

Seeking God: A Comprehensive Bible Study Document

This document compiles and organizes all the Bible verses and passages discussed on the theme of "Seeking God." It draws from the original content and subsequent enhancements, structuring each entry with **Verse/Text**, **Context**, and **Explanation** for clarity. The sections are grouped logically: starting with the original verses, followed by general additions, and ending with those building specifically on Psalm 105:4. This creates a cohesive study resource emphasizing persistence, wholeheartedness, and the rewards of seeking God.

Seeking God

Matthew 7:7-8

- Verse: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."
- Context: Part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, where he teaches about prayer and the nature of God's response.
- Explanation: Jesus encourages persistence in seeking not just God but also His will. The promise here is that God responds to those who actively and persistently seek Him.

Matthew 7:13-14

- Text: "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."
- Context: These verses come at the end of the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus teaches about the way of life for those who follow him.
- Explanation:
 - Narrow Gate: Jesus metaphorically describes the path to salvation or true life in God as narrow, suggesting that it requires intentionality, discipline, and often going against the societal norms or easier, more popular choices.
 - Seeking God: These verses imply that seeking God isn't the default path for humanity; it requires an active choice. The emphasis is on the difficulty and the minority who choose this path, highlighting that truly seeking God is not just about following the crowd but about personal commitment and sometimes choosing a less traveled road.

Matthew 6:33

- Text: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
- Context: Also part of the Sermon on the Mount, this verse comes from a section where Jesus talks about worrying about material needs.
- Explanation:
 - Seek First: This directive tells followers to prioritize the spiritual quest for God's kingdom and His righteousness above all else, including basic needs like food and clothing.
 - Implication: By seeking God first, one's life aligns with divine will, which in turn ensures that one's needs are met by God's provision. It's about trust and priority in life's pursuits.

Acts 8:26-40

- Text: An angel directs Philip to go to a desert road where he meets an Ethiopian eunuch reading Isaiah. Philip explains the scripture, leading to the eunuch's conversion and baptism.

- Context: This passage recounts the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch, an early example of Gentile conversion to what would become Christianity.
- Explanation:
 - Seeking Through Scripture: The eunuch is actively seeking understanding of God through scripture, showing that seeking God can involve study and inquiry.
 - Guidance: Philip's role shows how God might use others to guide those who are seeking Him. It exemplifies how seeking God isn't always a solitary journey; sometimes, it involves divine appointments and community.

Acts 17:11-12

- Text: "Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. As a result, many of them believed..."
- Context: Paul and Silas are in Berea, where they preach in the synagogue.
- Explanation:
 - Noble Character: The Bereans are praised for their diligence in seeking truth. They didn't just accept Paul's words; they verified them against Scripture.
 - Daily Examination: This reflects an active, daily pursuit of understanding God's will and truth. Their seeking led to belief, indicating that genuine inquiry into God's nature and intentions can lead to faith.

Jeremiah 29:13

- Verse: "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."
- Context: Jeremiah sends this message to the exiles in Babylon, promising restoration and return to Jerusalem if they turn back to God.
- Explanation: This verse underscores that finding God requires genuine effort and wholehearted dedication, promising that God is available to those who earnestly seek Him.

Acts 17:16-28

- Context:
 - Location: Paul is in Athens, a city known for its intellectualism, philosophy, and polytheistic worship. Athens was a cultural center where ideas were exchanged, and various schools of thought like Stoicism and Epicureanism thrived.
 - Situation: While waiting for Silas and Timothy, Paul was deeply troubled by the city being full of idols. He engaged in debates with Jews in the synagogue and with philosophers in the marketplace.
 - The Areopagus: Paul was eventually brought to the Areopagus, a hill where the Athenian council met to discuss legal, philosophical, and religious matters. This was an opportunity for him to present his teachings to some of the city's leading thinkers.
- Explanation of Acts 17:16-28:
 - Verses 16-21: Paul begins by noting how religious the Athenians are, even pointing out an altar "To An Unknown God." This sets the stage for him to introduce this "unknown" God to them.
 - Verses 22-23: Paul uses the altar as a bridge to explain that the God they worship ignorantly is the Creator of the world, who does not live in temples made by hands. This is a critique of their polytheistic and idolatrous practices, suggesting their seeking has been misplaced.
 - Verses 24-25: He explains that God, as the creator, doesn't need anything from humans, reversing the common notion where deities required sacrifices and offerings for favors or protection.
 - Verses 26-27: Paul speaks of God's sovereignty over nations and seasons, implying that God has made humanity so that they would seek Him. Here's the key verse about seeking:
 - Verse 27: "God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us." This suggests that the human condition, with its built-in desire for understanding and connection with the divine, is designed to lead people towards God. The idea is that if people genuinely seek, they will find because God is accessible.
 - Verse 28: Paul quotes Greek poets ("For in him we live and move and have our being" and "We are his offspring") to affirm that even their own philosophers have intuited the nearness and the parent-like relationship of this God to

humanity. This validates the instinct to seek a higher power but corrects the direction of that search away from idols to the true God.

Deuteronomy 4:29

- Verse: "But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul."
- Context: This is part of Moses' speech to the Israelites before they enter the Promised Land. He emphasizes the importance of faithfulness to God, even when they are dispersed or face hardships.
- Explanation: Here, the emphasis is on wholehearted seeking. It reassures that God is not distant or unattainable but will be found when sought sincerely.

1 Chronicles 16:11

- Verse: "Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always."
- Context: This verse is part of a psalm of thanksgiving by David when the Ark of the Covenant was brought to Jerusalem.
- Explanation: It encourages continuous seeking of God's presence and strength, suggesting an ongoing relationship rather than a one-time event.

Psalms 27:8

- Verse: "My heart says of you, 'Seek his face!' Your face, Lord, I will seek."
- Context: David expresses his desire for God's presence amidst his troubles, showcasing his trust in God.
- Explanation: This reflects personal dialogue with God, where the inner voice (heart) prompts one to seek God's face, indicating intimacy and personal relationship.

Psalms 105:4

- Verse: "Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!"
- Context: Psalm 105 is a historical psalm that recounts the mighty acts of God on behalf of Israel, from the covenant with Abraham through the Exodus from Egypt and into the Promised Land. This psalm serves several purposes:
 1. Thanksgiving and Praise: It's a call to give thanks to God for His faithfulness and enduring promises to the people of Israel.
 2. Historical Reflection: By remembering God's past deeds, the psalm encourages trust and faith in God's future actions. It serves as a reminder of God's covenant loyalty.
 3. Instruction: It teaches newer generations about their heritage, the nature of God, and how they should respond to Him.
 - Explanation:
 4. Seek the Lord: This is an encouragement to actively pursue a relationship with God. It implies more than just occasional prayer or ritual; it suggests a persistent, ongoing effort to know God better.
 5. And his strength: Here, the psalmist might be referring to the power of God, which has been demonstrated through the historical acts like the plagues in Egypt, parting the Red Sea, etc. Seeking God's strength could mean looking for His protection, His empowerment in one's life, or recognizing God as the source of all power and might.
 6. Seek his presence continually: This emphasizes the importance of a constant relationship with God. The word "continually" suggests that this seeking should not be a one-time event but a lifelong pursuit. In the context of when this was written, the presence of God was associated with the Ark of the Covenant, the Tabernacle, and later the Temple, where God's presence was believed to dwell among His people. However, in a broader spiritual sense, it encourages believers to always be in a state of communion with God, not just in times of need or during specific rituals.

Seeking his presence

Matthew 13:44-46

- Text: "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."
- Context: These parables are part of a series in Matthew 13 where Jesus describes the nature of the kingdom of heaven using everyday analogies, teaching his disciples privately after speaking to crowds.
- Explanation:
 - Precious Discovery: The hidden treasure and pearl represent the immense value of God's kingdom, something worth seeking and sacrificing everything to obtain.
 - Seeking God: This ties into seeking God by portraying the kingdom as a "precious find" that demands total commitment. It encourages believers to pursue God with the same fervor as one hunting for invaluable treasure, aligning with themes of wholehearted dedication.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

- Text: "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."
- Context: Paul is writing to the church in Corinth, defending his apostleship and using athletic metaphors from the Isthmian Games (similar to the Olympics) to illustrate spiritual discipline.
- Explanation:
 - Disciplined Pursuit: Paul compares the Christian life to a race or boxing match, where athletes train rigorously for a perishable wreath (crown), urging believers to seek an imperishable reward with even greater effort.
 - Seeking God: This relates to seeking God through persistent, self-disciplined pursuit of holiness and faith. It emphasizes that seeking isn't passive but requires focus and endurance to avoid disqualification from eternal life.

Hebrews 11:6

- Verse: "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."
- Context: This is from the "faith hall of fame" chapter in Hebrews, which lists examples of Old Testament figures who lived by faith, encouraging early Christians facing persecution.
- Explanation:
 - Faith and Seeking: The verse links faith directly to seeking God, promising rewards for those who diligently pursue Him.
 - Implication: It reinforces that genuine seeking, rooted in belief, pleases God and leads to divine blessings, making it a foundational principle for approaching Him.

Isaiah 55:6

- Verse: "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near."
- Context: Part of a prophetic invitation in Isaiah to turn from sin and embrace God's mercy, addressed to Israel during a time of spiritual waywardness.
- Explanation:
 - Urgency in Seeking: It urges immediate action, implying opportunities to find God may not always be available.
 - Implication: Seeking God involves timely repentance and calling out, promising accessibility for those who respond promptly.

Psalms 63:1

- Verse: "You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water."
- Context: A psalm of David, written while in the wilderness of Judah, possibly fleeing from enemies, expressing deep personal devotion.
- Explanation:
 - Intense Longing: David uses thirst in a desert as a metaphor for the soul's desperate need for God.
 - Seeking God: This portrays seeking as an emotional, all-consuming desire, highlighting the intimacy and necessity of God's presence in difficult times.

Proverbs 8:17

- Verse: "I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me." (Spoken by Wisdom, personified as a divine attribute.)
- Context: In Proverbs 8, Wisdom calls out to humanity, describing her role in creation and inviting people to heed her.
- Explanation:
 - Mutual Response: Wisdom (often linked to fearing God) promises to be found by diligent seekers and to love those who pursue her.
 - Seeking God: This applies to seeking God's wisdom as part of seeking Him, assuring discovery for those who earnestly look.

2 Chronicles 7:14

- Verse: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."
- Context: God's response to Solomon's prayer at the temple dedication, outlining conditions for national restoration.
- Explanation:
 - Collective Seeking: It calls for humility, prayer, and repentance as ways to seek God.
 - Implication: Seeking leads to forgiveness and healing, applicable to individuals or communities turning back to God.

Amos 5:4

- Verse: "This is what the Lord says to Israel: 'Seek me and live;'"
- Context: The prophet Amos warns Israel of judgment for injustice and idolatry, urging them to return to God.
- Explanation:
 - Life Through Seeking: Directly links seeking God to survival and true life, contrasting with destruction from sin.
 - Implication: Seeking God is essential for spiritual vitality, emphasizing it as a path to salvation amid warnings.

Continual Pursuit of Psalm 105:4

Isaiah 40:28-31

- Verse: "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."
- Context: Part of Isaiah's prophecy comforting Israel during exile, highlighting God's eternal power contrasted with human frailty.
- Explanation:
 - Seeking Strength: This expands on "seek the Lord and his strength" by promising renewal for those who wait on (or seek) God, portraying Him as an inexhaustible source of energy.

· Continual Pursuit: The imagery of soaring, running, and walking without fatigue encourages ongoing reliance on God's presence, building trust through His unchanging nature.

Psalm 9:10

- Verse: "And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you."
- Context: A psalm of David praising God for His justice and protection against enemies, reflecting on personal deliverance.
- Explanation:
 - Trust Through Seeking: It connects seeking God with knowing His name (character) and experiencing His faithfulness, assuring that continual pursuit leads to unwavering support.
 - Building on Presence: This reinforces the idea of seeking God's face continually, as it promises He remains near to seekers, never abandoning them in times of need.

Psalm 34:10

- Verse: "The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing."
- Context: Another psalm of David, written after feigning madness to escape danger, celebrating God's deliverance and inviting others to taste His goodness.
- Explanation:
 - Provision in Seeking: Building on seeking God's strength, this verse promises that diligent seekers will not lack essentials, contrasting human/animal struggles with divine supply.
 - Continual Relationship: It encourages ongoing seeking as a path to abundance, tying into historical reflections like Psalm 105 by reminding of God's provision throughout Israel's story.

Psalm 24:6

- Verse: "This is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob."
- Context: A liturgical psalm possibly used during processions to the temple, describing who may ascend God's holy hill and emphasizing purity and ascent to His presence.
- Explanation:
 - Generational Seeking: It echoes "seek his presence continually" by identifying a blessed community that pursues God's face, linking to the covenant with Jacob (Israel) as in Psalm 105's historical recount.
 - Strength in Ascent: The verse implies that seeking leads to standing in God's holy place, where His strength and glory are encountered, promoting a collective, enduring pursuit.

2 Chronicles 15:2

- Verse: "And he went out to meet Asa and said to him, 'Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: The Lord is with you while you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.'"
- Context: The prophet Azariah speaks to King Asa during a time of reform in Judah, urging national revival and faithfulness after victories over enemies.
- Explanation:
 - Reciprocal Presence: This builds on seeking God's presence by stressing that continual seeking ensures His nearness and strength, while abandonment leads to loss.
 - Historical Tie-In: Like Psalm 105's review of God's acts, it calls for remembering covenant loyalty, encouraging active pursuit for national and personal blessing.

Psalm 42:1-2

- Verse: "As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?"
- Context: A psalm of the sons of Korah, expressing longing for God's presence during exile or distress, possibly from

temple worship duties.

- Explanation:

- Thirst for Presence: This vividly illustrates "seek his presence continually" through the metaphor of desperate thirst, portraying seeking as an innate, ongoing soul-need.

- Strength in Longing: Amid tears and oppression, it builds on seeking strength by finding hope in anticipating God's face, similar to historical psalms recalling deliverance.

Study Guide Suggestions

- **Themes to Explore:** Persistence (e.g., Matthew 7:7-8), Wholeheartedness (e.g., Jeremiah 29:13), Rewards (e.g., Hebrews 11:6), and Continual Pursuit (e.g., Psalm 105:4 and related).
- **Application Questions:** How does seeking God look in daily life? What barriers prevent wholehearted seeking, and how can they be overcome?
- **Cross-References Table:**

Theme	Key Verses	Connection
Persistence	Matthew 7:7-8, 1 Chronicles 16:11	Encourages ongoing knocking and seeking.
Wholeheartedness	Jeremiah 29:13, Deuteronomy 4:29	Emphasizes seeking with all heart and soul.
Rewards/Provision	Matthew 6:33, Psalm 34:10	Promises needs met and no lack for seekers.
Discipline	1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Isaiah 40:28-31	Likens seeking to training for eternal strength.
Urgency/Intimacy	Isaiah 55:6, Psalm 63:1	Calls for immediate, thirst-like pursuit.

This document can be used for personal study, group discussions, or teaching. If further expansions or references are needed, consider consulting a Bible concordance for additional verses on "seek" or "pursue."