

# The God-Seekers

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**Genesis 32:22–31 (NKJV)** *“And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok. <sup>23</sup> He took them, sent them over the brook, and sent over what he had. <sup>24</sup> Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. <sup>25</sup> Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup> And He said, ‘Let Me go, for the day breaks.’ But he said, ‘I will not let You go unless You bless me!’ <sup>27</sup> So He said to him, ‘What is your name?’ He said, ‘Jacob.’ <sup>28</sup> And He said, ‘Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.’ <sup>29</sup> Then Jacob asked, saying, ‘Tell me Your name, I pray.’ And He said, ‘Why is it that you ask about My name?’ And He blessed him there. <sup>30</sup> So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: ‘For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.’ <sup>31</sup> Just as he crossed over Peniel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip.”*

**Psalm 24:3–6 (NKJV)** *“Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? <sup>4</sup> He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully. <sup>5</sup> He shall receive blessing from the Lord, And righteousness from the God of his salvation. <sup>6</sup> This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face. Selah”*

Are you a God-seeker? Would God regard you as a God-Seeker? The Bible says, *“The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God. <sup>3</sup> They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one.”<sup>1</sup>* The reality is, apart from God, our carnal nature drives us to seek everything other than God.

There was a time in the early development of our nation when people had gold rather than God on their mind. It was called the California God Rush of 1848. When news spread that James W. Marshall found gold at Sutter’s Mill in Coloma, California on January 24, 1848, people in other parts of the country began to sell everything and head to California with a dream of becoming rich. Around 300,000 people came to California in search of gold. The California Gold Rush peaked in 1852. The gold rush resulted in the hasty development of California to accommodate the gold-diggers who were labeled “49’ers” in the year 1849. Although some did become rich, most only found “fool’s gold”. Most lost more than they bargained for. Some lost everything.

Everyone is seeking something in life to give them security, happiness, fulfillment, and a sense of purpose. Each person must settle on one thing, for a person’s desire and heart can only be set on one thing at a time. Jesus said, *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”<sup>2</sup>* What is your “one” desire?

One desire minus God will eventually result in nothing. Jesus said, *“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”<sup>3</sup>* No one will ever be at the point in their life where they will not need God’s presence, help, or guidance.

The Bible contains a record of the journeys of many God-Seekers in response to God’s pursuit of them. God is the true Seeker. His pursuit of us culminates in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus said, *“for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”<sup>4</sup>*

Have you responded to God’s passionate pursuit of you? Has His pursuit of you transformed you into a God-Seeker? Are you seeking God more than anything else? Are you seeking God more than the things of God? Are you seeking God to change your life or to change your circumstances? Are you seeking God more than what He can do for you? Are you seeking God’s hand or are you seeking His face?

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<sup>1</sup> Psalm 14:2-3 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 6:24 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> John 15:5 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> Luke 19:10 (NKJV)

Many seek God's hand rather than His face. Their relationship with God is about them rather than about Him. They are "crisis Christians". When the pursuits in their life apart from God lead to disaster, they run to God for help. They want God to rescue them from the painful consequences of their bad choices. They seek relief but not reform. Such was the case with Jacob, the son of Isaac and the brother of Esau. Jacob began his religious journey by seeking God's hand. Jacob began just like most. He sought the family birthright, his father's blessing, divine safety in travel, a beautiful wife, and a blessing in business.

While Jacob was seeking God's hand, God was seeking Jacob's heart. God wanted Jacob to seek His face. This is the great desire of God. God will reveal Himself to those who seek His face rather than His hand. Consider the following Scriptures.

Deuteronomy 4:29 (NKJV) *"But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul."*

1 Chronicles 16:11 (NKJV) *"Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore!"*

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV) *"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 will forgive their sin and heal their land."*

Psalms 14:2 (NKJV) *"The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God."*

Psalms 27:4 (NKJV) *"One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple."*

Psalms 27:8 (NKJV) *"When You said, 'Seek My face,' my heart said to You, 'Your face, Lord, I will seek.'"*

How do you recognize a God-Seeker? First, they are committed to Jesus Christ. They love Him. They spend time with Him. They follow Him. They seek to be like Him.

Second, they are committed to the Christian life. Seeking God is their highest priority. They live according to Matthew 6:33 (NKJV): *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."* Everything else comes second.

Third, they are committed to Christ's community of faith, the local church. They understand that the church is the community of the saved who are called out of this sinful world to live out this common faith with others in order to fulfill Christ's commission to reach the world.<sup>5</sup>

Fourth, they seek to be a witness for Jesus in how they speak, act, and live. They seek not their own glory nor the honor that comes from men. They seek the glory of God alone and the honor that comes from Him.

Jacob did not begin as a God-Seeker. He was content to seek God's hand until he had a divine encounter with God. It was then that Jacob realized that the problem was inside of him. He sought God's face for real life-changing transformation. God blessed Jacob and changed his name from "Jacob", which means "heal grabber", to "Israel", which means "Prince with God". Jacob had been transformed into a God-Seeker.

Do you desire to be transformed? Seeking God's face comes with a cost. Jacob's encounter with God caused him to walk with a limp from that point forward. Those who encounter God will always walk with a "limp". They will be marked by humility and dependence upon God.

You too can join the Jacob Generation who are passionate about seeking God's face: *"This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face. Selah"*<sup>6</sup> Will you join this generation of God-Seekers? These are the ones who will receive the blessing of the LORD and righteousness from the God of their salvation!

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<sup>5</sup> Matthew 16:15-19

<sup>6</sup> Psalm 24:6 (NKJV)