



## Ask, Seek, Find

Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye  
search for me with all your heart.  
(Jeremiah 29:13)

### The Indwelling Christ Part 1

Fallen man, a most rebellious creature, will never search for God on his own.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, in the grace and mercy of a loving Creator, He has arranged that *every soul must search for God with the whole heart.*<sup>2</sup> Why? *Why cannot an omniscient and omnipresent God simply say to the soul, Behold, I Am!*<sup>3</sup> Because searching implies *desire*; Desire implies *need*; Need implies *emptiness*; Emptiness implies *heartache*; Heartache implies *loneliness*; Loneliness implies *desire*. And thus the soul has come full circle. Desire, emptiness, heartache, and loneliness are all evidence of the soul's *yearning* for an absent God—and the innate *desire* to have Him return. The measure and urgency of a soul's search represents the degree of the soul's desire. Man *must* have God as his dwelling place; for this alone is the reason for his existence.<sup>4</sup> Therefore God *sends* the soul searching; and it is up to man to *respond*.<sup>5</sup>

### The Whole Heart

This *whole-heart-seeking* is also how God determines which Christians will receive the *Inheritance*. For while all true Christians represent the *Church*, yet not all Christians are the *Bride*—and not all the *Bride* are the *Firstborn*.<sup>6</sup> Inheritance, though indeed available to all, is not given to all. The common Christian<sup>7</sup> obtains *entrance* into the Kingdom. The *Bride*, who has proved herself more worthy and faithful, is given *bridal vestments* and *adornments*.<sup>8</sup> But the *Firstborn*, who are the *Overcomers*, always receive a *double portion* above the rest.<sup>9</sup> For as in conversion, the measure and urgency of a soul's search for the *Indwelling Christ* represents the degree of the Christian's desire for Him.

### Asking Amiss

But some are simply not able to receive the Promise. They are not broken enough or humble enough. Or else they have ulterior motives.<sup>10</sup> Some seek power for ministry. Others desire prosperity, or else health for the body. They seek God for *themselves*—not God *Himself*.<sup>11</sup> And some are just too intelligent to receive.<sup>12</sup> They search and study the Scriptures as an end in itself; never realizing that the written Word *is not* the end—but rather a *means* to an end. They cannot see that they worship the *letter* of the Word rather than the One who wrote the letter.<sup>13</sup> These all ask but receive not—because they ask for the wrong reasons, with wrong motives,<sup>14</sup> so that they may satisfy their own selfish, prideful, and intellectual ends. Therefore God will not give Himself in greater measure to that soul—

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not because He cannot *give*—but because that soul cannot *receive*. Jesus said, *It is God's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom*. Therefore the Christian is assured that God desires to give the promised *Spirit of Christ*.

### I Will Come Again

When Jesus was preparing His disciples for His departure, He said, *I will come again*. The Modern Church teaches that He spoke of the *Rapture*, or else the *Second Coming*. Both statements are true. However, there is yet another coming of our Lord that is seldom taught in the Great Assemblies. He said He would return—to  *dwell in them forever!* Though His disciples were converted to faith in Him as their Messiah, and though they indeed had the Holy Spirit *with them*, yet the Holy Spirit of Christ was not yet *in them*.<sup>15</sup> This was an added *Gift*—above and beyond salvation—but necessary for the *completion* of their salvation. Therefore He said *I will come again*. He kept that Promise on the morning of His resurrection, when He *breathed* the *firstfruits* of His Spirit *into* the eleven Apostles;<sup>16</sup> then on the Day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out upon the 120 *already saved* Christians waiting in the Upper Room;<sup>17</sup> and yet again when the Ephesian converts were given the Holy Spirit—AFTER they had *already believed* in Jesus Christ.<sup>18</sup> And He continues to keep this Promise to the faithful Christian today. He has never stopped.

And while most modern sermons place great emphasis on the soul “receiving” Christ, yet Jesus said that HE is the One who will receive the faithful and believing soul! This is often omitted in the Gospel presentation. The *Promise* that the Father offers—is that the Lord Jesus Christ will receive you INTO HIMSELF.<sup>19</sup> But that’s not all: for He will also JOIN YOU to the LOVE of the Father!<sup>20</sup> This is not justification, when the soul is *declared* righteous at conversion. That’s righteousness *imputed*.<sup>21</sup> The *Promise* is God’s righteousness *imparted* to the soul, when the Lord grants you partake of His own divine nature!<sup>22</sup>

### I Will Sup with Him—And He with Me

The *Promise* includes eating and drinking, symbolized in the *Lord's Supper*.<sup>23</sup> It begins outwardly, then moves inward. When a true Christian first meets and enjoys Jesus Christ, it begins outwardly. Then, through the *Gift* of the Indwelling Christ, it moves inward. For the very Life and Light of the Lord Jesus Christ is now flowing and moving throughout the spiritual veins of the faithful Christian. THIS IS THE TRUE LORD'S SUPPER! As we drink we *take in* this *New-Life-Wine*! But this is not a one-time event. For as the body requires meat and drink daily in order to survive, so, too, the soul must partake of the Spirit of Christ daily—in order to thrive and mature.<sup>24</sup>

### The Wilderness Journey

If you are satisfied that at your conversion you received ALL the Holy Spirit you will ever need, if you are comfortable in your relationship with God, and secure in your belief that you are one of His *Elect* and *Chosen Ones*—then this message may not apply to you. Rest content in your belief that that you already have everything *you* desire—and that *you* need nothing more. But if you feel lost in a barren *wilderness*, loving God with all your heart, obedient according to the light you have received—and yet find yourself searching for what you know not<sup>25</sup>—then be assured that your hunger, thirst, and faith, will lead you to drink of the True *Fountain of Living Waters*!<sup>26</sup>

FAITH and OBEDIENCE receives the *Promise*.<sup>27</sup> And unless you are brought to the point where you simply cannot live without MORE OF GOD, you will not have the faith to obtain the Promise. Therefore, do not delay your search; for the *Promise of the Father* awaits—which is that *alone* that can quench your thirst, and satisfy your heart's desire.<sup>28</sup>

To be continued...

## NOTES & SCRIPTURES

### Scriptures are from the King James Bible

- 1 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. (Rom 3:10-11)
- 2 And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. (Jer 29:13)  
Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: (Mat 7:7)
- 3 God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM. (Exo 3:14)
- 4 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. (Gen 1:26)  
And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God. (Rev 21:3)
- 5 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else. (Isa 45:22)
- 6 The Church, the Body, the Bride, and the Firstborn will be the subjects of a future study.
- 7 Those who do not overcome. See the study on The Great Delusion.
- 8 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. (Rev 19:7-8)  
And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Rev 21:2)  
As I live, saith the LORD, thou shalt surely clothe thee with them all, as with an ornament, and bind them *on thee*, as a bride *doeth*. (Isa 49:18)
- 9 But he shall acknowledge...the firstborn, by giving him a double portion of all that he hath: for he *is* the beginning [firstfruits] of his strength; the right of the firstborn *is* his. (Deu 21:17)
- 10 The soul of the wicked desireth evil: his neighbour findeth no favour in his eyes. (Pro 21:10)

- 11 Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. (Psa 119:36)
- 12 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. (1Co 3:18)
- 13 But he *is* a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the spirit, *and* not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God. (Rom 2:29)  
But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not *in* the oldness of the letter. (Rom 7:6)  
Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. (2Co 3:6)
- 14 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts. (Jas 4:3)
- 15 *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. (Joh 14:17)
- 16 And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: (Joh 20:22)  
The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring unto the house of the LORD thy God. (Exo 34:26)  
And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body. (Rom 8:23)  
Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. (Jas 1:18)
- 17 Acts Chapter 2.
- 18 Paul...came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost...And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. (Act 19:1-6)

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A certain Jew named Apollos...an eloquent man, *and* mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, **knowing only the baptism of John**...whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto *them*, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly...[after which] he mightily convinced the Jews...shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ. (Act 18:24-28)

**19** I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also. (Joh 14:3)

**20** If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. (Joh 14:23)

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. (Joh 17:21)

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.(Joh 15:10)

**21** Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. (Jas 2:23)

**22** Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (2Pe 1:4)

**23** And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake *it*, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup *is* the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you. (Luk 22:19-20)

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. (1Co 11:26)

Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. (Joh 6:53)

Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. (Joh 6:54)

For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. (Joh 6:55)

He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. (Joh 6:56)

As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. (Joh 6:57)

This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live forever. (Joh 6:58)

**24** Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. (Rev 3:20)

**25** But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. (Joh 4:32)

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. (Mat 24:42)

Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: (Mar 13:35)

**26** In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. (Joh 7:37)

He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified. (Joh 7:38-39)

**27** And we are his witnesses of these things; and so *is* also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. (Act 5:32)

**28** Quench not the Spirit. (1Th 5:19)