

Seeking God

Lesson 8: Choosing To Seek God



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

Seeking God

Lesson 8: Choosing To Seek God

Learn about how the reward of seeking God far surpasses the cost so that you will choose to seek Him

Watch the free video or listen to the audio of this study @ www.godsaidso.com/dgw100

Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

Study Number: DGW100

Written by Eric Krieg

About the author: My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

Copyright: Copyright © 2018 GodSaidSo Press. Please use this material to God's glory and honor. Feel free to copy and distribute this material in any way that will bring God glory and help souls to be saved. However, you may not take any of the material out of context or change the material in any way. Please provide the author with the proper credit for the material.

Scripture quotations: Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

**FIND MORE FROM THE DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES @
WWW.GODSAIDSO.COM**

Lesson 8:

Choosing To Seeking God

“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” (Hebrews 11:6).

Seeking God is central to living a life that is pleasing to God. In this series of lessons, we have considered the following. In lesson 1, we learned about the God we should be seeking in our lives who is Lord of heaven and earth, and will judge us all some Day. In lesson 2, we learned about why we should seek this God. In lesson 3, we learned about some general things involved in seeking God. In lesson 4, we learned from seven individuals who sought God during their lives. In lesson 5, we learned how to seek God by obeying His word to become Christians and remain faithful to Him. In lesson 6, we learned about some common false ideas people have concerning the work of seeking God. In lesson 7, we learned about some obstacles the devil tries to place in our paths as we seek God and how we can overcome them.

Now, before closing this series of lessons, I want us to once again seriously consider the subject of seeking God. But, we need to consider it in order to make a choice. You will either make the choice to seek God or not to seek God. Throughout this lesson, I hope to candidly convey both the cost involved in seeking God and the reward of seeking God so that you will make the choice to seek God.

The choice to seek God is not one that should be made lightly. This choice will impact every area of your life and will require great sacrifice and determination. And, most importantly, this choice will impact where we will spend our eternities – either in Heaven or in Hell!

Sadly, most people who live on this earth will make the choice *not* to seek God. Listen to Jesus’ words in Matthew 7:13-14. “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

Of all the different ways people live their lives on this earth, Jesus said that they all live walking on one of two paths. One path is narrow. It is difficult to walk on. Therefore, few will walk on it. But, it leads those few to everlasting life in Heaven. This is the path of seeking God. On the other hand, one path is wide. It is easy to walk on. Therefore, many will walk on it. But, it leads to everlasting destruction in Hell. This is the path of not seeking God. Let’s spend some time, then, in this final lesson focusing on helping you make the choice to seek God.

The Cost Of Seeking God

As Jesus indicated in Matthew 7, there is great cost involved in seeking God. It is not the easy way of living on this earth. And, Jesus wanted people not only to recognize the reward of seeking God, but He also wanted people to count the cost of seeking God so as to see whether they are truly willing to do everything that is involved in seeking God. Therefore, let’s spend some time considering the high cost of seeking God by being a disciple of Jesus Christ. Please note that a “disciple” of Jesus Christ is one who learns from Jesus so as to imitate and follow Him.

Discipleship involves complete trust in God

Without faith, it is “impossible” to please or seek God (Hebrews 11:6). Rather, we must both believe that God exists and that God will reward

those who diligently seek Him. We have spent time already in this series of lessons establishing the fact that this is a full trust in God that leads us to obedience.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” Notice the complete way we must trust God. Trusting God with all our hearts means that we must trust Him when things are going well. We must trust Him when things are going poorly. We must trust Him when we are tempted to think that we can handle things by ourselves. And, we must trust Him when it seems like there is no hope.

Furthermore, our trust in God must be so complete that we give Him complete control over all elements of our lives. Rather than leaning on our own “understanding,” we look to Him always for direction and guidance. We do this because we recognize that His ways are always best and our ways are fallible (at best).

Discipleship involves self-denial and sacrifice

When we fully trust in God’s ways, we will necessarily have situations in our lives that call for self-denial and sacrifice. We will encounter situations in which we may desire to do one thing, but God desires us to do another. Having full trust in God will require that we choose God’s way rather than our own!

Jesus presents a great lesson about self-denial and sacrifice in Luke 9:23-26. “Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father’s, and of the holy angels.’”

Notice that Jesus presents self-denial as a choice in this passage. “If anyone desires to come after Me...” If you want to be Jesus’ disciple (and

receive the reward of being one of His disciples), you must follow Jesus’ instruction in this passage. It is part of the cost of seeking God. It involves self-denial of anything and everything that we may desire or be tempted with that is contrary to the instructions of God. It involves enduring daily hardships for Jesus Christ (as we will discuss further later in the lesson). It involves following Jesus Christ wherever He leads us through the instructions given in the Bible. In fact, the extent to which we must be willing to deny ourselves, endure hardships, and follow Jesus is even to the point of losing our own physical lives for Christ!

We must, like Paul, consider ourselves to be crucified with Christ. As Paul demonstrated in Galatians 2:20, this means that the lives we live on this earth are no longer about fulfilling our own physical desires. Rather, they are about serving our Lord Jesus Christ! And, we do this recognizing the fact that God has given Jesus Christ to die on the cross so that we could be saved. Now, He requires that we give our lives entirely to Him (see Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Titus 2:11-14).

Discipleship involves complete submission to God

Our entire lives must be yielded to the desires of the God who is Lord of heaven and earth if we want to seek God. James 4:7 says, “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” To “submit” is to yield. Consider, then, the full impact of this verse.

There are two vitally important instructions that are interconnected. First, we must make the decision to yield to God. This implies that we have so much trust in God that we recognize His ways as best and that we willingly yield our own interests, desires, thoughts, etc. to His. Second, we must resist the devil. The devil (as we discussed in lesson 7) tries to lure us away from God by appealing to our own fleshly desires. So, resisting the devil involves denying ourselves of things like physical pleasures, physical wealth, ease of living, etc. Then, God promises that if we are willing to yield ourselves entirely to Him and resist the devil, the devil will flee from us and we will be victorious through Jesus Christ!

This principle has wide-reaching implications for how we live our lives. We must allow ourselves to be entirely transformed by the word of God. We must be like clay in God's hands, allowing Him (through His word) to mold and shape us into exactly what He desires for us to be. Then, not only will this full submission to God lead us to denying ourselves of things that are contrary to the will of God, but it will also lead us to doing the things God instructs us to do. This will involve a dedication to serving and doing good to others, being active in teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost, encouraging others who are trying to seek God, etc.

Discipleship involves suffering

Not only is the life of a disciple fully given to God's control, but the Bible also promises that there will be hardships experienced directly linked with this commitment to serve God. In 2 Timothy 3:12, Paul wrote, "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution." This was not just applicable to those disciples of Christ who were living during the first few centuries after Jesus Christ lived on earth. Instead, Paul said that everyone who desires to "live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."

The follower of Jesus Christ will experience persecution because the same root causes that have always been responsible for persecution are still actively at work in the world today. In John 15:18-21, Jesus explains that the world hated Him. Therefore, He says that the world will hate all those who follow Him. Just as the world persecuted Jesus, the world will persecute His disciples. This is because the ways of the world are contrary to the ways of Jesus Christ (see 1 John 2:15-17). So, as we live to resemble Jesus' life in our own and expose the wickedness that is in the world, we should expect to experience hatred from the world.

Sometimes, this persecution will be verbal. There will be times that the disciple of Christ will be harassed for following Christ. For instance, in Matthew 5:10-12, Jesus speaks of those who are "persecuted for righteousness' sake" being blessed because "theirs is the kingdom of heaven," and those who are reviled, persecuted, and spoken against falsely for the sake of Christ being blessed and

rejoicing with exceeding gladness because their reward in Heaven is great. And, 1 Peter 4:3-4 says that some will speak evil of those who turn their lives away from sin to Jesus Christ because they will think this kind of living is "strange."

Sometimes, this persecution will be emotional. For instance, those who speak evil of the new convert to Christ in 1 Peter 4:3-4 are individuals who were formerly associated with the individual. Perhaps these are family members, friends, co-workers, classmates, etc. And, Jesus plainly indicated that His people would become the enemies of even family members who would reject the gospel of Jesus Christ (see Matthew 10:34-39). Certainly, this kind of rejection from an individual's peers and loved ones will hurt the disciple of Christ emotionally.

Sometimes, this persecution is physical. Although the degree to which Christians are physically persecuted has always varied (sometimes more intense and more widespread than others), the threat is always there. In fact, some who have been disciples of Christ have made the ultimate sacrifice for Christ by dying for Him – even being tortured in inhumane ways. Other forms of physical persecution are financial burdens placed upon individuals for following Christ, unjust imprisonment, etc.

Discipleship involves no turning back

Being a disciple of Jesus Christ is not a partial decision to commit to Jesus Christ. Instead, it must be a complete one. In Luke 9:57-62, Jesus addressed this issue. One individual told Jesus, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go." However, Jesus warned him about the great cost and sacrifice involved in following Him: "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." Jesus told another, "Follow Me." However, that individual wanted to do something else first. He told Jesus, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." Jesus responded, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God." Finally, another told Jesus, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." To this individual, Jesus simply responded, "No one, having put his

hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

This passage ought to cement a few things in our minds. First, true discipleship puts following Jesus as priority number one. Second, those who choose to become Jesus’ disciples need to recognize the high cost of discipleship. Third, it is unacceptable to Jesus for an individual to become one of His disciples and then turn back. Jesus wants His followers to be entirely devoted to following after Him! An individual cannot expect to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ, thinking that he/she can always turn back and live for sin if it doesn’t work out. Furthermore, an individual cannot expect to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ, thinking that he/she can still dabble in sin.

While this does *not* mean that the true disciple of Jesus Christ will live a sinless life (see 1 John 1:8-2:2), it does mean that the disciple’s mindset should not be one that is focused on living for sin. Instead, true discipleship involves a mindset that is entirely focused on following Jesus Christ without turning back to live for sin. Therefore, true discipleship is a lifelong endeavor – as we will only receive the crown of life if we remain faithful to Christ through the point of our physical deaths (Revelation 2:10).

Count the cost!

The cost of true discipleship is high indeed! In fact, true discipleship costs us everything that we have while we live on this earth. To be a true disciple of Jesus, we must give Him everything we are, endure whatever hardships come along, and follow Jesus wherever He leads. He must come absolutely first in our lives.

So, as you consider whether or not you should choose to seek God in your life, Jesus wants you to recognize this cost of discipleship. In Luke 14:26-27, Jesus said, “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

Now, Jesus does not tell us about this cost of discipleship in order to intimidate or scare us away from being His disciples. Instead, He is simply encouraging us to count the cost. In Luke 14:28-32, Jesus used two examples to illustrate this truth. First, He spoke about a man who had the intentions of building a tower. He said that this man would certainly first sit down and count the cost to see whether or not he had enough to complete the construction, lest he begin to build and fail to finish. Second, He spoke of a king sitting down to count the cost of going to war against another king. Certainly, this king would first consider whether his army could be victorious in such a battle.

In the same way, Jesus wants those who desire to be His disciples to count the cost, lest they begin to follow Him and be unwilling to commit all that Jesus requires. Luke 14:33 says, “So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.” Simply put, Jesus says that the cost of seeking God is everything we are and everything we have.

The Reward Of Seeking God

The cost of seeking God is great. But, before we can make a final decision about whether or not to seek God, we must also evaluate the reward for seeking God. For, it is in the reward that will be given to those who seek God that the cost will be seen as insignificant! Remember, Hebrews 11:6 says, “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.” Therefore, let’s consider three individuals who chose to seek God because they looked to the reward.

According to John

John was a disciple and apostle of Jesus Christ who experienced the cost of discipleship. For instance, Acts 3-5 describes a situation in which both he and the apostle Peter were mistreated for the sake of the gospel. On this occasion, Peter and John encountered a man who was incapable of walking. And, by the power of God, Peter miraculously healed

the man. As people gathered around Peter and John to see what had just happened, Peter began preaching to the people. When some of the Jewish leaders heard about the situation, they arrested Peter and John, threatening and forbidding them from preaching in the name of Jesus Christ. Later, as they continued preaching in the name of Christ, all of the apostles were put on trial before the highest Jewish court and were again commanded not to continue preaching in Jesus' name. This time, the passage says that they were all beaten (see Acts 5:40). Yet, the apostles "departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name" and continued preaching in the name of Jesus Christ every day (Acts 5:41-42)!

Then, Revelation 1:9 also identifies how John experienced the cost of discipleship. "I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ." He was a partaker of the same tribulation that so many Christians were experiencing at this time. This tribulation would become so severe that many even died for the cause of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, this passage indicates how John had been exiled to the island of Patmos "for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."

John experienced the cost of discipleship. But, he was willing to pay the price of discipleship because of the reward of discipleship! John's writings (particularly in the book of Revelation) clearly indicate his awareness of the reward God will give to those who seek Him faithfully!

In Revelation 2:9-10, for instance, John recorded the words of Jesus to some disciples of Christ who were about to be severely persecuted in the city of Smyrna. "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." John certainly took these words of Christ to heart, knowing that even the cost of dying

for Jesus Christ would pale in comparison to the reward of the everlasting crown of life in Heaven to be given to the faithful!

Then, in Revelation 21 and 22, John got a glimpse into Heaven. In these two chapters, John recorded what he saw. He saw a place where there were no tears, death, sorrow, or crying. He saw a place where there was no evil. He saw a place that was beautiful beyond human understanding – with gold, pearls, precious stones, etc. He saw the Tree of Life. He saw a place of never-ending day. And, best of all, he saw a place where God's people would forever be with God and with Jesus Christ! Therefore, John knew that the rewards of discipleship far surpass the cost!

According to Peter

Peter was a disciple and apostle of Jesus Christ who experienced the cost of discipleship. Listen to how the apostle Paul described the life of the apostles, in 1 Corinthians 4:9-13. "For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now."

Though this passage generally describes how the apostles were viewed and treated, it would certainly include the apostle Peter. Yes, Peter endured the hostility we discussed in Acts 3-5. He was imprisoned in Acts 12 and miraculously rescued from a death sentence. And, according to historical tradition, Peter was imprisoned and killed by the powerful Roman Empire (under the leadership of Nero) by being crucified.

Peter experienced the cost of discipleship. But, he was willing to pay the price of discipleship because of the reward of discipleship! Peter's

writings clearly indicate his awareness of the reward God will give to those who seek Him faithfully!

In 1 Peter 1:3-9, Peter wrote to disciples of Christ who were enduring persecution, telling them about the “living hope” that has been made available to them through Jesus Christ. This hope was concerning “an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” The testing of their faith would be worth it, according to Peter, whenever they would be able to “rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your souls.”

Then, in Peter’s second epistle, he wrote concerning the hope of Christians relative to the Day Jesus Christ returns. On this Day, Peter said that this world will be destroyed by fire. Then, consider the Christian’s outlook described in 2 Peter 3:13-14: “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless.” This will be a Day of great rejoicing for the faithful disciple of Jesus Christ! Therefore, Peter knew that the rewards of discipleship far surpass the cost!

According to Paul

Paul was a disciple and apostle of Jesus Christ who experienced the cost of discipleship. His persecutions are well documented by the Scriptures. For instance, in Acts 13 and 14, Paul experienced persecution in Antioch and was thrown out of that city. He fled the city of Iconium when he learned of a plot to abuse and stone him there. And, he was stoned in Lystra to the point people believed he was dead. All of this happened to him because he preached the gospel of Jesus Christ and was a faithful disciple of Christ.

Though there are many passages that describe the persecutions Paul endured, 2 Corinthians 11:22-33 records a summary. In this text, Paul said that he received beatings, was imprisoned, was often faced with death, was shipwrecked, was in

danger often, experienced hunger and thirst, experienced cold and nakedness, experienced sleeplessness, etc. All of this was because Paul boldly and faithfully preached the gospel and followed Jesus.

Paul experienced the cost of discipleship. But, he was willing to pay the price of discipleship because of the reward of discipleship! Paul’s writings clearly indicate his awareness of the reward God will give to those who seek Him faithfully!

In the same book Paul identified all of these types of hardships he had endured as a disciple of Jesus Christ, he also spoke about why he endured them. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 says, “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” Notice that Paul describes all of these hardships as being “light affliction.” Now, certainly they were neither painless nor pleasurable. Yet, in comparison to the future reward that will be given to Christ’s faithful disciples, Paul recognized that they were insignificant!

Paul expressed the same basic sentiment in Romans 8:16-18. In verses 16 and 17, Paul identified the fact that those who follow God are children of God. And, those who are children of God are heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. However, in order to receive this wonderful inheritance, Paul said that we must be willing to suffer with Christ. Then, we will be glorified together. Now, consider verse 18: “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” Yes, Paul recognized that even the worst of physical punishments given to those who follow Christ pale in comparison with the reward of everlasting life in Heaven! Therefore, Paul knew that the rewards of discipleship far surpass the cost!

Heaven will surely be worth it all!

All of this is summarized well in two short parables Jesus taught in Matthew 13. In verse 44, Jesus taught the parable of a hidden treasure: “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” Similarly, verses 45-46 teach the parable of a pearl of great value: “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

Two parables with one meaning. The opportunity to be part of God’s kingdom (i.e. His church/collection of the saved) is worth entirely devoting yourself to Jesus Christ. It is worth giving up every other pursuit of your life. It is worth sacrificing everything you have and everything you are – because the reward in Heaven is far greater than anything we could ever experience on this earth. In fact, Jesus simply asked the question, “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul” (Matthew 16:26)?

Those who diligently seek God during their lives on this earth will be rewarded with everlasting life in Heaven. However, those who refuse to diligently seek God during their lives on this earth will be punished with everlasting punishment in Hell. 2 Thessalonians 1:3-9 helps us to see this to be true. In this text, Paul identifies that those who are steadfast and faithful through all their persecutions and tribulations, suffering for the kingdom of God, will be given rest when the Lord Jesus returns for final Judgment. However, those who had not known God or obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ will experience the wrath and vengeance of the Almighty God and “be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”

I would like to encourage you to consider the words of two songs that convey the ideas we have been studying in this lesson. The first is entitled, “Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All,” written by W. Oliver Cooper [“Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All” (1997). In R. Stevens & D. Shephard (Eds.),

Hymns for Worship. Bowling Green, Kentucky: Guardian of Truth Foundation.”].

“Often I’m hindered on my way, Burdened so heavy I almost fall; Then I hear Jesus sweetly say; ‘Heaven will surely be worth it all.’

“Many the trial, toils and tears, Many a heartache may hear appall; But the dear Lord so truly says: ‘Heaven will surely be worth it all.’

“Toiling and pain I will endure, Till I shall hear the death angel call; Jesus has promised and I’m sure Heaven will surely be worth it all.

“Heaven will surely be worth it all. Worth all the sorrows that here befall; After this life with all of its strife, Heaven will surely be worth it all.”

The second song is entitled, “There’s A Crown For Your Cross,” written by Miss Ada Powell [There’s A Crown For Your Cross. (1960). In E. Crum (Ed.), Sacred Selections For The Church. Kendallville, Indiana: Sacred Selections.].

“There’s a crown for your cross, when the teardrops that stray Will be driven forever away; Where the cares that oppress will at last be laid down, You’ll be given a beautiful crown.

“There’s a crown for your cross when the daylight shall dawn, When the night’s dreary shadows are gone; You will meet with glad smiles and never a frown, You’ll be given a beautiful crown.

“There’s a crown for your cross where the sweet flowers grow, On the banks where bright waters doth flow; Where the Savior awaits at the beautiful gate, You’ll be given a beautiful crown.

“There’s a crown for your cross and a power divine, There’s a love all around you will shine; Where a cross for the crown is forever laid down, You’ll be given a beautiful crown.

“There’s a crown for your cross, there is gain for your loss, You’ll be given a crown for your cross; There’s a beautiful crown when your cross is laid down, You’ll be given a beautiful crown.”

Conclusion

Will you choose to seek God? This is not a choice to be made lightly, as there is much to consider and it is a choice that has many implications. It has physical implications that will dramatically impact the way in which you will live your life. And, it is a choice that has eternal implications. If you choose not to seek God, you will spend eternity in Hell being punished. But, if you choose to seek God, you will spend eternity in Heaven with Him!

Now, you are invited to make the choice to seek God. Because Jesus Christ died on the cross, you have this wonderful opportunity. And, God promises you that if you will seek Him diligently, you will find Him (see Acts 17:27). Once again, consider Hebrews 11:6. “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.”

So, do you choose to seek God? It is time to make that decision. Yes or no? Recognize that not making a decision or only partially committing is a decision *not* to seek God. Don’t procrastinate – as you may not have another opportunity to choose to seek God! While most people on this earth will not choose to seek God, I encourage you to reflect over the things we have studied in these eight lessons and make the choice today that you will seek God!

Study Questions

What have you learned during the course of this series?

Will most people choose to seek God? Why or why not?

1. The Cost Of Seeking God

How is trust in God involved in discipleship?

How is self-denial/sacrifice involved in discipleship?

How is complete submission to God involved in discipleship?

How is suffering involved in discipleship?

How is a full commitment involved in discipleship?

Why does Jesus say that folks to “count the cost” before deciding to follow Him?

2. The Reward Of Seeking God

Identify how each of the following (1) experienced the cost of discipleship and (2) focused on the reward.

1. John –

2. Peter –

3. Paul –

How does Jesus describe the cost/reward of seeking God in Matthew 13:44-46? Will Heaven be worth the cost of seeking God? Explain.

***Do you choose to seek God? Explain your reasoning.**