

SEEK WEEK



*"Seek the Lord and His strength;
Seek His presence continually."*

- Psalm 105:4

January 5-12, 2025

Monday, January 6

Seek Intimacy with God

By Austin Welborn

Devotional Passage: James 4:8

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ---James 4:8 (CSB)

I want you to take a slow deep breath before you start this devotion. The purpose of this is not for you to check off a box of time with God. The purpose of this devotion is for you to seek God. The philosopher Dallas Willard once called hurry “the great enemy of spiritual life in our day.” Think of all the things you rush to do: going to the grocery store, driving from point a to point b, spending time with God. Uh-oh, did I get too real for a second? Many of us are just too busy to live emotionally healthy and spiritually rich and vibrant lives.

This is why the invitation is to “draw near.” Think of all the things you give your time and attention to. Think of all the times you’ve endlessly scrolled on your cell phone or watched tv. Have you ever given attention like that to God? Have you ever drawn near that the time slipped away and you just enjoyed his presence? This is the invitation God is giving us. A promise that is simple yet profound: when we seek God, He responds. He does not hide or hold back. His nearness brings peace, clarity, and the assurance that we are loved. This act of seeking can reveal to us to let go of distractions, sin, or anything that keeps us from fully experiencing Him.

So today, take a step closer. Seek Him with sincerity and trust that He is already moving toward you. Don’t distract yourself with comfort and the things of this world. Draw near to the One who is peace, who is comfort, and who is joy. He’s not hiding.

Prayer: God, thank you for the reminder that You come where You’re wanted. I want to seek You with my whole heart. Help me to remove distractions and choose You above all else. Meet me here. Show me anything that I need to repent of and purify my heart. Give me wisdom and strength to not be double minded, but to choose Your way and to live a godly, spirit-filled life, hidden in You. Amen.

Tuesday, January 7

Seeking God Wholeheartedly

By Julie Wilkerson

Devotional Passage: Psalms 119:10-11

*I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.
I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
---Psalms 119:10-11*

The picture of an athlete comes to mind when I think of being wholehearted. Rigorous training, rigid schedules and strict diets all flash through my mind with that word. It may look ritualistic from the outside; however, an athlete has his heart and mind locked on being the best in his sport, and that is his full focus. In order to reach the pinnacle of success, it takes complete devotion.

The author of Psalm 119 sounds like he had this strict focus and discipline. His “diet” would have been God’s Word, and he was putting it into practice with laser focus. He wanted his actions to show his complete devotion to God.

If we test ourselves according to this same standard, would we measure up? It’s so easy to be distracted from a godly mindset in a culture that is completely opposed to what the Bible calls good and right. We have to have this psalmist’s mindset of a laser focus on God’s truth with daily time in His Word so that we do not get distracted from our goal: a life devoted to glorifying God and hearing Him say “Well done” at the end of our race!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, please help me to seek you with my whole heart. Show me what I need to change in my life so that You are my first priority. Help me to make time to spend with You and read Your Word each day. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Wednesday, January 8

Seeking God's Help for Our Families

By Kim Alonso

Devotional Passage: Matthew 6:33

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. --- Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

As we navigate the ups and downs of family life, it's easy to get overwhelmed by all the things that demand our attention—work, school, finances, health, and relationships. In those moments of stress or uncertainty, it's tempting to focus on fixing problems ourselves. But Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6:33 to make seeking God our top priority. When we put His kingdom first, everything else falls into place according to His will.

Seeking God for our families means trusting Him with every aspect of our lives—our worries, our plans, and our relationships. It's about bringing our challenges before Him in prayer, asking for His guidance, and trusting that He will provide what we need. Whether it's wisdom in parenting, healing for a loved one, or peace in a tense situation, God promises to meet us where we are when we seek Him with all our hearts.

In the busyness of life, it can be easy to forget this simple truth: when we put God first, He takes care of the rest. Today, let's choose to seek His kingdom and righteousness in our families—whether in big decisions or daily moments. As we do, He will lead us, strengthen us, and give us what we need to thrive in His love and grace.

Prayer: Lord, help me to seek you first in every area of my family's life. Teach us to trust you with our needs, to leave our hearts open and willing, and to follow your guidance. We believe that as we seek you, You will provide for us. Thank you for your faithful love. Amen.

Thursday, January 9

Seeking God for Strength in Times of Trouble

By Kim Alonso

Devotional Passage: Psalm 34:10

The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. --- Psalm 34:10 (NIV)

Life can be tough sometimes, and we all face moments of difficulty. Whether it's personal struggles, family issues, or even situations that seem beyond our control, we all have times when we feel weak or overwhelmed. But in Psalm 34:10, David reminds us that when we seek the Lord, we won't lack what we need—even in our hardest moments.

The psalmist compares those who seek the Lord to those who have everything they need, even when the world around them may be in chaos. Just like lions, which are powerful but sometimes still hungry, we too may face challenges that feel beyond our strength. Yet, God promises to provide everything we need. This doesn't mean we won't face difficulty, but it means that God's presence will be with us, strengthening us and supplying us with what we need to persevere.

In times of trouble, it's so easy to turn to other sources for comfort—whether it's distractions, self-reliance, or even people who may not have the answers. But God is our ultimate source of strength. When we seek Him, He gives us peace, wisdom, and the endurance we need to get through. He promises that we won't lack anything that is truly good for us.

Prayer: Lord, when I face difficulty and feel weak, help me to seek You first. Thank You for the promise that those who seek You will lack no good thing. Strengthen me today and give me the courage to trust in Your provision and care. Amen.

Friday, January 10

Seek the Things that Are Above

By Steve Robins

Devotional Passage: Colossians 3:1-2

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ---Colossians 3:1-2 (ESV)

Paul's epistle to the church at Colosse directs our attention to the head of the body who is Christ. In this epistle, the body itself is secondary. Christ is the theme—the center of the circle around which all Christian living revolves.

Paul's letters typically start with the doctrinal section, then move to the practical section. Colossians is no exception. Chapters 1 & 2 shows us the preeminence of Christ. He is preeminent in creation because He is the Creator. He is preeminent in redemption for he is the Redeemer. He is preeminent in the church because He is the One who gave Himself for her.

Chapter 3 begins the practical section of the letter where Paul insists that He must be made preeminent in our lives. How do we do that? We seek the things that are above.

Seek is an interesting word. It actually means "having an urgency and a desire and an ambition." There should be an excitement that goes with seeking spiritual things. This means directing our attention and efforts towards eternal matters rather than being consumed by worldly concerns. It involves seeking a deeper understanding of God's will, pursuing a relationship with Him, and aligning our lives with His purposes.

How do we develop this desire? By setting our minds on heavenly things—deliberately focusing our thoughts, affections, and priorities on what pleases God and is in accordance with His Word. That enables us to discern what is of true value in contrast to what the world values.

Prayer: Since Christ is preeminent in all things, help us realize He must be preeminent in our daily lives as well.

Saturday, January 11

Seeking to Know God Better

By Joey Alonso

Devotional Passage: Psalms 105:3-4

Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. ---Psalms 105:3-4

Do you want to know how to fix a leaky faucet?...Just google it. Want to learn the guitar riff of Sweet Home Alabama?...Just google it. Want to find out how nuclear fusion works?...Just google it. Recently, I needed to replace the tail light of my wife's vehicle and wanted to figure out how to remove the broken light. What did I do? Googled it! Within five minutes the repair was made and the wife was happy!

Seeking to know God better may not be as easy as "googling it." It isn't just about the search for more knowledge about who God is, or what he has done. Seeking God, first shows our utter dependence on God and the realization that we are nothing without him.

Psalms 105:3-4 tells us to "seek His face always." The Hebrew word for face more precisely means the "presence" or the "wholeness of being" of an individual. Knowing God better is the pursuit of being in God's presence.

I decided to google "how to be in the presence of God?" Google gave me a list: Pray, read and meditate on scripture, worship, practice kindness, connect with other believers, confess your sins, and contemplate God's creation. Maybe seeking to know God better is as easy as "Googling it."

Prayer: God, help me to know you better. Help me to glory in your Holy name. Help me to look to You for strength. God help me to always seek your presence. Amen

Sunday, January 12

Seeking God and Putting All of Our Faith in Him

By Rob Merritt

Devotional Passage: Hebrews 11:6

Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. ---Hebrews 11:6 (CSB)

Seeking God is more than a casual look when we have the time or interest. It means approaching God confidently in His character and will, revealed to us in His Word. However, to seek God, we must believe certain things.

First, we must believe God exists. Second, we must believe God rewards those who earnestly seek Him. Without faith, you cannot even approach or seek God. Seeking in this verse denotes intense action. We must seek what He is like and desire to be more like Him. We must seek what He requires of our life and give it to Him.

Seeking God means we are seeking His standards and not the world's. You can be the most morally upright person according to world standards, but without seeking God and placing your faith in Him, there is no reward from God.

Do you want to please God? Then, believe in Him, earnestly seek Him by drawing near, and be assured that all His promises are true – especially of His promise of eternal life with Him.

Prayer: Lord, I earnestly want to grow my relationship with you by seeking your will daily. I believe in you as my creator and Lord. Regardless of the cost, I will focus on pleasing you. I pray you would make me a vessel for your Gospel.

Continue the Journey...

Below are some suggested verses to read and reflect on as you continue seeking God in this first month of 2025.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> January 13: 1 Chronicles 28:9 | <input type="checkbox"/> January 24: Matthew 13:45-46 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> January 14: 2 Chronicles 7:14 | <input type="checkbox"/> January 25: Amos 5:4-6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> January 15: 2 Chronicles 15:2 | <input type="checkbox"/> January 26: 1 Chronicles 16:10-11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> January 16: Proverbs 8:17 | <input type="checkbox"/> January 27: Psalm 40:16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> January 17: Isaiah 55:6-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> January 28: Psalm 145: 18-20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> January 18: Hosea 10:12 | <input type="checkbox"/> January 29: Proverbs 28:5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> January 19: Zephaniah 2:3 | <input type="checkbox"/> January 30: Lamentations 3:21-25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> January 20: Psalm 63:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> January 31: Proverbs 3:5-6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> January 21: Matthew 7:7-8 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> January 22: Jeremiah 29:12-14 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> January 23: Psalm 27: 4-8 | |