

Wise Men Still Seek Him

Introduction. Ludwig van Beethoven may have poisoned himself. That's what William Walsh, a scientist from Illinois, suggested after studying strands of hair from the body of famous classical composer. Walsh discovered that Beethoven's body had 100 times the normal amount of lead. He concluded that Beethoven's untimely death at the age of 57 was due to lead poisoning.

Beethoven's lead poisoning may have been due to the mineral spa he went to for relaxation. What he thought was bringing him relief was slowly poisoning him.

Spiritual poison is like that. As people engage in practices and embrace ideas that are spiritually poisonous, they think they're becoming more spiritual. But in reality, they're gradually being poisoned to eternal death.

In Matthew 12:1-12, the wise men came to Judea to see the child Jesus. They knew that the king of the Jews had been born. When they saw the star, "they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." When they came into His presence, they fell down and worshiped, and offered valuable presents to Him.

Seeking the Lord means seeking the presence of the Lord. "Presence" is a common translation of the Hebrew word "face" (cp. Psalm 105:4). I need to know why and how to seek God because this is the antidote to spiritual poison spoken of earlier. If I can get in this habit now, I can have a better life now and inherit eternal life later.

I. Why Do I Seek God?

- A. God wants me to draw near to Him.
 - 1. I am commanded to draw near to God (James 4:8) and I am exhorted to draw near to God (Hebrews 10:22).
 - 2. My drawing near does not occur without a simultaneous action of seeking Him. "Seek" means to try to find or discover by searching or questioning. I look for my keys, wallet, and pen — but I seek God. The wise men intentionally sought for the child, and I must intentionally seek God.
- B. I get benefits from seeking God.
 - 1. Comfort (Isaiah 49:13; 2 Corinthians 1:4-5).
 - 2. Assurance (Isaiah 32:17; 2 Timothy 1:12).
 - 3. Strength (Psalm 27:5-6; Nahum 1:7).
 - 4. Hope (2 Thessalonians 2:16; Titus 2:13).

II. How Do I Seek God?

- A. I humble myself.
 - 1. The wicked will not seek Him because of their pride (Psalm 10:4).
 - 2. If you humble yourself and seek Him, He will be found (1 Chronicles 28:9).
 - 3. God rewards those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).
- B. I quiet my mind.
 - 1. Remove your distractions and slow down your fast-paced world. All of the activity may seem noble, justified, and beneficial (i.e. career, children, hobbies, etc.), but it is incredibly dulling to our spiritual sensibilities.

2. In the quiet solitude, I need to turn to prayer and cast my burdens on my loving Father (Psalm 55:22; 1 Peter 5:7).
- C. I think about God.
1. Wondrous acts — creation (Psalm 104:24).
 2. Wondrous works — Red Sea (Psalm 106:6-12).
 3. Wondrous nature — merciful and gracious (Nehemiah 9:17).
 4. Because of all this, I can put my confidence in Him (Hebrews 6:18).
- D. I meditate on the word.
1. The psalmist appreciated the word for its meditative qualities (Psalm 119:97).
 - a) Other versions translate “meditation” as “reverently ponder” or “in my thoughts.”
 - (1) Meditation is the repetitious going over of a matter in one’s mind because it is the chief concern of life.
 - (2) The constant recollection of God’s past deeds by the hearing of scripture and repetition of thought produce confidence in God (Psalm 63:6-8; 104:34; 119:15, 23, 48, 78, 99, 148; 143:5).
 - b) Even though meditation is only mentioned twice in the New Testament (Luke 21:14; 1 Timothy 4:15), it is still vital to my seeking God.
 2. The king was given instructions about the word so that he might fear the Lord God (Deuteronomy 17:18-19).
- E. I embrace truth.
1. This is more than just meditating on the word; it’s making sure that what I do follows the Bible (Colossians 3:17).
 2. As I consider the precepts of God to be right, the appropriate response is to hate every false way (Psalm 119:104, 128).
- F. I control myself.
1. I gain control of myself and get rid of sin (Colossians 3:5-11).
 2. Sin serves as a barrier to coming close to God (1 Peter 1:13-16).
 3. The removal of sin allows me to then be a servant of righteousness (Romans 6:18; cp. 1 Chronicles 22:19).

Conclusion. Men, because they are made in the image of God, instinctively seek God (Acts 17:27). Seeking God is an intentional habit, but one that will pay off tremendously. Parents, teach your children to seek God (Colossians 3:1-2), not fame, success, or money. Daniel was an exceptional instance of someone who put God first and then benefitted from it (Daniel 1:8, 19-21).

Isaiah 55:6 says, “Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near.” Your time in seeking is not unlimited, so while we sing a song for your encouragement, come up to the front and tell us if you’d like to seek the Lord today in a particular way.