

~ What Seek Ye? ~

Devotion to God has characterized the noblest pursuits and highest endeavors of man. All the great stories of the Bible are centered in the devotion to God of outstanding men and women, and the ways in which they demonstrated their faith and trust. Hebrews 11 records their acts of faith...

Abel was the first to offer a sacrifice “which please God”. (Hebrews 11: 4)

Enoch had such great faith that he could be said to “walk with God”. (Genesis 5: 22; Hebrews 11:5)

“By faith *Abraham* obeyed when he was called to go out to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out not knowing where he was to go.” (Hebrews 11: 8) Abraham believed God, which is considerably different than believing in God. He believed not only for himself, but his faith grew to the point where he was willing to offer his own son in sacrifice at God’s request. God acknowledged his faith, saying, “For now I know that you fear [reverence] God.” (Genesis 22: 12)

“By faith *Moses*...refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to share ill treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he looked to the reward.” (Hebrews 11: 26)

Jesus once asked one of the most searching questions: “What seek ye?” (John 1: 38) It is the most important question you may ever answer! Some allow the world to determine for them what they will do and what they will be. They conform to the influences about them; they can rise no higher because they have looked no higher. All too often, this is the only thing that parents want for their children – just a good job and financial well-being. In this pursuit, countless people are trampling upon others while they try to claw their way to a

“mythical” financial top. How much of the human spirit is being ground, and how many are left wounded and discouraged from the modern oppression of human competition? Is man committed to never-ending toil, to uncomforted mourning, to a meaningless succession of nights and days consumed with eating and drinking and breathing? Is this what you are seeking?

For those seeking faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love, the place to find it is in God, and His son Christ. (2 Peter 1: 5-11) Here is where our search will begin and end. If we seek these things of God, we must do so with a fixed purpose and determination. The world is not going to assist us here. We must feed on the things of the Spirit of God. Like the Israelites who gathered manna every day to sustain them, so must we seek to feed upon the Word of the Lord.

You must know what you are seeking before you can find it. Additionally, you must seek it where it may be found – the right thing in the right place. Some have sought a closer walk with God, but only in simple devotion. They somehow feel that by acts of praise and devotion, they will be filled with bliss. And indeed, they do receive certain blessings. How can you praise God whom you do not know? How can you worship God ignorantly? God’s purposes are moving toward a glorious fulfillment of blessing for all mankind, but if you do not know that purpose, how can you hail its progress? Devotion, based on certain knowledge, is the foundation of true belief for true believers.

The Psalmist spoke of one who delights in the law of the Lord as being “like a tree planted by streams of water, that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” (Psalm 1: 3) How often we see trees whose leaves are withered and drooping for lack of water because they are dependent on circumstantial rain to be watered. But followers of the Lord need not leave their lives to circumstances to provide the needed water of life. By putting their roots into promises of God and keeping them there, they will be as a “tree” by “streams of water”. Yes, both Moses and Jesus affirmed that “man does not live by bread alone, but by every

word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.” (Deuteronomy 8: 3; Matthew 4: 4) ♦

With these thoughts in mind, we suggest a daily habit of morning devotion. In the hast of our day, we do well to have some time at the beginning of each day set aside for morning devotion. Many have found the little book *Daily Heavenly Manna* a very good way to start the day. It provides a daily scripture with a beautiful comment. For example, a comment on Hebrews 12: 11 follows:

“It is under such discipline that the soul is mellowed to a loving submission...As gradually the dross of the old nature is consumed...these precious souls become ever dearer to their loving Lord. So dear are they to Him that in every affliction He is near with His grace to sustain and His presence to cheer; and the deepest shades of sorrow become memory’s most hallowed resting place...”

It makes an excellent gift to encourage the spirit. Send for the free book, *Daily Heavenly Manna*. Click **REPLY**, and send an e-mail asking for it. Include the name of this publication, your name, and your mailing address. ♦