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WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SEEK GOD?

. There are many passages in the Bible that admonish us to seek God. In Hebrews 11:4 we are told that God rewards those who diligently seek Him. In Paul's discourse on Mar's Hill, he made it known that God made one nation of people to inhabit the earth. He did this, Paul continues, so that men would seek God and reach out for Him, though He is not far from us (Acts 17:26-27). There are at least five words in the Greek that have been translated "seek" in the New Testament. There is one Hebrew word in verb form that is translated "seek" in the Old Testament.

The meanings of these words in both Hebrew and Greek share a common theme. The Hebrew word suggests searching for something that is lost. All of the Greek words translated "seek" have to do with the seeking for, looking diligently, seeking carefully, to seek out, to reach out or after someone or something, and something that is "sought for."

We are told Jesus came to "seek and save the lost." Here the word is used in reference to seeking people. This was Jesus' mission. This is why He came to earth. He came to diligently and carefully reach out to those who were lost in order that they might obtain salvation. The passage quoted in Hebrews 11 suggests that if we seek after God we will be rewarded. In Acts 17 Paul mentions that we can find Him because He is not far from any of us. We also must "seek" the lost around us and bring them to Christ.

Jesus in the Mountain top discourse taught that we are to "seek first" the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33). This means that we diligently seek out, reach out for, search for the kingdom of God. This is part of what it means to seek God. We seek God by seeking His kingdom. We seek His kingdom by becoming a part of it.

I really like Paul's observation that God is not far from any of us. Everywhere we look, as a believer, we can see God. We can look at the grandeur of the mountains, the beauty of the beaches, the calming effect of the stars at night. In all of these things we can see God. This is why in Romans 1 Paul said that men are without excuse because God has revealed the unseen things about Himself in the things He has made that we can see.

But, more importantly, is the need to seek God for our salvation. To seek God is to seek in His revelation, the Bible. When we look into the word of God, we can learn what our responsibility is to both God and our fellowman. We learn what we must do to please God. In fact, this is the only way we can truly know God. As Paul suggested, nature reveals God, but to truly know God, His character, His grace, His love for us can be seen only as He is revealed in His word.

God rewards those who diligently seek Him. Are you seeking God today? Are you reaching out to Him for the salvation He offers through Jesus Christ? If so, you will be rewarded.