

Seek The Face Of The Lord

“During the reign of David, there was a famine for three successive years; so David sought the face of the Lord. The Lord said, “It is on account of Saul and his bloodstained house; it is because he put the Gibeonites to death.” The king summoned the Gibeonites and spoke to them. (Now the Gibeonites were not the part of Israel but were survivors of the Amorites; the Israelites had sworn to spare them, but Saul in his zeal for Israel and Judah had tried to annihilate them.) David asked the Gibeonites, “What shall I do for you? How shall I make amends so that you will bless the Lord’s inheritance?” The Gibeonites answered him, “We have no right to demand silver or gold from Saul or his family, nor do we have the right to put anyone in Israel to death.” “What do you want me to do for you?” David asked. They answered the king, “As for the man who destroyed us and plotted against us so that we have been decimated and have no place anywhere in Israel, let seven of his male descendants be given to us to be killed and exposed before the Lord at Gibeah of Saul --- the Lord’s chosen one.” So the king said, “I will give them to you.” The king spared Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, because of the oath before the Lord between David and Jonathan son of Saul. But the king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons of Aiah’s daughter Rizpah, whom she had borne to Saul, together with the five sons of Saul’s daughter Merab, whom she had borne to Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite. He handed them over to the Gibeonites, who killed and exposed them on a hill before the Lord. All seven of them fell together; they were put to death during the first day of the harvest, just as the barley harvest was beginning. Rizpah daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it out for herself on the rock. From the beginning of the harvest till the rain poured down from heavens on the bodies, she did not let the birds of the air touch them by day or the wild animals by night. When David was told what Aiah’s daughter Rizpah, Saul’s concubine, had done, he went and took the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan from the citizens of Jabesh Gilead. (They had taken them secretly from the public square at Beth Shan, where the Philistines had hung them after they struck Saul down on Gilboa.) David brought the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan from there, and the bones of those who had been killed and exposed were gathered up. They buried the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan in the tomb of Saul’s father Kish, at Zela in Benjamin, and did everything the king commanded. After that, God answered prayer on behalf of the land.” (2 Samuel 21:1-14)

God is the Creator of heaven and earth and all things on it. He created everything out of His love. He created man and woman on His own image, and *“God blessed them and said to them. “Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that had fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.” (Genesis 1:28-29)*

But man instead of being faithful to God he chose to sin and disobey God and do things against the Lord’ will. However, God did not abandoned the man but He sent His One and Only Son Jesus Christ to save mankind from sin and death. The Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead on the third day to give eternal life to those who believe in Him and follow His steps in their lives.

Man ought to seek God and be found of Him for the great things that He received from God. King David in the chosen passage he sought the face of God for the famine that was there for three successive years. From such an event and what had happened we can learn the following about seeking the face of God.

1. Certain problem in your life it can be God’s way for you to seek His face: If everything is alright you will not think to start to seek God and draw near to Him. The problem had caused your attention to be drawn toward God.

2. Seeking God’s face is not a short term process: You cannot achieve that in few days or months. It may take years. Seeking God’s face is looking for more details from God about His pleasant, good and perfect will.

3. For God to reveal to you His will, you need to be humble and willing to listen: *“He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way.” (Psalms 25:9)* God will not speak to you if you are not willing to listen. If you want to seek God’s face, humble yourself and kneel down before Him, and be willing to listen from Him to all the things; even the matters that you don’t like to hear. In seeking God’s face be willing to change your mind and adapt the new things that God is speaking to you.

4. To seek God’s face is not an easy thing: When you come to God to know His will you need to do what He says to you. That in most of the time is not easy. In the passage that we read David was requested to hand over seven men to be executed, and this is not an easy matter. But David he set his heart to seek God’s face and he was willing to obey Him. The same thing is to be for you. As you set your heart to seek God’s face be willing to obey Him and do whatever He would commanded you to do.

5. Certain sin in the past done by some people before, God might call you accountable to correct what had happened: As Christian and true believer in Christ Jesus God calls you to declare the truth to others; not to cover wickedness and to compromise. God wants to use you as an instrument of righteousness. So you need to be at that level of expectation. David obeyed God and did whatever He asked him to do. And truly the Lord testified about David in saying the following: *“I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.” (Acts 13:22)* The same should be for you; to obey God and do exactly what He wants you to do.

My Dear and Beloved: Use the opportunity today to seek God’s face. The problem that is today in your life it might be the way that God uses to call your attention to certain sinful act had happened in the past and God wants you to deal with it today as you agree to pray.

My prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died for my sins on the cross and rose again from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I humble myself at your feet and seek your face with all my heart. I am willing to listen, change my mind and obey your voice in doing what you would ask me to do. This is my prayer in Jesus name. Amen*