

Seek ye
the LORD
while He
may be
found ...

**Seek ye the LORD while He may be found,
call ye upon Him while He is near: Let the
wicked forsake his way, and the
unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him
return unto the LORD, and He will have
mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will
abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55:6,7)**

The above verses are found in the Old Testament Prophecy of Isaiah, sometimes termed the 'Gospel of Isaiah' as it contains such a depth and wealth of Gospel truth, which is brought to its fullness and fruition in the life, death and resurrection of Christ as detailed in the New Testament writings. Written 700 years before Christ's incarnation, Isaiah foretells of His virgin conception and birth, His lowly upbringing, His works of mercy to the needful of the day, His sacrificial death and glorious resurrection from among the dead and exaltation to the throne of God. Truths that make acquaintance with God possible and will rejoice any honest heart.

Seek ye the LORD

This is a prerogative that we need to make our immediate objective as our eternal well-being is involved. Men seek out every means under the sun to satisfy their inner desires: others follow the teachings which they have been taught from a child, not thinking or daring to challenge them, not realising the delusion. All our notions and foolish thoughts must be set aside in this quest, in recognition that He who urges us to seek Him has first been seeking us, and has revealed Himself by the Bible and in His Son.

It is more important than even the absorption of time spent seeking the physical essentials of this life, necessary as these things are. The Lord Jesus taught ***“Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you”*** (Matthew 6:33). God is able to supply our needs as He sees fit when we have accepted Christ the righteous One, His salvation for us.

It is not a matter of undertaking a pilgrimage or engaging in some devoted activity. It will involve a growing understanding of His glorious Person, a forsaking of our wicked, ungodly ways and a turning back towards Him inwardly, with desire and intent.

While He may be found

However, the opportunity to find Him should never be taken for granted. He has said ***“I said not ... Seek ye Me in vain”*** (Isaiah 45:19) emphasising that He is to be found. But there is much to hinder us. Time is against us while friends, the devil and the family may deter us and life's pressures may distract us.

He cannot be found by a person who dies in their sins: their fate is sealed. It is obvious too that the world is ripening for judgement. The LORD in His sovereign dealings with an individual may judicially blind those who continually resist His prompting, thus removing their desire to seek. The Lord Jesus said to the critical Jews of His day and it is truly apt for us today: ***“Ye shall seek Me, and shall not find Me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come”*** (John 7:34).

Call ye upon Him

From that seeking there ultimately needs to come that heart cry unto the LORD as a child calls to their mother expressing their need and dependence, an acknowledgement of our own helplessness in our sins and for His mercy and abundant pardon.

It is not what we can do for ourselves but what He can do for us because of the sacrifice of Himself in the Person of His Son on the cross of Calvary 2000 years ago, that such a pardon can be offered us. There is no difference for any who call for, ***“the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”*** (Romans 10:12,13).

Saved from eternal death and judgment, the consequence of our sin. But there has to be first our willingness to turn from those sins that God must and will judge. What profit, what gain is there in those abuses of the body that men and women so liberally entertain, which really are a bondage? What rich provision God has for those that seek and turn and call in faith from the heart. The gifts of life, of imputed righteousness, of abundant spiritual blessings, and of His Spirit to comfort, sustain and to instruct in those treasures of wisdom and knowledge that are found in Christ alone, and not in the ways and sophism's of this world.

While He is near

It is not that the LORD is too far away to hear our call: He will hear the silent cry from the heart when expressed in earnestness and reality. But there are times when the Lord draws near in seeking us that the opportunity for us to call unto Him becomes most pronounced. He may speak by the trials of life to bring us to an end of ourselves, by the death of a near one or friend, or through the preaching of His Word to awaken us from spiritual slumber.

We are God's by creation, but like wandering sheep have each gone astray in sin and are in imminent peril. We need to return unto Him, to hear His call and respond before the opportunity passes away: ***“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”*** (2Corinthians 6:2).