

Hearing God's Voice/Being Led of God/Getting a word from God

A few, brief summary points:

- God desires to speak into our situation directly
 - God guides us with His words, both generally and specifically
 - All things pertaining to life and godliness are found in God's word
- God's path for our lives is different for each, but there are certain aspects which can be applied to all of us
 - God's way leads to life
 - God's way will use my body and my spiritual gift
 - Jesus' life and glory will lead me
 - God's ways are ways of holiness
 - God's ways are not rushed
 - God's ways are full of shalom peace
 - God's ways are loving
 - God's ways are not sinful
 - Etc...
- Seeking The LORD is a frequent habitual pursuit of who He is
- Seeking The LORD is not just done through prayer, fasting, or study; seeking The LORD is also in our actions: doing good.
 - Those who are not humble nor living in accordance with God's word, are not truly seeking God.
 - Seeking The LORD successfully requires humility
 - Seeking The LORD successfully requires an honest heart and pure motive
- Seeking God results in understanding; prospering; deliverance; life; joy; and freedom. But to not seek God results in His face being against you; sorrow, misery, and grief; a lack of God's favor/His good hand in your life; and a lifestyle of doing evil.
- The LORD desires to speak to us. He has set us up for success to seek Him and hear from Him.
- The LORD speaks to us through His word, or other means which are substantiated by His word
- The LORD's voice cannot be discerned by applying this world's conventional wisdom or logic
- God's voice is amplified in afflictions and by The Spirit, who brings God's word to us in a fresh way, speaking to our hearts in a way only He could/can
- The LORD leads us through His revealed character: that is our light upon every situation

I. The Importance of being led by God's word/getting a word from God

- a. Psalms 119:105 – *God's word is a lamp and a light*
- b. Without Faith it is impossible to please God. Faith general and faith specific.
 - i. Hebrews 11:6
 - ii. Romans 14:22-23
 - iii. Romans 10:17 – *Faith comes by the Word (Rema) of God*
 - iv. Faith means, "Belief; the assent of the mind to the truth of what is declared by another, resting on his authority and veracity, without other evidence....The assent of the mind to the truth of a proposition advanced by another" – *Thus, faith requires a word. No word, no faith.*
 - 1. F.f., Hebrews 3:12; 4:1-2; 12 – *Israel had an evil heart of unbelief, not believing God's word, thus not acting in faith*
 - 2. 2 Corinthians 5:7
 - a. Galatians 2:20
 - b. Hebrews 10:38
- c. Jesus, who calls us to live as He lived, lived by The Father...
 - i. John 20:21 – *We are sent as Jesus was sent*
 - ii. John 6:57 – *As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.*
 - 1. Jesus lived in this way: He did nothing except what He heard from The Father or observed The Father doing.
 - a. John 5:19, 30
 - b. John 8:28
 - c. John 12:49-50
 - d. John 14:10
 - e. Therefore, I must live by Jesus' words. For His words are Spirit and Life. [Jn 6:63]
- d. **All things that pertain to life and godliness are found in God's word** – *Do you believe this or not? The proof is where you go for wisdom/guidance*
 - i. 2 Peter 1:2-4
- e. **General points about being led of God**
 - i. Who you believe God to be will determine how you act/what you do
 - 1. Therefore, have a correct view of God's character, based from study in God's word.
 - ii. Your doctrine will influence your decisions and interpretations
 - 1. Therefore, secure a correct doctrine from study of God's word
 - a. 1 John 2:27
 - b. Acts 17:11
 - iii. Your focus will determine your destination
 - 1. Therefore, focus on Jesus/His Word: the true, Jesus of The Bible [See pt i above]
 - a. 2 Corinthians 3:18

- b. Hebrews 12:1-4
- c. Hebrews 2:1
- iv. Be open and ready to act quickly
 - 1. Numbers 14:39-45
- v. Be open to change; flexible
 - 1. John 7:1-10

II. Dangers and examples of not following God's voice/not getting a word

- a. Proverbs 14:12
- b. Proverbs 12:15 – *Listen to God's counsel, be wise. To know God's will is wise*
 - i. Proverbs 21:30
- c. Jeremiah 10:23 – *I don't have the ability; I need God's help*
 - i. C.f., Isaiah 48:17-18
- d. 1 Samuel 28:5-7; 31:2-3 – *How long will you persist in seeking The LORD?*
 - i. Persevere. Do not grow tired of seeking The LORD.
 - ii. Isaiah 45:15
 - 1. 2 Chronicles 32:31
- e. Isaiah 30:1-3; 31:1 – *Woe to those who go to the world for help, and thus not God.*
 - i. **Woe means**, “grief; sorrow; misery...a [affliction; torment; great vexation]...”

III. Logos vs Rema

- a. Logos = “word” – *The entirety of God's word*
 - i. Ex: John 1:1 – *In the beginning was The Word...*
- b. Rema = “spoken/living word” – *The specific word of God for a situation*
 - i. The uses of Rema in the N.T.
 - 1. A word spoken in conversation
 - a. Matthew 27:14
 - b. Luke 9:45; 18:34; 20:26
 - c. *The Lord speaks to us in conversation; that is, in prayer.*
 - 2. A sentence or phrase
 - a. Matthew 5:11; 12:36; 18:16
 - b. *Pulling one sentence out of a book is Rema, while the entirety of the book is Logos*
 - 3. A word spoken to us for a situation/circumstance at hand
 - a. Matthew 26:75
 - b. Mark 9:32; 14:72
 - c. Luke 1:31, 37
 - d. *The Lord speaks to us about a situation, whether through His word directly, or through other means (which are substantiated by His word)*
 - 4. Insight, wisdom, and/or understanding, given to us for a situation/circumstance at hand or in relation to something we must do
 - a. Luke 2:11-19; 5:5

- b. *Being directed to a recipe is Rema. The cookbook is Logos*
- 5. A prophecy/word from God which applies established biblical truth to a present situation. Or, a word about what God has done.
 - a. Luke 1:65
 - i. C.f., Luke 1:67-79
- 6. Characteristics of Rema...
 - a. They give life – *God's word revives me like a cup of cold water*
 - i. John 6:63, 68
 - b. They are answered if we pray them – *Praying back what God already said he would do*
 - i. John 15:7
 - c. They produce faith – *God's word is powerful when it applies directly to me*
 - i. Romans 10:17
 - d. They are established by 2/3 witnesses – *Rema must be established by Logos*
 - i. 2 Corinthians 13:1
 - e. They wash us – *God's word gives me fresh vision and strength for present circumstances*
 - i. Ephesians 5:26
 - f. They are a sword used in warfare – *A word to pray in battle with temptation or other enemy*
 - i. Ephesians 6:17
 - g. They created all things and hold all things together – *If God said it, it will continue*
 - i. Hebrews 1:3
 - ii. They endure forever – *Until God says so, it will be so*
 - 1. 1 Peter 1:25
 - a. C.f., Hebrews 1:3, Jeremiah 31:36, Psalms 119:91

c. Conclusion

- i. In a present and specific situation, through seeking God in prayer and/or His Logos Word, fellowship with His people, or some other means by which I draw near to God and His Son Jesus (who is The Logos Word), I am brought a word by The Holy Spirit, which is relevant for my situation and for my needs. Because it is confirmed by God's Logos Word, and thus secure in the Blood of The Lamb, it gives me strength, refreshment, faith, reviving, steadfastness, and/or power. If I take that word and cling to it, praying it back to God, I can be assured it shall come to pass. It is a word which is living and effective for my present situation: a phrase The Lord knew I needed to hear, but which I had lost sight of, forgot, or was not

aware of. It comes to me with power and force and speaks to my heart, a specific word which may not affect another but remains very relevant for me (c.f., Rev 2:17).

IV. Discerning God's will

- a. John 6:38 – *Jesus' way of life should be ours too*
- b. Romans 12:1-2 – *With a submitted body, renew your mind with God's word and practice it, submitting your body to be used by Him via your spiritual gift*
 - i. 1 Corinthians 2:16 – *We have the mind of Christ available to us. How so? Through His Word & interpretation by The Spirit*
 1. Ephesians 4:23
 - ii. 1 Corinthians 6:13 – *Our body is for Him*
 1. Hebrews 10:5-7, Psalms 40:6-8
 - iii. Colossians 1:21 – *Not just study, but practice*
 - iv. Colossians 3:10 – *Renewed in knowledge of Jesus*
 - v. Ephesians 5:17 – *Know God's will, this is wisdom*
 1. Colossians 2:3 – *Jesus is the source of wisdom*
 2. 1 Corinthians 1:30 – *Jesus is our wisdom*
 - a. Proverbs 2:1-6 – *Seek God through His Word*

V. Discerning The Lord's voice

a. General

- i. **Common sense/general rules about being led of God, hearing His voice, discerning His will/etc...**
 1. Is it obvious? Is there a clear word in Scripture? – *Then you already know what to do*
 2. Ezekiel 21:21 – *Don't be led by your gut feeling*
 3. Any mystical sort of thing must always support the plain text; it can never contradict it.
 - a. Out of the abundance of God's heart He has spoken His word. If I think that I have found something/a word from God, through Ancient Hebrew, through numbers, through symbolism, etc., it will and must always support what is plainly written. – *The deep, underlying concepts and truth of God's word, those mystical things hidden beneath the surface, **never contradict the surface. The content of the invisible roots/heart/substance direct/produce the visible fruit.***
 - i. Matthew 12:34
 - ii. Matthew 7:16-20
 4. Do not seek after witchcraft (i.e., rebellion)
 - a. Seeking spiritual benefit, particularly in our context, wisdom/direction, outside of God's predetermined means, is witchcraft. We have prayer, God's word, The Holy Spirit, and encouragement received from fellow believers.

- b. Are you seeking an answer, a resolution, direction, hope/strength/or peace, spiritual benefits? Are you seeking them through the below means? That is witchcraft.
 - i. Ouija board
 - ii. Enneagram
 - 1. A personality test, derived from demonic influence. I am who I am because of X, Y, or Z – a license and freedom to sin, to cast off restraint, to ease conviction, because of my personality number.
 - iii. Yoga
 - 1. Postures (āsanas) and breathing (prāṇāyāma) meant to give reverence to hindu gods and obtain blessings from them. To unite oneself with the universal consciousness (Brahman)
 - iv. Horoscope/fortune cookie
 - v. Tarot Cards/Christian Oracle Decks
 - vi. Wicca/White magic
 - vii. Crystals
 - viii. The movement or positioning of objects to obtain peace or harmony (fung shui)
 - ix. Energy healing/balancing (reiki, Qi)
 - 1. The three above are similar. It is positioning or obtaining or being in the presence of something/someone, other than Jesus Christ, in order to obtain peace, direction, energy, rest, etc. A reliance upon another spiritual influence, or a reliance upon an object/person to obtain/solicit Jesus’ spiritual influence.
 - x. Feminism/”Christian Femenism” (Goddess, Gaia, Sophia)
 - 1. “Freedom” from God-ordained male authority in work, sexuality/children, direction in life.
 - xi. Good luck charms/objects/rituals
 - 1. Equivalent of Old Testament household gods (teraphim), and Baal dance (c.f., Mt. Carmel)
 - xii. An acceptance of bodily passions (e.g., Saul & Amalek)
 - 1. 1 Samuel 15:23; 28:18
- 5. Submit to the leaders in your life – *God’s direction often comes top-down*
- 6. Be expectant and believing that God will speak – *Faith is what activates the power of God in our life. Without faith, we cannot please God, nor expect His word to come true*
- 7. Seek The Lord, not an answer. It’s not about information, it’s about a relationship
- 8. 1 Timothy 6:6-12 – *You cannot be led by money*

- a. Matthew 6:22-25 – *Being led by money; having wealth as your master, leads to anxiety about food, clothing, and water*
 - b. 2 Chronicles 16:9 – *A heart completely for The Lord*
- 9. Mark 11:2-6 – *Be willing to give up whatever The Lord says*
 - a. Mark 2:4
- 10. Be expectant for The Lord to speak and to lead
- 11. Luke 5:17 – *Do not be envious or bitter*
 - a. 1 John 2:10-11 – *You must be loving, not hating, brothers & sisters in Christ*
- 12. Psalms 32:8-9 – *Be broken and submissive to The Lord*
 - a. Matthew 11:28-30
- 13. Micah 2:7b – *If you are walking crookedly, not straight/upright, don't expect God's word to do you any good*
- ii. Psalms 37:5 – *Commit your way/roll your way to Him*
 - 1. Proverbs 16:3
- iii. Proverbs 16:9 – *Do not expect to fully understand. God doesn't call us to understand fully*
 - 1. But c.f., Ephesians 5:17
 - a. Colossians 1:9
 - 2. **We plan, but The LORD directs**
 - a. Proverbs 16:1; 19:21; 20:24
 - b. Psalms 37:23
- iv. Psalms 119:149 – *God's decision/judgments lead to life*
 - 1. What is life?
 - a. C.f., 1 Timothy 5:6 – *Those who live in pleasure are dead*
 - b. John 10:10 – *Jesus gives us abundant life*
 - c. John 14:19 – *Life is derived from Jesus' resurrection*
 - i. Ephesians 2:4-5 – *Made alive with Jesus*
 - ii. Colossians 2:13
 - d. John 7:37-39 – *The Holy Spirit living through us*
 - e. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 – *True life, is living for Jesus not self*
 - i. 2 Corinthians 4:10-11 – *Dying to self*
 - ii. Matthew 10:38-39 – *Taking up the cross*
 - iii. Romans 6:4 – *The life of the Messiah/resurrection life*
 - f. 1 John 4:9 – *We live through Jesus*
- v. Numbers 9:18 – *Be led of God's glory*
 - 1. What is God's glory?
 - a. C.f., Romans 3:23
 - b. John 1:14, 1 John 1:1-3
 - c. Exodus 33:18-23; 34:5-7

- vi. 1 John 3:16 – *Jesus' life and actions are not descriptive, they are prescriptive*
- vii. Isaiah 50:7 – *Hard, but not too hard*
- viii. Proverbs 19:2 – *The Holy Spirit is never in a rush*
 - 1. John 1:32-34 – *Descended in a way like a dove*
 - 2. Luke 4:1-2, 18-19
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 14:40 – *Decently and in order*
- ix. Jeremiah 6:16, Matthew 11:28-30 – *Is this path the Old Paths? Is it the way of holiness?*
 - 1. Jeremiah 18:15
 - 2. Proverbs 15:19 – *The way of the righteous is embanked*
 - a. Proverbs 16:17
- x. Colossians 3:15 – *Being led of God's peace*
 - 1. Isaiah 57:20 – *The wicked cast up mire & dirt*
 - 2. John 14:27 – *Not like the world*
 - 3. Other verses
 - a. Isaiah 8:6 – *Peaceful waters*
 - i. Jeremiah 2:17-19
 - b. Isaiah 33:21 – *Undisturbed waters*
- xi. 1 Corinthians 13 – *Is it love; is it loving?*
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 16:14
 - 2. 1 John 4:7
- b. **Direction of the Christian's life/spiritual gift/serving**
 - i. God's word furnishes us and prepares us for good works
 - 1. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - 2. Ephesians 2:10 – *Created unto/for good works*
 - a. Galatians 6:7-10
 - 3. Defining good works
 - a. Romans 3:10-12, 23
 - b. Matthew 19:17
 - i. Psalms 86:5; 119:68
 - ii. The direction of our lives, the path God has chosen for us, the way we are to serve God, is directed by the measure of faith and grace God has given us; i.e., our spiritual gifting(s) Our specific gift is not an accident; it is the manner in which God intends to display a portion of His character through our bodies.
 - 1. Romans 12:1-8 – My **body** is a living sacrifice for God's use
 - a. Ephesians 4:7-8 – *A measure of grace to each one*
 - b. 1 Corinthians 6:13 – *The body is for The Lord (not for me)*
 - 2. 1 Peter 4:10-11 – *Use the gift given, to glorify/magnify Jesus.*
 - 3. Ephesians 4:16 – *Use what you have, not what you don't have*
- c. **General, blessings**
 - i. Proverbs 10:29 – *Strength to the upright*

d. **Gentle and soft?**

i. 1 Kings 19:9-12

1. **Q:** Are you expecting The LORD to speak in such and such a way, and inadvertently missing Him because you are not open to the way He wants to speak?

a. *Don't look for experiences*

2. The “location”

a. Exodus 19:16-18 – *Notice the similarity to the three things Elijah experienced*

i. C.f., The New Wine

ii. Genesis 22:1-2, 10-13 – *Don't get stuck in the way things were done in the past. Many Isaac's have been slain on the altar of men who are doing what God **said** and not what He is **saying**.*

1. Also see Pt I.e.v

3. The “big” things

a. Isaiah 42:2

b. Zechariah 4:10

c. 1 Corinthians 1:27-29

i. Isaiah 29:14

4. The “wise” things

a. 1 Corinthians 3:8 – *True logic is not according to this world, but according to God*

ii. John 2:1-8 – *A word from an unlikely/easily disregarded source*

e. **God's voice in Psalms 29**

i. Psalms 29:3 – *Sound is amplified upon the waters*

1. **Q:** Are you willing to endure hardship, if it means God's voice becomes louder and clearer?

2. Also, The Holy Spirit amplifies God's word. He brings it to us as a cup of cold water.

a. C.f., Revelation 2:17

b. C.f., Acts 2:11

ii. Psalms 29:4 – *Active, able, powerful, effective*

1. Hebrews 4:12

2. Luke 8:25

iii. Psalms 29:5 – *God's word humbles*

1. Isaiah 2:13

iv. Psalms 29:7 – *God's word discerns and divides*

v. Psalms 29:8 – *God's word can shake even the most desolate and empty of people or places*

vi. Psalms 29:9 – *God's word reveals and gives life and glorifies Him*

f. **God's voice/word in Psalms 19**

i. Psalms 19:7 – *God's **Law** turns back the soul תורה*

1. **Q:** Do you need a solid principal? An established principal to regulate action? – *God's law is the signature of His substance*
 - a. Psalms 119:1
 - b. A law is an established and permanent principle; a thing that God teaches as true, and is intended to regulate our actions and direct our lives.
- ii. Psalms 19:7 – *God's **testimony makes us wise** עדות*
 1. **Q:** Do you need to see an example? God's revelation to us is found in Jesus' life: it is that which makes me wise concerning my situation. – *True revelation leads you to the Cross first, then The Door*
 - a. Psalms 119:14
 - b. This word means revelation. Revelation means, "the act of [uncovering, making known] or discovering to others what was before unknown to them...that which is [disclosed; discovered; made known]..."
- iii. Psalms 19:8 – *God's **statutes/precepts give me joy** פקודים*
 1. **Q:** Do you need strength which comes from joy? God's statutes are commands/orders regarding moral conduct intended to be authoritative. – *Be open to God's power, given to us through His statutes, whose obedience brings joy*
 - a. Psalms 119:40
 - b. This word means precept. Precept = "in a general sense, any commandment or order intended as an authoritative rule of action; but applied particularly to commands respecting moral conduct..."
- iv. Psalms 19:8 – *The LORD's **command gives new life to my perspective** מצוה*
 1. **Q:** Do you need a fresh perspective? Do you need invigoration and revival? – *Allow The Spirit to lead me through Jesus' command(s) given to me by Him*
 - a. Psalms 119:6
 - b. John 12:50
 - c. A command is that thing which God has uttered, which is intended to be authoritative direction, intended to be that which is the standard and by which actions are regulated and are to be conformed to.
- v. Psalms 19:9 – *The LORD's **judgments warn me and reward me** משפט*
 1. **Q:** Do you need to be gently reprov'd and redirected? Do you need to reflect and chew upon a decision? – *The LORD helps me to decide, make an opinion, make a choice. Choosing The LORD's way leads to reward*
 - a. Psalms 119:30

- b. Judgment means, "...the act or process of the mind in comparing its ideas, to find their argument or disagreement, and to ascertain truth...the faculty of the mind by which man is enabled to compare ideas and ascertain the relations of terms and propositions...the determination of the mind, formed from comparing the relations of ideas, or the comparison of facts and arguments...verdict...determination; decision; opinion..."

g. In Times Past

i. Urim and Thummim

- 1. From Gesenius, "...one symbolically represented revelation, the other truth..."
 - a. Urim = "light; manifestation; unveiling" אֲוִרִים
 - i. The leader is secured chiefly by [God's] powerful work
 - 1. Jesus, who is The Light, who lights up men, through His work upon earth, gives me security. As a decision-maker, as a leader, Jesus' powerful work must enlighten my mind and heart. Is what I am doing in accordance with the revelation of God we have received from Jesus' life/character?
 - b. Thummim = "integrity; wholeness; fulness; truth (LXX)" תַּמִּימִם
 - i. The blood of the cross is [God's] powerful work
 - 1. Is what I am doing honest/whole? Am I considering that Jesus shed His blood for me? Does what I am doing make sense in that light?
 - c. Psalms 43:3 – *Jesus lights up our path, our heart, our life, etc*
 - i. John 8:12
 - 1. Psalms 119:105
 - ii. John 1:9; 14:6
 - 1. Psalms 119:142
 - d. Colossians 2:9-10 – *Complete in Christ. Look to Him for direction*
 - e. Ephesians 1:17 – *New Covenant Urim & Thummim, learning of Christ's character/glory*
 - i. John 14:26 – *As with the U & T hidden in pouches near the heart, hide Jesus, The Word of God, in your heart*
- 2. Exodus 28:29-30 – *Bearing the judgment, the decisions*

- a. Used to determine God's will
 - i. 1 Samuel 28:6
 - ii. Exodus 28:30
 - iii. Numbers 27:21
- ii. **Drawing Lots**
 - 1. Proverbs 16:33 – *The LORD decides the lot. Nothing is random*
 - a. Ephesians 1:11 – *The LORD works all things by His will*
 - 2. Examples
 - a. Leviticus 16:8 – *Deciding for the goat*
 - b. Joshua 18:10 – *Land*
 - i. Notice: “*before The LORD*”
 - ii. Psalms 16:5-6 – *Be content with your “land,” with your resources, opportunities, neighbors, etc*
 - c. Josha 7, 1 Samuel 14:42, Jonah 1:7 – *Figuring out who did something*
 - d. 1 Chronicles 24:5, 31; 25:8; 26:13-14, Nehemiah 10:34 – *Figuring out jobs for people/positions*
 - i. Nehemiah 11:1
 - e. Esther 3:7; 9:24 – *Trust in The LORD's choices. Haman wasn't in control, God was*
 - f. Psalms 22:18, Matthew 27:35 – *Jesus' garments*
 - 3. Acts 1:26 – *The last occurrence in the Bible of casting lots. **The Holy Spirit***
 - a. We no longer need lots. We have The Holy Spirit
 - i. Isaiah 30:21
- iii. **The Bronze Altar**
 - 1. 2 Chronicles 1:5 – *Solomon*
 - a. Contrast this with the New Covenant and the cross – *Refocus and reorient by looking unto Jesus our goal, our Forerunner. Look to the cross*
 - i. Psalms 9:16 – *1. The LORD is known through His judgment [think of His judgment upon Jesus on the cross for sin]*
 - ii. Proverbs 3:5-6 – *2. Know (acknowledge) The LORD in all your ways and He will guide you*
- iv. **The Tabernacle**
 - 1. Exodus 33:7-11 – *The temporary tabernacle Moses used*
 - a. C.f., John 15:14-15 – *Friends of Jesus faithfully obey Him & hear Him speak*
 - b. **The pillar of cloud and fire**
 - i. Also see Pt. V.a.v
 - ii. Numbers 9:15-23 – *Being led by God's presence, God's glory, God's rest*

1. Isaiah 4:5 – *God's presence is now within us through The Spirit*
 2. Colossians 3:15 – *Rest*
 - c. John 4:23 – *No longer a specific location*
 - i. Hebrews 10:19-22
 2. Deuteronomy 12:5 – *The tabernacle/temple*
 - a. C.f., Isaiah 66:1-2, Ephesians 2:22. Hebrews 3:6 – *We are now God's dwelling place*
 - b. 1 Chronicles 21:29-30 – *David*
 - i. Psalms 27:4 – *This desire can be fulfilled only in the New Covenant via The Holy Spirit*
 1. C.f., the word "inquire" in the KJV – this word means to inspect diligently, to look at, to contemplate. Literally, it means to cleave or to open. C.f., usage Leviticus 13:36
- v. **Prophets & Seers**
 1. Hebrews 1:1-3 – *The prophets were how God spoke then, but now, in these last days, through His Son*
 - a. John 10:3-5 – *Jesus' sheep hear Him*
 - b. Revelation 2:17 – *Jesus knows how to speak to us*
 2. Examples – *God speaks to the prophet, the prophet speaks to you*
 - a. 2 Chronicles 18:6
 - b. 2 Kings 8:8
 - c. 2 Kings 22:13-14
 - d. Ezekiel 20:1
 - e. Jeremiah 21:2-4

VI. Seeking The LORD

- a. **A couple examples**
 - i. **David and the Valley of Rephaim**
 1. 2 Samuel 5:17-24 – *Just because a situation looks similar doesn't mean it is. We have to seek The LORD fresh each time*
 - a. Seek God. Obey quickly
 - b. Baalperazim בַּעַל־פְּרָצִים (Lord of Breaches, Lord of Breaking Through)
 - i. "My home is seen by the Shepherd, and I am open to [my] Prince's journey [for me], and [I am] working despite trouble."
 1. *Make The LORD your home and seek His face, being ready to fight/work/etc*
 2. *The flesh seeks to diminish the power of the cross by making me live in indulgence or ease.*

- a. This is the heart of what Philistine means which represents the flesh. The name means “griever; weakener;” and the Hebrew Letters reveal, פִּלִּשְׁתִּי, “*The word of [the Philistine’s] teaching/yoke is to destroy/crush the cross’ work [in my life]*”
 - 3. *Remember that I am seen by Christ; be open to His leading even if it’s hard*
 - a. Deuteronomy 11:12
 - b. Revelation 12:11
 - c. Geba גִּבְעָה & Gazer גִּזְרִי (Hill & Piece/Part)
 - i. Respond to The Holy Spirit in your trouble and see God work
 - ii. Geba
 - 1. “I walk toward the home I can see.”
 - a. *Keep your eyes on eternity*
 - i. Hebrews 11:15-16; 13:14
 - ii. 2 Peter 3:13
 - iii. Gazer
 - 1. “I walk toward the chief harvest/the head’s harvest.”
 - a. *Keep your eyes on the judgment to come*
 - i. Revelation 22:12
 - ii. **Civil war in the book of Judges**
 - 1. Judges 20:17-28, 35 – *Perhaps sometimes The LORD allows us to experience loss to teach us where the victory comes from, to humble us*
- b. **Seeking The LORD**
 - i. **We seek God practically through... [summary]**
 - 1. Prayer
 - 2. Fasting
 - 3. God’s Word
 - a. *Give us this day our **daily** bread*
 - 4. Fellowship
 - 5. Submission and obedience to God
 - ii. **Prayer [also see Pt ii.6.c below]**
 - 1. Luke 6:12-13, John 6:64 – *Jesus prayed to get the right disciples/apostles*
 - 2. Mark 1:35-38, Luke 4:42-44 – *Jesus was not led by the apparent need, but by God’s word*

3. Matthew 26:39 – *Jesus sought God through prayer, to discern and do God's will, not His own*
4. Luke 5:15-16 – *Jesus was not led by success or praise, but sought God in prayer*
5. Acts 13:2-3 – *Led by The Spirit through worshipping/ministering to God*
6. Psalms 34:4

iii. **General**

1. Isaiah 45:19 – *It is not vain*
2. Matthew 7:7-8 – *Continue to seek God, and you will find Him*
 - a. Deuteronomy 4:29
 - b. Jeremiah 29:13
 - c. Hosea 6:3 – *His coming is like the sunrise and the rain*
 - d. **Being needy and poor in spirit**
 - i. Isaiah 41:17-20
 1. Psalms 9:18
 - ii. Matthew 5:6
3. Psalms 34:9-10, Romans 12:2 – *Through seeking The LORD we shall not want any good thing, and God's will is good*
4. Acts 17:26-27 – *The LORD has positioned us to seek Him successfully and find Him*
 - a. If you genuinely seek The Lord, you will find Him. If you don't, you will not
 - i. 1 Chronicles 28:9
 - ii. 2 Chronicles 15:2
5. Isaiah 55:6-13 – *Seek The LORD now; today; while He can be found*
 - a. Psalms 27:8 – *Eager and willing to respond*
 - i. C.f., Songs 5:1-6
6. **If you don't seek God and His wisdom fervently, and in His word, you will never know His ways/paths**
 - a. F.f., Proverbs 2:9
 - b. Hebrews 2:1
7. **Things that are associated with seeking God**
 - a. 2 Chronicles 11:16 – *Sacrifice, giving, thanksgiving*
 - b. 2 Chronicles 15:4 – *Turning to God; obedience*
 - i. John 17:17
 - ii. Isaiah 51:1
 - iii. Ezra 6:21 – *Purification, holiness*
 - iv. Psalms 119:2 – *Obedience*
 - v. Hosea 10:12 – *Sowing righteousness and breaking up the fallow ground*

- a. Be yielded to God. Allow Him to break up the ground if need be. We need The Spirit to soften our land – *seek God until He gives us His Spirit*
 - b. Jeremiah 4:3 – *Holiness & separation is necessary*
- vi. Amos 5:14, Zephaniah 2:3
 - 1. Amos 5:4-6
- c. Daniel 9:3 – *Prayer, fasting*
 - i. We must come to Him with confession and repentance. We cannot hide sin
 - 1. Daniel 9:4-5
 - 2. Psalms 66:18
 - 3. Hosea 5:15
 - ii. Prayer
 - 1. Psalms 77:1-2
 - 2. Zechariah 8:21-22
- d. Psalms 34:9-10 – *Fearing The LORD*
 - i. To fear God is to hate and depart from evil.
 - 1. Proverbs 8:13
 - 2. Proverbs 16:6
 - 3. Proverbs 19:23 – *Fear of The LORD tends toward life [because it leads me away from disobedience & evil which leads to death]*

8. **Isaiah 58:1-14**

- a. We must seek God with a true heart, not just saying words or doing spiritual things as prayer, reading, or fasting, but having a true heart for God and His ways, practicing righteousness. – *To truly seek God, there must be an alignment of heart and action; there must be tangible acts of righteousness and love towards others around us*
- b. Matthew 3:8

9. **Blessings**

- a. Proverbs 28:5 – *Understanding*
 - i. Seeking God opens us up to understanding. He gives us the correct perspective for all things.
- b. 2 Chronicles 26:5 – *Prospering*
 - i. Jeremiah 10:21
- c. Psalms 34:4-6 – *Deliverance*
 - i. Psalms 9:10 – *Never forsaken by God*
 - ii. Psalms 119:155
- d. LIFE
 - i. Psalms 69:32

- ii. Amos 5:6
- e. Psalms 105:3-4 – *JOY*
 - i. 1 Chronicles 16:10
 - ii. Psalms 40:16
- f. Psalms 119:45 – *FREEDOM*
- g. Isaiah 11:10 – *REST/PEACE*
 - i. Matthew 11:28-30
 - ii. Jeremiah 6:16

10. Warnings

- a. Leviticus 20:6 – *God's face is against those who are seeking other things*
 - i. Also See Pt V.4
 - ii. Isaiah 31:1 – *Woe to those who look to the world for help instead of God/before God*
 - 1. Woe means, grief; sorrow; misery; calamity
 - 2. Also Pt II
- b. Zephaniah 1:4, 6 – *God's hand is against that person who does not seek Him*
 - i. But ultimately, any punishment arising from such, is an effort to get them to return to Him.
 - 1. Isaiah 9:12-14
 - 2. Jeremiah 50:4
 - 3. Hosea 3:5; 7:10
- c. 2 Chronicles 12:14 – *Those who do not seek God will inevitably practice evil*

iv. Seeking The Lord's face/presence

- 1. Lamentations 3:25 – *The LORD is good to those that seek Him*
 - a. To seek literally is to trample, tread, beat. It means to frequent, to wear out a path. To seek The LORD is to wear out a path to Him, going to Him often. – *A lifestyle of seeking/pursuing The LORD, not just a one-time thing*
 - i. 1 Chronicles 16:11 – *Seek His face always*
 - 1. C.f., Psalms 27:8
 - 2. Hosea 6:3 – *Seek to know God*
 - ii. To seek itself means, “to go in search or quest of; to look for...to inquire for...”
 - 1. To inquire means, “to ask a question; to seek for truth or information by asking questions....to seek for truth by argument or the discussion of questions, or by investigation.”
 - a. Investigation means, “The action or process of searching minutely for

truth, facts or principles; a careful inquiry to find out what is unknown, either in the physical or moral world, and either by observation and experiment, or by argument and discussion...”

- iii. To seek God’s face/presence is to seek to be in His presence to receive the benefits that come from that. Favor, mercy, blessing, guidance, fellowship, pleasure, satisfaction, etc.
- iv. To seek Him then, according to the definition, is to habitually inquire into the truth of God or into what He desires/wants through searching Him out through His word, through talking to Him, through talking to others.
- b. God’s presence – *If I should seek God’s face/presence, is there anything else necessary? How do I achieve that?*
 - i. James 4:6 – *Humility*
 - 1. Hosea 7:10 – *Pride prevents us from seeking God*
 - a. Psalms 10:4
 - 2. C.f., 2 Chronicles 33:12-13
 - 3. C.f., 2 Chronicles 34:27 – *A tender heart is a heart soft, easily impressed by God/His word*
 - ii. Isaiah 57:15 – *Brokenness and poorness of spirit*
 - iii. Psalms 24:3-6 – *Clean hands and a pure heart*
- v. **Example from Jehoshaphat**
 - 1. 2 Chronicles 22:9
 - 2. How did he seek The LORD with all his heart?
 - a. 2 Chronicles 17:3-4 – *Obedience*
 - b. 2 Chronicles 19:3 – *Tangible actions that produce holiness/purity*
 - c. 2 Chronicles 20:3 – *Prayer & Fasting*