



Ultimate Hide and Seek

My pastor is in the midst of a sermon series that he has entitled, "Seeking Jesus." Well, the other day, I opened my Bible app and the following was the verse of the day:

And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

I don't do it everyday, but at times I will take a few minutes to read the given verse in context by reading a little before and after it and then meditating on the full message. Well, that was exactly what I did on this day, and it triggered a deeper dive into this idea of "seeking and finding," especially as it relates to seeking the Lord.

Here is the interesting part, as soon as I started considering this passage, I remembered that seeking and finding was a theme throughout the scriptures. With that in mind that is where the title came to mind. However, as we will soon discover, there is very little hiding involved when it comes to the Lord hiding from us. In fact, repeatedly He declares that "If you seek me you will find me."

Let's look back at that Jeremiah 29 -

[12] Then you will call upon Me and come 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. [14] I will let Myself be found by you,' declares the Lord,' **Jeremiah 29:12-14**

Now let's break that a part a little and look at some of it bit by bit -

- Call upon Me
- Come and pray to me
- I will listen
- Seek Me
- Find Me
- Search with all your heart
- I will let Myself be found by you.

For our actions He has a response.

- When we come and pray and call upon He hears,
- When we seek Him He lets Himself be found.

The thing is, this isn't the only place that He has made such promises -

*"I love those who love me; And those who diligently seek me will find me. **Proverbs 8:17***

*"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. **Matthew 7:7-8***

I want to take a moment to look at specific wording in Jeremiah 29:13 and Proverbs 8:17.

Jeremiah says,

"And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."

While Proverbs states,

"... those who diligently seek me will find me."

“Search for me with all your heart” and “diligently seek me” are two simple yet very powerful phrases. What does it mean to “diligently” seek Him?

The original language in Proverbs 8:17 is שָׁחַר or shachar which in its most basic translation is “seek, diligently, diligently seek.” However, if we look just a little deeper there is so much more to it than that. It is actually a primitive root; properly meaning “to dawn.” Figuratively, it can mean “to be up early at a task” or in other words to do or search for something earnestly or painstakingly. To use an old idiom - “The early bird gets the worm.”

So what does this mean, for us? Let me answer that question and summarize this whole idea with one other quote -

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' **Mark 12:30**

In short, **He does NOT hide!** As we have seen in these verses, **IF we seek we WILL find.**

To this my heart has only response -

When You said, “Seek My face,” my heart said to You, “I shall seek Your face, Lord.” **Psalm 27:8**

Will you come seek Him with me?