therefore it is of *pistis*/faith (*by the continual right faith-actions which include seeking the Lord*), **that it might be by grace**; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the

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pistis/faith (by the continual right faith-actions which include seeking the Lord) of Abraham; who is the father of us all...” You operate grace by *pistis* faith-actions.

Rom 5:2 “By whom also we have access by *pistis/faith (by the continual right faith-actions which include seeking the Lord)* **into this grace** wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” You access grace by *pistis* faith-actions

Eph 2:8 “For **by grace are ye sozo/saved through *pistis/faith (by the continual right faith-actions which include seeking the Lord)***; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” Right faith-actions are how you walk in and release God’s salvation into your life and your nation.

The gift of God, grace, is accessed and operated by right faith-actions, which include seeking the Lord.

God tells us Enoch walked with God and was no more, due to a lifestyle of continually seeking the Lord by the actions of *pistis* faith. Heb 11:5 “By *pistis/faith* Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6 But without *pistis/faith* it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must *pisteuo/believe (by continual right faith-actions)* that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him (*inquiring for and of Him and requiring Him, both by right of vital necessity and of the promises of God's Word by continual right faith-actions*).” And that is what Enoch did, and God still requires.

God tells us one of man’s primary purposes is to continue seeking the Lord: Acts 15:17 “That the residue of men **might seek (continually) after the Lord**, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.”

Acts 17:26 “(God) ...hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; 27 **that they should seek (be continually seeking) the Lord (continually)**, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us.” Notice all mankind is to seek the Lord continually as a disciplined way of life.

Enoch is part of mankind and Heb 11:5-6 tells us the criteria and disciplines to live like Enoch was known at that time, and Paul knew of them also, but has since been lost to the church in general.

In these above passages God states that all men are to continually seek the Lord. So how are we to do this?

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Your Job: Seeking the Lord is part of right faith-actions, which is a habitual lifestyle new Christians are to develop and maintain all their lives. Being a Christian means you have Holy Spirit dwelling in you, the awesome blessing of Abraham, for which Jesus suffered and died to get for you (Gal 3:13-14). Right Christianity is the lifestyle habits of right faith-actions as described in the Bible. You do them as part of the disciplines of being a disciple of Jesus to become a Jesus-duplicate per Eph 4:13-15 and Matt 28:19. It takes the disciplines of discipleship to be able to release God in power for any need or desire.

You may be able to get answers to divine intervention prayer by as a gift of grace because God loves you and/or the one you are praying for, but without the lifestyle of right faith-actions, to renew your mind continually, it will not be a lifestyle of divine intervention and manifestation of Eph 4:13-15.

That word of grace is your sins are eternally remitted in the blood of Jesus, you can be born-again in spirit unto eternal salvation, you can be divinely healed by God now, divinely prospered now, Holy spirit can dwell in you now, you can operate in the agape love and power of God anytime you want in the good works ordained for you to walk in as a Jesus-duplicate, and God will work in you as you seek Him by continual right faith-actions, to will and to do of His good pleasure.

A basic Christian discipleship program can be summarized as 3-6 hours daily in the actions of continually seeking the Lord, stirring up yourself into Holy Spirit zeal, encouragement, and wisdom, Bible study, doing the acts of agape love, doing the 1,050 New Testament commands, and then doing Holy Spirit speaking and singing in tongues 1-6 hours daily. This can start as a project, but must transition to right faith-action lifestyle. Notice seeking the Lord is just part of this right faith-action lifestyle. The Christian from the start of the new birth has more capability than even Elijah or Moses, or even John the Baptist had.

Glorify: We are called to live out the glory of Jesus in this life continually, and it comes by doing the right faith-action lifestyle that includes continually seeking the Lord. Rom 5:2 “By whom also we have access by *pistis*/faith (*continual right faith-actions including seeking the Lord continually*) into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

1 Thess 2:12 “That ye would walk (*habitual lifestyle*) worthy of God, **who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.**”

2 Thess 2:14 “Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the **obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ** (*now in this life, Eph 4:13-15*).”

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1 John 2:6 “He that saith he abideth in him (*Jesus*) ought himself also so to walk, even as he (*Jesus*) walked (*in the continual right faith-action lifestyle including continually seeking the Lord*).”

John 5:30 “I (*Jesus*) can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek (*by continual right faith-actions*) not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”

2 Peter 1:3 “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto *zoe*/life and godliness (*piety, Jesus-duplication*), through the *epignosis*/knowledge (*walking as a master craftsman as a Jesus-duplicate and disciplining others to Jesus-duplication*) of him that hath **called us to glory and virtue (*goodness and power*)**: 4 whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be *koinonia*/union-interchange partakers of the divine nature (*in this life now*), having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

Col 1:26 “Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory**: 28 whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect (*fully mature, Eph 4:13-15*) in Christ Jesus: 29 whereunto I also labour (*by continual right faith-actions*), striving (*to exhaustion*) according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.” God’s grace put Paul to work, which included continual right faith-actions.

Money Box: It is like someone buried a big box of money on the top of a tall and rugged mountain. All you have to do to get it, is to climb the mountain and carry it back. To perform this climb you will need to get into superior physical shape for this extreme physical act. If you do not do the disciplines of getting into shape, you will never survive the journey, and much less bring back the prize.

The lifestyle of right faith-actions, which include the right actions of continually seeking the Lord, are the same way. Remember, the promise is you can be like Enoch and never die, or be wealthy as Abraham, Job, or Solomon, or walk in divine health, and duplicate-Jesus by continually doing the right faith-actions, which include seeking the Lord. Without the right faith-action lifestyle, you may have legal right to all the treasures of grace, but you will not walk in them unless you, or someone else does the right faith-actions for you. It is the force of right faith actions that manifests them.

While the process of seeking the Lord is described in the Old Testament directly, it is only referenced in the New Testament as if all the New Testament readers were

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already trained and well-practiced in seeking the Lord. As we look at the Old Testament details, we will see the related New Testament instructions.

In these above passages God states that all men are to continually seek the Lord.

Hear God describe the full meaning of the Hebrew word, seek: Zeph 2:3 “Seek the Lord [**inquire for Him, inquire of Him, and require Him as the foremost necessity of your life**], all you humble of the land who have acted in compliance with His revealed will and have kept His commandments; seek righteousness, seek humility [**inquire for them, require them as vital**]. It may be you will be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger.” AMP

There is nothing casual in seeking the Lord, it is intense in seeking for good attributes and situations, and expelling or rejecting evil attributes and situations. Seeking the Lord requires much *aiteo-dabar* commanding.

And what are we to seek? Rom 2:6 “Who will render to every man according to his deeds: 7 to them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal *zoe*/life: 8 but unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, 9 tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; 10 but glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile. 11 For there is no respect of persons with God.”

Here we are told to seek God and His face in personal connection and attributes of: Rom 3:7: “glory and honour and immortality, eternal *zoe*/life.” And rewards of Rom 3:10: glory (*free reign of Holy Spirit*), honour, and peace (*victory as a Jesus-duplicate*), to every man or woman that worketh *Jesus good by continual right faith-actions*.

Notice we will manifest the glory of God as we seek the Lord by continual right faith-actions. This is quite the prize or reward of *zoe* life for your good, Jesus-duplicate works or labor of seeking the Lord continually by right faith-actions. Add to this the reward of stability and assurance from relating directly to God, immeasurable.

So how are we to do this?

One definition of faith is: Heb 11:6 “But without *pistis*/faith (*continual right faith-actions*) it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must *pisteuo*/believe (*by continual right faith-actions*) that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him (*inquiring for and of Him and requiring Him, both by right of vital necessity and of the promises of God's Word by continual right faith-actions*).” Here faith is defined as:

- a) Believing that God is unto doing continual right faith-actions.

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- b) Diligently and continually seeking the Lord in expectation of rewards
(*inquiring for and of Him and requiring Him, both by right of vital necessity and of the promises of God's Word by continual right faith-actions*).
- c) These rewards include both physical manifestation of God's glory on the Earth now, and rewards on the Day of Judgment.

The chief question is, "How does the Bible describe effective seeking the Lord?"

The process of seeking the Lord or stirring up yourself in God to joy is described here: Ps 105:1 "O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. 2 Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works. 3 Glory ye in his holy name (*with exuberant thanksgiving, praise, joy, affirmations, etc.*): let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. 4 Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore. 5 Remember his marvelous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments (*deliverances, redemption in the blood of Jesus, saving decrees, zoe life, and promises, your or other's testimonies of what God has done*) of his mouth."

And again: 1 Chron 16:10 "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. 12 Remember his marvelous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth." This is repeated in Psalm 105.

And again: Ps 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."

And again: Ps 9:10 "And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee (*with right faith-actions*): for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee."

And again: Rom 5:1 "Therefore being justified by *pistis*/faith (*by continual right faith-actions*), we have peace (*victory over the devil, zoe life*) with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by *pistis*/faith (*by continual right faith-actions*) into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4 and patience, experience; and experience, hope: 5 and hope maketh not ashamed; because the *agape*/love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. 6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his *agape*/love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Did you see it in verse 3? We access or release the grace of God ion Jesus for us by the right faith actions of seeking the Lord in *pistis* faith unto rejoicing in the hope of coming expected good in

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this life and eternally. This rejoicing is part of effectual seeking the Lord in *pisteuo*/believing right faith-actions.

And again for a New Testament version: Eph 5:17 “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. 18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be (*continually being*) filled with the Spirit; 19 speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; 20 giving thanks always for all things [*especially our redemption in the work and blood of Jesus*] unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; 21 submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.”

Notice, biblical trust or depending, is just like *aman-pisteuo* believing. These actions to seek the Lord, include most of the right faith-actions we have already listed.

Seeking the Lord Elements:

These elements are listed this way to get you started. You can begin with one or two and keep going till you are doing all of them over the course of a day or a week.

Start with one you understand and go from there. For example thanksgiving van start will listing all your blessings, starting with having breathe and expand from there.

Ps 105:

- 1 “O give thanks unto the Lord;
- 2 Call upon his name: (*aiteo-dabar-laleo* commands, ministry)
- 3 Make known his deeds among the people (*testimonies of His works, Bible*)
- 4 Sing unto him,
- 5 Sing psalms unto him:
- 6 Talk ye of all his wondrous works. (*miracles, power acts, faithful in prophecy*)
- 7 3 Glory ye in his holy name (*with exuberant thanksgiving, praise, joy, affirmations, etc.*):
- 8 Let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. (*force yourself to exuberant behaviors of joy*)
- 9 4 Seek the Lord, (*His presence on the throne, within you, and in situations*)
10. And his strength: (*stir yourself up into His strength He used to raise Jesus from the dead as available to you by your right faith-actions, aiteo commands*)
11. Seek his face evermore. (*experience Him in koinonia union in meditation over Scriptures and times of worship, dancing before Him, throughout the day*)
12. 5 Remember his marvelous works that he hath done; (*Bible, testimonies of others*)
13. His wonders, (*Psalm 9, the sky, the universe, the wonders of the Earth, etc.*)

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14. The judgments (*deliverances, redemption in the blood of Jesus, saving decrees, zoe life, and promises, your or other's testimonies of what God has done*) of his mouth.” (*Lots of Bible reading, and listening, obeying the 1,050 NT Commands.*)
15. 1 Chron 16:10 “...Seek his face continually. (*practicing the presence of the Lord continually, singing to Him in tongues, songs, and spiritual songs, seek Him in Scripture meditation, recite, study, and apply the 1,050 New Testament Commands*)
16. Ps 40:16 “Let all those that seek thee rejoice and (*yell, scream, shout, dance, laugh, smile, wave arms, etc. shout praises, and thanksgivings, etc.*)
17. Be glad in thee: (*a little less exuberant than joy, singing to the Lord*)
18. Let such as love thy salvation say continually, The Lord be magnified.”
19. Ps 9:10 “And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee (*with right faith-actions*): for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.”
20. Eph 5:17-21 Wherefore be ye not unwise, (*do the right faith-actions diligently*)
21. But understanding what the will of the Lord is. (*know and proclaim this is the will of God for you*)
22. 18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be (*continually being*) filled with the Spirit; (*sing in tongues until you are drunk in the Lord*)
23. 19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, (*lots of speaking and singing in diverse tongues*)
24. Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; (*talk, sing to Him*)
25. 20 Giving thanks always for all *redemption* things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; (*recite and give thanks, praise and joy over redemption facts – see Discovering Our Redemption, Articles page*)
26. 21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.” (*honor and be gentle and forgiving of others, walk in 1 Cor 13*)
27. Whenever troubles over anything, do Phil 4:4-9 continually
28. Col 3:14 “And above all these things put on *agape/charity (actions)*, which is the bond of perfectness.
29. 15 And let, *make* the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

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30. 16 Let, *make* the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; (*recite and apply redemption facts to yourself and others with aiteo commands and proclamations, and affirmations – see OK God, Now What Affirmation Magnets*)
31. Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, (*recite, study the psalms, do what they say when they say it. Alleluia is a command to praise the Lord, not a praise,*)
32. Singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (*goodness in redemption facts, recite all the acts of grace in the Bible*).
33. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”
34. Seek Him in valid Christian works, do the acts of *agape* love, do continually the right faith-actions.
35. 1 Thess 5:9-25 “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,
36. 10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.
37. 11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together,
38. And edify one another, even as also ye do.
39. 12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;
40. 13 And to esteem them very highly in *agape/love-actions* for their work's sake.
41. And be at peace among yourselves.
42. 14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly,
43. Comfort the feebleminded,
44. Support the weak,
45. be patient toward all men.
46. 15 See that none render evil for evil unto any man;
47. But ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.
48. 16 Rejoice evermore.
49. 17 Pray without ceasing.
50. 18 In every thing give thanks *for redemption facts*: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
51. 19 Quench not the Spirit.
52. 20 Despise not prophesyings.
53. 21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

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54. 22 Abstain from all appearance of evil. (*dress, words, actions, lifestyle*)
55. 23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
56. 24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.
57. 25 Brethren, pray for us.
58. Col 3:1 “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God [*in the joy and praises of Heaven where Jesus’ work of redemption is celebrated continually*].
59. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your *zoe*/life is hid with Christ in God.” *This is part of seeking the Lord and His strength with right faith-actions.*

The basic assumption of the New Testament is that the reader has the first 5 books of the Bible memorized and most of the rest of the Old Testament, and lives a lifestyle of continually seeking the Lord in right faith-actions, which by itself is 3-6 hours per day, every day. Then it was extended to add in the New Testament. So the early believers had the Old Testament memorized, and the New Testament also. I suggest you perhaps start with the New Testament, then the Psalms, and then the rest of the Bible.

The goal of this seeking the Lord is to *koinonia* connect to and with God in spirit, *zoe* life, and truth (the Word of God, the Scriptures) and to live a connected, *koinonia* union and interchange *zoe* life all day, every day in everything you do.

For example: Again, Daniel prayed/worshiped 3 times a day, every day. Why 3 times a day? It appears our basic human problem, born-again or not, is that we need regular “refreshers” or “re-connects” throughout the day. Once a day is not enough, and there is no limit on how many we can do in a day, except the demands of daily living. Continually as a word ranges from non-stop to multiple events per day, so consider 3 times a day as a starter then expand as you can. Yes, you will get addicted to the presence, power, and the mind of Christ in the process.

Paul did similar: Phil 4:9 “Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and **heard, and seen** in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you. 10 But I **rejoiced in the Lord greatly**, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.” Rejoicing is loud and exuberant behaviors.

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Getting Started:

The list above is rather extensive. So we suggest a way to get started. Seeking the Lord as a process or lifestyle, has elements of activity and introspection, do both. The biggest difference in seeking the Lord than perhaps other spiritual disciplines is to make sure you do periods of thanksgiving, praise, joy, gladness, *aiteo* commands, affirmations with physical movement and emotion behaviors. Here is a suggested way to start seeking the Lord:

- a) You may need to sit or lie down first, to replace your existing negative or toxic thoughts with thoughts on the goodness of God. Even if you have many verses memorized, get your Bible and use the Scriptures to read, speak, sing and shout. Start with Ps 23, 34, 91, 100, 112, Ephesians and Colossians. Seeking the Lord is an active, and not a passive process. It is one of stopping, replacing, and filling thoughts and words. The goal is to see God in the Scriptures unto joy and gladness, and not just the words of the Scriptures. Speaking or singing is the quickest way to get control of your thoughts and re-direct them to God.
- b) Take one Scripture and mutter, chew, think, ponder and then apply it to your life to stir yourself up into glad pleasure, thanksgiving, praise, joy, and affirmations. Repeat with different scriptures. Take 3-15 minutes for each Scripture to do this. This is how you redirect your soul into the Scriptures and God.
- c) Godly music can be helpful, but you need to put the good-promise Scriptures on your lips and in your mind to redirect your thinking. You want your mind engaged, not empty. Listening to does not help, you need to sing, preferably Scripture memory songs. This is an active process, not a passive one of just sitting empty minded or listening to songs or words. This is how to use the modern practice of “soaking” effectively, but it is only a first step.
- d) Keep doing this until you are in thanksgiving, praise, joy, affirmations, Holy Spirit tongues, blessings, and *aiteo* commands leading to various acts of *agape* love (such as praying for others and/or make of list of good ideas that come to you as you seek the Lord, then go and bless someone as Jesus would).
- e) After a few Scriptures, even while lying down or sitting, start the thoughts, words, and actions of joy and keep at it until you are feeling joy. This includes muttering, speaking, singing, and shouting Scriptures, along with

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smiling, laughing, arm waving, clapping, etc. Remember, emotions follow thoughts, words, and actions. Do the thoughts and actions of joy to get the emotions of joy.

- f) As New Testament Christians, add in speaking and singing in Holy Spirit tongues. You can start slow and quiet, and then work to fast, loud, and hard, aimed at your situations. (We recommend you organize yourself to speak in tongues for 2 cumulative hours every day as a basic maintenance practice.
This can be in one session or throughout the day.)
- g) Keep doing this until your right faith-actions are vibrant and exuberant.
- h) After a while, get on your feet and start moving around. Transition to walking, jumping, dancing, clapping, twirling, spinning, etc., as you keep the thoughts and words going.
- i) If you are *zao* living in Holy Spirit, this will be your normal way of life.
- j) As with most things in God, you start in the flesh and move into the spirit. You do the actions by rote until you are what you are seeking. You do the actions of seeking the Lord. When you “find” Him; that will be who you are filled with. For example, you start the actions of thanksgiving, counting your blessings one by one, doing praise, and joy thoughts, words, and acts until you are thankful, praiseful and joyful. Making lists of these helps. This is a “stirring-up” process. You are starting out in need, fear, apathy, or complacency, and move into heartfelt response by priming the pump with right thoughts, words, and actions. Much like an athlete or dancer who starts out stretching and moving slowly until they can move with power and skill.
- k) Once you are skilled in seeking the Lord unto joy, you may not be so much as in need, but rather in communion with God, and more of His tangible presence. This enters the area of relationship with God. The more successful you are at it, the more you will walk like Peter and Paul until you are walking just like Jesus. Eph 5:1 “Be ye therefore followers (*imitators, copycats*) of God, as (*agape* loved) dear children (*who are to grow up and be like their Father in Jesus*).”
- l) Each time this may take a few moments or hours depending on where you are starting from.
- m) The Bible goal in seeking the Lord is joy (Ps 40:16), not momentary comfort, which evaporates rather quickly, and has little strength against

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negative events. The strength and confidence in God for effective and powerful *pistis* faith comes with joy behaviors in the Lord over time.

- n) We have a series called the (1) Divine Healing Sessions, the (2) Redemption Teaching Sessions, and (3) Faith Evidence Teaching Sessions on our website in the Free Downloads section of the Book Store. These are all MP3 files and are FREE. Get some and listen to them. They are full of new-creation scriptures and comments. Stop every 5 minutes or so, and at whatever is being talked about, focus on the good news of God and do behaviors of thanksgiving, praise, joy, *aiteo* commands (good come, evils go, all in the Name of Jesus) etc. over these truths. Join in with the prayers. Use them to stir you into God's redemption facts. And yes, we have testimonies of people getting healed as they listened to them.

Seeking by Joy: Notice that we are to seek the Lord by rejoicing. Rejoice means to call to mind the events and promises that can stir you to joy. This includes all the miracles and answered prayer in the Bible, those you have seen, heard about, or performed, to stir you up into glad remembrance, thanksgiving, praise, happiness, confidence, and the joy of extreme thanks that you will see these and more in the situations you have now.

1 Cor 2:5 "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the *dunamis/miracle working* power of God."

Here are some statements of God on the benefits of seeking the Lord continually and diligently: 2 Chron 14:7 "Therefore he said unto Judah, Let us build these cities, and make about them walls, and towers, gates, and bars, while the land is yet before us; because we have sought the Lord our God, we have sought him, and he hath given us rest on every side. So they built and prospered."

1 Chron 26:4 "And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah did. 5 And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper."

If you need prosperity, seeking the Lord diligently is God's way of getting it (*inquiring for and of Him and requiring Him, both by right of vital necessity and of the promises of God's Word by continual right faith-actions*).

Ps 34:3 "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. 4 I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. 5 They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed. 6 This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles."

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If you have troubles, seeking the Lord is how you get saved of them.

Also the Bible words for thanksgiving and praise are similar to joy. The major difference being that in joy, the words are mostly unintelligible, while in thanksgiving and praise, they are intelligible, but all three are exuberant behaviors.

JOY: (from Dictionary.com): the expression or display of glad feeling; festive gaiety. The displayed emotion of great delight or happiness caused by something exceptionally good or satisfying; keen pleasure; elation: A state of happiness or felicity; bubbling over.

From Strong's and Vines combined: *chairō* (NT: 5463), "to rejoice, be glad," life, excited, exuberant, delight, exceedingly cheerful, and an explosion of human positive actions. It is contrasted with weeping and sorrow and depression.

Joy behaviors are often seen in a sports event, where a favorite team scores and the crowd erupts in joy with extreme physical activity and noise. That is the sound of joy.

Bible joy is energetic and excited. If you are not in superb physical shape, you can only do Bible joy behaviors for a few moments. Conversely, the more joy in God you do, the more your body will get in physical, soulful, and spiritual shape.

Here is one of God's New Testament commands, echoing Psalm 105, on when to do these joy behaviors: Phil 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."

"Rejoice" means to call to mind the things that stirred you to joy, and repeat by doing joy behaviors again. This is intentional and focused activity. "Always" means always as a daily manner of life, echoing the command continually – doing them on a daily, multi-event schedule, and as occasion serves. Again, this is intentional and focused activity.

Here Paul is repeating the command to rejoice, so it is clear for immediate action.

The Joy Rub: Now here comes the rub with modern concepts of faith. Bible faith is joyful, exuberant. So the actions of biblical faith all day long are much like all day dancing and celebration. If you are doing the actions of biblical faith, or biblical believing, you are doing these excited and exuberant actions. If you are not doing these actions, you are not doing the actions of Bible faith, i.e., there is no evidence you are "*pisteuo* believing." And no visible evidence means you are not in Bible-defined *pistis* faith.

To some this is very new and different. And you may say you got answers to prayer without even one shout. This is fine.

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- First, these are what the Bible words mean, so the Bible is right and not you.
- Second, there is a vast world of answered prayer you have waiting for you as you humble yourself to do it God's way.
- Third, it may well be that your past actions had little to do in getting those answers, but someone else did the "faith works" and not you.
- Fourth, as you do it God's way, in exuberant behaviors for more than a few minutes at a time, you will get healthier and happier in the process anyway.

God gave us the ability to rejoice, to walk in exuberant thanksgiving, praise, joy, affirmations, blessings, courage and *aito* commands and the other right faith-actions. Little children love to be joyful for almost no reason. The world seeks to satisfy our need for godly joy with substitutes that either deaden our right feelings or misdirect them. Doing joy behaviors in the Lord, is seeking "the real thing."

So what does the kind of joy God is talking about? You may not like this because our modern church culture has very little of it, and the buildings are not designed to make Bible joy easier inside.

Consider this occurrence of Holy Spirit joy: Acts 2:11 "...we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. ...13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine. 14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: 15 for these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day."

Notice, they were hearing the disciple speaking loudly the wonderful works of God, or praises of God. They were so exuberant they appeared drunk, so it probably was loud and boisterous celebration as they proclaimed the wondrous works of God which could have included the miracles of Jesus and the disciples.

And here are some examples: 1 Sam 18:6 "And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick."

2 Sam 6:16 "And as the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the Lord..."

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This is what biblical thanksgiving, praise, and joy look like. They are loud and highly visible. They look and sound more like the celebration seen in sports arenas, or weddings, and in Jewish dancing (think the party in *Fiddler on the Roof*, or Israeli Defense Force soldiers dancing).

Much of modern Christianity operates on Scripture fragments, and are easily shattered, or correctly adjusted with studying them in the context of the Scripture passages they come from, and including them in a whole survey of the Bible.

The behaviors of thanksgiving, praise, and joy are celebratory, zealous, invigorated, and enthusiastic. The only difference is that in joy, often there are shouts and laughing that are not intelligible in excitement, but in thanksgiving and praise they are, as they communicate ideas and not just excitement, but do also include excitement shouts and laughter. Also included in all of them are dancing, arm waving, smiling, laughing, and song. This is vastly different than many church services.

Heaven on Earth: Since Heaven is filled with thanksgiving, praise, joy, and affirmations of truth, to seek those things of Heaven you have to dress with behaviors like in Heaven, and that means a mind filled with the joy of the Lord exhibited with outward actions of some kind.

As Holy Spirit had Paul write: Col 3:1 “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God [*in the joy and praises of Heaven*]. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your *zoe*/life is hid with Christ in God.” This is part of seeking the Lord and His strength with right faith-actions.

Here is this seeking or setting your affections process summarized in the next few verses: Col 3:16 “Let (*make*) the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him for the facts of redemption.”

Here it is summarized in the psalms. The gates or entranceway of the Lord are not in heaven, but in your heart, where God resides in your born-again spirit in full kingly authority, and *zoe* life power. This is the process of aligning your soul so you can operate at the throne of God effectively. Ps 100:4 “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. 5 For the Lord is good; his *chesed*/mercy (*grace, kindness*) is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”

So like a runner, you set time aside for this physical activity of right faith-actions to be a biblical believer. If you are not doing these actions, you are not in biblical

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faith. You may call it faith, but biblical faith has a specific meaning, and it is not quiet or still body behaviors, it is exuberant actions. Remember, his enemies could hear Daniel as he sought the Lord daily, 3 times a day, Dan 6:10. This is what got him put into the lion's den.

And your believing actions are the only evidence that you are in Bible faith over a specific promise from God. Others do not have to see them, but if others cannot see and/or hear your faith evidence due to your inaction or silence, you are not in biblical faith, no matter how much you protest you are in faith.