

A Vision for Seeking God

What is an area of your life that you feel a need to seek God? Where do you feel desperate for Him? Is there an important decision looming? A sin you are battling? A relationship that needs fixed? And what does it look like to seek God anyway? In Solomon's prayer of dedication for the temple in 2 Chronicles 6, he prays about future situations in which the people of God will need to seek God. In 2 Chronicles 7, we see how God responds to that prayer. In this response, we see principles for what it looks like to seek God in our need. And we see the assurance God gives His people that if they would truly seek Him, they would find Him.

Read 2 Chronicles 7:1-4; 11-18

1. What is the context? What is going on?
2. What do we learn about God?
3. What promise does God make to Solomon and to the people?
4. What are the conditions of God hearing His people?

Steve said:

God says that His people should **"turn from their wicked ways."** This is a common way that the Bible speaks about repentance. When we repent, we turn **from** our sins ("our wicked ways") and turn back **to** God. The premise throughout Scripture is that we are responsible to turn from our sins. . . . When was the last time you thought of a sin as "wicked" or "evil"? We're more likely to think of our sins as "struggles," aren't we? If you know me, you know that I don't advocate self-condemnation and self-loathing when it comes to our sins. But there is a certain power and clarity in naming our sins using biblical terms such as "wicked ways." If you see your sin as "wicked/evil"- whether sensuality or judgmentalism or materialism or pride - you are much more likely to understand its destructiveness; and you are much more likely to "turn from" that sin in mind and body.

5. Do you tend to think of your sins as "struggles" or as "wicked/evil"? How might it help to use biblical language to talk about your sin?

6. How does God say He will respond when His people repent and seek Him?

Steve said:

Wherever you are in your relationship with Jesus, we want to challenge you to take God up on this invitation. We want to challenge you to make a long-term commitment to seeking God so that you might find him. Here's what we envision. . . During the six weeks leading up to Easter (in some traditions this is called Lent), we are going to enter into a time we're calling **A Season of Seeking**. It will be similar to the 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting we've done the past couple of years. This Season of Seeking begins on March 2nd. Between now and then, we would like you to do three things: Decide **THAT** you will seek God. Decide **HOW** you will seek God. Discern **WHY** you will seek God.

7. Would you say you've truly made a "long-term commitment to seeking God?" Explain

8. What are your initial thoughts about HOW and WHY you will seek God during Faith's Season of Seeking during Lent?

Practicing the Rhythms of Rooted this Week

Daily Devotion | Prayer | Repentance | Sacrificial Generosity | Serve the Community | Share Your Story | Worship



Daily Devotion: Continue to meditate on the promise of 2 Chron. 7:14



Prayer: If prayer is not an established rhythm for you, decide that you will spend 5 minutes a day this week seeking God in prayer. One way to structure this time is around ACTS (**A**dore – spend time worshipping God; **C**onfess – confess any sin you are aware of; **T**hank – thank God for anything that you can; **S**upplication – ask God for what you need, pray for other people, etc.)



Repentance: This week be mindful to be quick to repent over any sin that God reveals to you. One practice that can be helpful is to take a few moments at the end of your day to think back over your day. Invite God's Spirit to help you in this time of reflection to remember times where you've sinned. If you did sin, confess it, and decide to turn from it. Invite God to help you repent.