

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

Pursue God
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NOW is the time to pursue God like never before. To pursue means to go after, to chase after in order to catch, to follow, to proceed along a path; metaphorically; to seek after eagerly, earnestly endeavor to acquire. Our Father God has opened a door for us to come into deeper intimacy – to know Him in new ways and on a new level. This is a time to follow after God like never before – a time to fan the flames of love in our heart for God alone and passion to know Him in the deepest possible sense.



1 Corinthians 14.1 starts out, "Pursue love..." (In context that verse goes on to talk about spiritual gifts.) God is love. His very essence is love. Everything He does is rooted in love; a love that supersedes love on a flesh level – this is a supernatural love that the mind cannot comprehend. It is a deep love that gives beyond what man can give. As we experience the pure love of God, part of the fruit of that love in our hearts is a desire to press to know and pursue after the possessor of such a great love – to have a deep hunger and pressing inside of your heart to see Him face to face. To have a pressing that leads to greater intimacy and deeper worship.

Knowing God and pursuing after Him to know Him more forms and defines who we are. It impacts our vision and how we think, our desires and priorities. As we pursue God He reveals Himself to us and we are filled with revelation knowledge of the Almighty. In the Bible the life of David is a life of pursuing God in deep intimacy. Knowing the Lord in intimacy defined what kind of leader David would be and how he lived his life. The writings in the Book of Psalm detail this incredible life-long pursuit of God, the language of pursuit, the longing of the pursuit, the sweetness and passion of the pursuit, the fruit of pursuing God and the revelation of God. David was a man after God's own heart – this is the greatest definition of pursuing God.

Below is a compilation of God encounters that David shares in the Book of Psalms:

You are a shield around me; O Lord; You bestow glory on me and lift up my head...To the Lord I cry aloud, and He answers me...I lie down and sleep, I wake up again, because the Lord sustains me...I will not fear...For surly, O Lord, You bless the righteous; you surround them with Your favor as with a shield...I will praise You, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of Your wonders...I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing to Your name, O Most High...Sing praises to the Lord enthroned in Zion; proclaim among the nations what He has done...For the Lord is righteous, He loves justice; upright men will see His face...You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand...I love You, O Lord, my strength...The Lord is my Rock, my fortress and my deliverer...He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold...The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want...I will fear no evil, for You are with me...You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows...Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life...The Lord confides in those who fear Him; He makes His covenant known to them...My eyes are ever on the Lord...One thing I ask of the Lord,

this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him...My heart says of You, 'Seek His face!'...Your face, Lord I will seek...Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness...The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic...Taste and see that the Lord is good...Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways...My soul thirsts for the living God...When can I go meet with God?

Deep calls to deep in the roar of Your waterfalls; all Your waves and breakers have swept over me...Be still and know that I am God...I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever...I will meditate on all Your works and consider all Your mighty deeds...Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God? My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God...Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they are ever praising You...They go from strength to strength...For You are great and do marvelous deeds; You alone are God...The mountains melt like wax before the Lord, before the Lord of all the earth...The heavens proclaim His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory...Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song...But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear Him, and His righteousness with their children's children...With God we will gain the victory...Your word, O Lord is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens...Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path...Direct my footsteps according to Your word...the Lord is good and His mercies endure forever...Let everything that has breath praise the Lord...Praise the Lord...The Lord reigns let the nations tremble; He sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake...Exalt the Lord our God and worship at His footstool; He is holy.



A heart that pursues God will be conformed to His likeness. What does this have to do with the city? To serve Detroit and our community we must pursue God with all of our heart and not lean on our own understanding. He will give us vision and strategies to execute His purposes for Detroit. We will speak what we hear Him speak; we will love like we see Him love. We will see through His eyes. And we will KNOW that nothing is impossible for God. A good work has already begun in Detroit and is well underway, but this work must be finished. To finish the work strong we must be continual pursuers of God. David never lost his focus; his focus was always on pursuing the Lord. The fruit of pursuing God was David was a righteous leader for Israel.

Hebrews 11.1, 12.1-2 NKJV

¹ Now **faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

¹ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us **lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,** ² **looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,** who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Ephesians 4.22-24 NLT

²² **throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life,** which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³ **Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.** ²⁴ **Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.**

1 Timothy 6.11b NIV

...pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

Proverbs 8.1-3

**¹ Does not wisdom call,
And understanding lift up her voice?**

² On top of the heights beside the way,
Where the paths meet, she takes her stand;

**³ Beside the gates, at the opening to the city,
At the entrance of the doors, she cries out:**

- Wisdom comes from knowing God.
- Knowing God comes in the pursuit to know Him.

Proverbs 2.2-5

**² Make your ear attentive to wisdom,
Incline your heart to understanding;**

³ For if you cry for discernment,
Lift your voice for understanding;

**⁴ If you seek her as silver
And search for her as for hidden treasures;**

**⁵ Then you will discern the fear of the LORD
And discover the knowledge of God.**

- God is revealing mysteries and the treasure that is found in knowing Him in a deep and profound way.
- The God encounters that come during the course of pursuing Him bring definition, focus and meaning into our lives.



"FIREHOUSE"

- F** Fullness released
- I** Intimacy delightful
- R** Right now realities
- E** Expectations increase
- H** Holiness revealed
- O** Outpour of God's roar
- U** Unusual happenings
- S** Salvation spreading like a wildfire
- E** Elevation of revelation

Christina Wilson

