

Are You DILIGENTLY Seeking God? - Heb 11:6

Intro:

- A. **Hebrews 11:6** (NKJV) - 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
1. The work “seek is found some 246 times in the KJV, and seeking some 14 times!
 - a. Several Hebrew works are used in the O.T. - denoting to:
 - (1) To Follow
 - (2) To search
 - (3) To inspect
 - (4) To Meander - without no real purpose
 - b. The primary word used in search of God are “dawrash- to search and pursuit; as in **Isaiah 55:6** (NKJV)6 Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.
 - (1) and “bawkash” - is generally the primary word used for mans activities - “basic desire - as a search for water in **Isaiah 41:17** (NKJV) - 17 “The poor and needy seek water, but there is none, Their tongues fail for thirst. I, the Lord, will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.
 - c. In the Greek N.T. there are 4 words translated - with the same notations as the Hebrew words - the word found in **Hebrews 11:6** is the word linked with seeking after God - 934. ἐπιζητέω *ēizēēō*, ep-eeed-zay-teh'-o; from 1909 and 2212; to search (inquire) for; to demand, to crave:— desire, enquire, seek (after, for).
 - (1) So the word of God requires us to “CRAVE” after God.
 - (2) Just like **Hebrews 11:6; Jer 29:12-13** gives those who seek God a promise: (NKJV) - 12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.
- B. In a careful study of God’s Word we can note that there are different types of seekers mentioned in the Bible - some negative and some very positive.
1. Diligently seeking God is definitely a POSITIVE, POSITIVE.
- C. **Psalm 63:1-3** (NKJV) - 1 A Psalm of David When He Was in the Wilderness of Judah. O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. 2 So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. 3 Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.
1. **Acts 17:26-27** (NKJV) - 26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;
 2. **Isa 55:6 ; Matt 7:7-8**
 - a. **Isaiah 55:6** (NKJV) - 6 Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.
 - b. **Matthew 7:7-8** (NKJV) - 7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.
- D. We will look at Negative and Positive attributes of what does and does not prove that one is seeking God.
1. It may surprise you that the very things that we are going to mention negatively are also actually those things which are the positives..... how can that be? MOTIVE and ATTITUDE!

II. What Does Not Prove That One Is Seeking God.

- A. Negative attributes of seeking God:
1. **Religious Zeal** (**Rom 9:30-10:3**)

- a. **Romans 9:30-10:3** (NKJV) - 30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; 31 but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. 32 Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. 33 As it is written: “Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” 1 Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.
2. **Bible Study (Mat 23:23; Lk 10:30-32).**
 - a. **Matthew 23:23** (NKJV) - 23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.
 - b. **Luke 10:30-32** (NKJV) - 30 Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side.
3. **Attending Worship Services Consistently (I Jn 2:19; 3 Jn 9-10).**
 - a. **1 John 2:19** (NKJV) - 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.
 - b. **3 John 9-2:10** (NKJV) - 9 I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. 10 Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church. 11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God. 12 Demetrius has a good testimony from all, and from the truth itself. And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true. 13 I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink; 14 but I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face. Peace to you. Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.
4. **Teaching Sound Doctrine (Mat 23:1-3; Rev 2:1-5; Phili 1:15-18).**
 - a. **Matthew 23:1-3** (NKJV) - 1 Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, 2 saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. 3 Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.
 - b. **Revelation 2:1-5** (NKJV) - 1 “To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: 2 “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. 4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.
 - c. **Philippians 1:15-18** (NKJV) - 15 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: 16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; 17 but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in

- pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.
5. **Evangelism (Mat 23:15; Rom 2:21)**
 - a. **Matthew 23:15** (NKJV) - 15 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.
 - b. **Romans 2:21** (NKJV) - 21 You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal?
 6. **Benevolence (I Cor 13:1-3)**
 - a. **1 Corinthians 13:1-3** (NKJV) - 1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.
 7. **Love For Brethren – (Mat 5:46)**
 - a. **Matthew 5:46** (NKJV) ---- 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?.
- B. All of these are practiced by those in the world - but it does not prove that one is “seeking God”.

III. How Can We Know We Are Seeking God?

- A. **I Am Seeking To Know More & More About God - So I Study The Bible!! Psa. 119:97-104; Mat. 5:6; Acts 17:11,12; 2 Tim 2:15**
 1. **Psalms 119:97-104** (NKJV) - 97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. 98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. 100 I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts. 101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word. 102 I have not departed from Your judgments, For You Yourself have taught me. 103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth! 104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.
 2. **Matthew 5:6** (NKJV) - 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.
 3. **Acts 17:11** (NKJV) - 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.
 - a. **Acts 17:12** (NKJV) - 12 Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.
 4. **2 Timothy 2:15** (NKJV) - 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
- B. **I Am Seeking To Worship God - So I Attend Every Service I Can! Psa. 84:1,2,10; 122:1; John 4:24**
 1. **Psalms 84:1** (NKJV) - 1 To the Chief Musician. On An Instrument of Gath. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. How lovely is Your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts!
 - a. **Psalms 84:2** (NKJV) - 2 My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the Lord; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.
 2. **Psalms 84:10** (NKJV) - 10 For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
 3. **Psalms 122:1** (NKJV) - 1 A Song of Ascents. Of David. I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go into the house of the Lord.”

4. **John 4:24** (NKJV) - 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
- C. **I Am Seeking To Serve God - So I Am Zealous In Battling Sin & Doing The Good Works He Has Taught Me To Do!!!!** **Num. 25:13; Titus 2:14; Heb 10:24; Col. 3:17**
 1. **Numbers 25:13** (NKJV) - 13 and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.’ ”
 2. **Titus 2:14** (NKJV) - 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.
 3. **Hebrews 10:24** (NKJV) - 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,
 4. **Colossians 3:17** (NKJV) - 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
- D. **I Am Seeking To Honor God – So I Stress The Need For Sound Doctrine & Obeying God - Wanting To Do All His Will As He Instructs!** – **Ps 119:112; Mal. 1:5-14; Rom. 6:16,17; John 14:15,21,23; 1 Pet. 1:22; 1 John 2:3**
 1. **Psalm 119:112** (NKJV) - 112 I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes Forever, to the very end.
 2. **Malachi 1:5-14** (NKJV) - 5 Your eyes shall see, And you shall say, ‘The Lord is magnified beyond the border of Israel.’ 6 “A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence? Says the Lord of hosts To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, ‘In what way have we despised Your name?’ 7 “You offer defiled food on My altar, But say, ‘In what way have we defiled You?’ By saying, ‘The table of the Lord is contemptible.’ 8 And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?” Says the Lord of hosts. 9 “But now entreat God’s favor, That He may be gracious to us. While this is being done by your hands, Will He accept you favorably?” Says the Lord of hosts. 10 “Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, So that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you,” Says the Lord of hosts, “Nor will I accept an offering from your hands. 11 For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations,” Says the Lord of hosts. 12 “But you profane it, In that you say, ‘The table of the Lord is defiled; And its fruit, its food, is contemptible.’ 13 You also say, ‘Oh, what a weariness!’ And you sneer at it,” Says the Lord of hosts. “And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?” Says the Lord. 14 “But cursed be the deceiver Who has in his flock a male, And takes a vow, But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished— For I am a great King,” Says the Lord of hosts, “And My name is to be feared among the nations.
 3. **Romans 6:16** (NKJV) - 16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?
 - a. **Romans 6:17** (NKJV) - 17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.
 4. **John 14:15** (NKJV) - 15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.
 5. **John 14:21** (NKJV) - 21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”
 6. **John 14:23** (NKJV) - 23 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My

- word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.
7. **1 Peter 1:22** (NKJV) - 22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,
 8. **1 John 2:3** (NKJV) - 3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.
 - a. **Contrast - Teaching Sound Doctrine (Mat 23:1-3; Rev 2:1-5; Phili 1:15-18).**
 - (1) **Matthew 23:1-3** (NKJV) - 1 Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, 2 saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. 3 Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.
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 - E. **I Am Seeking To Share My Knowledge of God With Others!! – Ps. 51:13; Acts 8:4; 1 Thes 1:7-10**
 1. **Psalm 51:13** (NKJV) - 13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.
 2. **Acts 8:4** (NKJV) - 4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.
 3. **1 Thessalonians 1:7-10** (NKJV) - 7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. 8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. 9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.
 - a. **Contrast - Evangelism (Mat 23:15; Rom 2:21)**
 - (1) **Matthew 23:15** (NKJV) - 15 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.
 - (2) **Romans 2:21** (NKJV) - 21 You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal?
 - F. **I Am Seeking To Use What God Has Blessed Me With For Him!! –**
 1. **Things - Acts 2:45; 4:32-37**
 - a. **Acts 2:45** (NKJV) - 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.
 - b. **Acts 4:32-37** (NKJV) - 32 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. 33 And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. 34 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, 35 and laid them at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each as

anyone had need. 36 And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, 37 having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

2. **Abilities - 1 Peter 4:10**

a. **1 Peter 4:10** (NKJV) - 10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

b. **Contrast - Benevolence (1 Cor 13:1-3)**

(1) **1 Corinthians 13:1-3** (NKJV) - 1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

G. **I Love Others Because I Love God & Obey Him!! - John 13:35; 1 Jon 3:23; 4:7,8,21; Gal. 5:22; 1 Pet. 1:22; 2 Pet 1:7**

1. **John 13:35** (NKJV) - 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

2. **John 4:7** (NKJV) - 7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.”

a. **John 4:8** (NKJV) - 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

3. **John 4:21** (NKJV) - 21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.

4. **Galatians 5:22** (NKJV) - 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

5. **1 Peter 1:22** (NKJV) - 22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

6. **2 Peter 1:7** (NKJV) - 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

a. **Contrast - Love For Brethren - (Mat 5:46)**

(1) **Matthew 5:46** (NKJV) ---- 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

IV. **In Conclusion:**

A. **Romans 10:6-8** (NKJV) - 6 But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down from above) 7 or, “ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

B. Are you seeking God? The difference is in the Motive!

1. Studying The Bible?

2. Attending Services Consistently?

3. Zealous?

4. Teaching & following Sound Doctrine?

5. Teaching Others?

6. Benevolent?

7. Loving The Brethren?

C. If So – Keep On Seeking To Serve Him With All Your Heart!! **1 Cor. 15:58** (NKJV) - 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1. If Not – Seek Him While He Can Still Be Found!! - **Isaiah 55:6; 2 Cor. 6:1,2**

- a. **Isaiah 55:6** (NKJV) - 6 Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.
- b. **2 Corinthians 6:1** (NKJV) - 1 We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.
 - (1) **2 Corinthians 6:2** (NKJV) - 2 For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

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D. Today is the day of Salvation!

¹ *The New King James Version*. Nashville : Thomas Nelson, 1982