

Diligently Seeking God (Hebrews 11:6)

PRAIRIE VILLAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Scripture of the Week



Hebrews 11:1, 6

Verse 1 — “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” NASB

Verse 6 — “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” KJV

Genesis 1:1 reads, “*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth*”. From the very first verse of the Bible, we see that the existence of God is a given. God makes no attempts to prove that He exists. It is just a statement of fact. There is ample evidence in the Bible and in the world we live in, that there is a caring, loving, living God, but no absolute proof. The reason He reveals himself to us through His living word and in the wonders of creation and not directly, is because He wants us to believe without seeing. The only way to please God and be accepted by Him is to have faith that He exists. 2 Corinthians 5:7 states “*we walk by faith and not by sight*.” Faith is conviction in the

eternal things that cannot be discerned by the human eye (2 Corinthians 4:18). Faith is an assurance embedded deep within our immortal spirit, that God exists, and that He has an eternity of goodness in store for us when we escape the pollutions of this earthly, material, temporary realm of existence. But Hebrews 11:6 tells us clearly that belief in God is not enough to guarantee ourselves the eternal gifts He has to offer. In order to please God we must believe that He is, and that He rewards us if we diligently seek Him. If we want heaven to be our eternal home, we must dedicate our lives to an earnest investigation of God’s will and to a determination to obey it at any cost.

Diligently Seeking God

The word rendered “diligently seek” in the King James Version of Hebrews 11:6, is a form of the Greek word “*ekzeteo*”. That is a compound of two separate words: “*ek*” meaning “out”, and “*zeteo*” meaning “seek”. It literally means “to search out, to investigate, to crave”. Have you ever wanted something so badly you exhausted yourself in the pursuit of it? That is the way we should approach our quest for our Creator and the eternal reward He offers. God is far too glorious and heaven is far too magnificent to attempt to draw near unto them in a casual, nonchalant way. Our pursuit of God and His eternal glory, should be marked by zeal and vigor and a

sense of wonder and awe. But exactly how do we successfully carry out this diligent pursuit? Consider the following ways we must pursue God...

Through His word — 2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us the Bible is inspired by God and He designed it to equip us with everything we need to make us pleasing to Him. We must diligently pursue the knowledge God provides us in the Bible (1 Timothy 2:4). And we must be careful to do exactly what He tells us to do in the Bible (James 1:22-25).

Through prayer — Colossians 2:4 tells us we must be devoted to prayer. The word “devoted” means “to be earnest towards, to persevere, to be constantly diligent”. We express to God

how much we love and need Him when we seek Him often in prayer.

Through worship — John 4:24 tells us we must worship God in spirit and in truth. We come into God’s presence in a unique and intimate way when we assemble with Christians to worship. But we must be careful to worship Him in the exact ways He wants us to worship Him (Matthew 15:9).

By trying to be like Him — 1 Peter 1:16 tells us to live holy lives because God is holy. If we allow sin to rule our lives, it will keep us separated from God and not near to Him. To be holy is to be righteous in thought, behavior and speech. If we draw near to God He will draw near to us (James 4:8).

Please Come Visit Us At...

Prairie Village Church of Christ
4616 Valley Station Rd., Louisville, KY 40272
Preacher – Louie Taylor
Phone Number – 502.807.3211
www.pvchurchofchrist.com

Times of Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study.....9:30
Sunday Morning Worship Service.....10:30
Sunday Evening Worship Service.....6:30
Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:30



Near at Hand and Far Away

In Jeremiah 23:23-24, God asked His rebellious people, “*Am I a God who is near, declares the LORD, and not a God far off? Can a man hide himself in hiding places so I do not see him?*” declares the LORD. “*Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?*” declares the LORD.” Jeremiah preached to Judah up to the time that Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. During those final years, many false prophets spun their webs of lies as if God couldn’t hear what they were saying or see what they were doing. The vast majority of people alive in the world today behave much the same way—as if God is just too far away to hear, see or care what they do. Is God high above and far away, or is He near ground level and close at hand? The answer to both of

those questions is “Yes”. God is both near and far, immanent and transcendent. We need to understand the nature of the God we seek and the ways He interacts with His creation if we’re going to be successful in our diligent pursuit of Him. Let’s consider some of the ways that God is far and yet near.

How God is far away...

He sits on heaven’s throne. As the eternal Spirit who created the entire universe, God is greater than all of His creation (Gen. 1:1).

He is all-knowing and all-seeing. His thoughts, ways and abilities are far superior to our thoughts, ways and abilities (Isaiah 55:8-9).

He is all-powerful. He has all the power, He is superior to us in every way and He makes all the rules to be obeyed (Gen. 17:1; Matt. 19:26).

He distances himself from sin. Sin separates us from God’s grace (Psalm 34:15-16). God is far from us when we allow sin to rule our lives

How God is near at hand...

He provides all of our needs. He gives us food, sun and rain and all the wonders of creation to behold and enjoy (Psalm 65:9-13).

His hand is in world events. He used pagan kings to punish Israel when sinful, and restore them when repentant (Isa. 10:5-6; Ezra 1:1-2).

He is nearby in His word. God tells us everything we need to know about Him, and how to draw very close to Him, in the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

He is near in Jesus. God came to earth in the form of a man, to live & die for & save us, so we can be near Him forever (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1-14).

BIBLE STUDIES — We are currently studying the Gospel according to John on Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM, and the book of Genesis on Sunday morning at 9:30 AM. We invite everyone to come to the Prairie Village church of Christ and participate in these important lessons from God’s perfect word. We have made the lesson books for these classes available on our website. On the left side of the web page, click the “Study Tools & Links” Tab. Within this page, click the lesson subject tab on the right side.