

You Are Wanted!



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

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Learn how you can know you are wanted, what God wants to do for you, and what God wants from you

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Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

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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.

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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.

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You Are Wanted!

One of the basic needs that people have is to feel like they are wanted. Sadly, many people struggle on this earth to feel that anyone cares or that they belong in any place. This makes people feel useless and like they are nothing but a burden to others. And, ultimately, this makes people feel as if they are all alone on this earth.

Yet, you are wanted! Even if the people who are around you do not demonstrate love and appreciation for who you are, there is always Someone who wants you. And, whenever it seems like all you are wanted for is to be used by other people, God reminds you that He wants to help you and give you more than you could ever deserve. Then, even when you are wanted by many different people on this earth, God wants you more.

So, since God wants you, you should always have a sense of purpose in living your earthly life. Your life must be about something/someone. Ultimately, you must decide to give your life to the one who has wanted you so much that He has sacrificed greatly for you and *always* acts in your best interest.

I want you to be assured of God's loving care for you. I want you to know that the way God has loved you is greater than any other has ever shown you or will ever show you. I want you to know that you are not alone in living your life on this earth. I want you to know that you are useful for something. And, I want you to know that there is no other purpose on this earth that is greater than what God wants you for.

Therefore, please consider how much God wants *you*! First, consider how you can know that God wants you. Second, consider what God wants to do for you. And, third, consider what God wants from you.

How To Know God Wants You

People can claim that they want you. But, they are all just empty words without actions that demonstrate the same. Thankfully, God has not just said that He wants you – and wants you more than anyone else does. Instead, He has demonstrated that He wants you in a way that no one else has ever acted toward you before or since.

God created you

The first unique way that God has demonstrated He wants you more than anyone else does is that He has created you. Although your parents helped to give you earthly life, they could do nothing to create your life without God! In fact, no life would even exist on this earth without God.

Go back to the Biblical record of creation in Genesis 1. Everything that exists only exists because of God. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). He is the one who has created man and woman and given them the ability to procreate. Listen to Genesis 1:26-28.

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”

There is more than just your physical life that you need to consider regarding how God has created you. He did not *just* create your physical life. Instead,

He has made mankind “in the image of God.” Since God is not flesh and blood, but Spirit (John 4:24), this means that mankind has been created with a spiritual element to his existence on this earth. And, unlike the physical part of you, this spiritual part of your existence survives your physical death and continues on through all eternity!

So, consider how God’s powerful hand can be seen in making you in the special way He has made you. Even when no one else knew you, God knew you. Even though you were concealed from sight, God saw you. Listen to the Psalmist’s recognition of this in Psalm 139:13-16.

“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.”

So, you should know that you are wanted because your life comes from God. No matter who else considers your life to be valuable, you must always recognize that God is the one who gave you the opportunity to live on this earth. And, He did not do so in order to punish you or watch you suffer. Instead, He did so in order that you might live according to a grand purpose and find true fulfillment!

God provides for you

The second unique way that God has demonstrated He wants you more than anyone else does is to provide for everything you *need* in living your life on earth. So, He did not just give you physical life and cease to show any kind of care toward you. Instead, God gives you everything that you need to continue living on this earth for a time.

Although you may think that you or someone else provides these things for yourself through your own hard work, you could not be more wrong. Yes, you are required to work in order to have those things

(see 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15). But, God is the source of everything that is necessary for your earthly life.

James 1:17 says, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.” You could not have anything that was good for yourself without God. For, nothing that is good would exist if God had not created it.

So, take a moment to think about all your earthly blessings. Begin by thinking of your necessities. Think about the food that you have eaten throughout your life that has given you the sustenance to get you to this point in your life. Think about the water He has given you to drink. Think about the clothing He has given you to wear. These are the necessities of life and, with these, you should be content (see Matthew 6:25 and 1 Timothy 6:8).

Then, think about everything you have on this earth in addition to these necessities. Maybe you have a house or apartment to live in. Maybe you have a car to drive. Maybe you have enough food that you can choose what you want to eat (instead of just eating whatever is available). Maybe you have more clothing than you need. Maybe you have luxuries that surpass the necessities in many areas.

God is the one who has rained these blessings down upon you! Matthew 5:45 says that “He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” Even when you are not acting in ways that show Him appreciation for what He does for you, He continues to act in your best interest always!

So, you should know that you are wanted because God has provided for all your needs to sustain your earthly life. No matter how much you work to provide for your needs and desires, you must recognize that you cannot provide them for yourself, without God’s help. And, you must recognize that God does not provide for you so that you will live a miserable life. Instead, He does so in order that you might live according to a grand purpose and find true fulfillment!

God sacrificed His Son for you

The third unique way that God has demonstrated He wants you more than anyone else

does is that He has sacrificed His Son for you. But, in order for you to appreciate this sacrifice, you have to understand the consequences of the sin that you have committed. Like every other person who lives on this earth and reaches the age of personal and moral accountability, you have sinned against God and (in doing so) failed to glorify Him (Romans 3:23).

Here is the result of failing to follow the laws that God has established for you (and all people) to live by: Spiritual death. Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Spiritual death occurs whenever you sin in that you are separated from God, who is completely separated from everything that is evil (holy). And, God promises that those who die (physically) while still in sin will experience eternal separation from God in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, described as the “second death” (Revelation 21:8).

Make no mistake about it. This *is* what you deserve because you have lived according to your own desires rather than obeying the will of God! Yet, Romans 6:23 says that the “gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” So, God has not only provided for the physical life He has created you to possess, but He has also provided for the spiritual existence He has created you with. Even though you do not deserve it because of the sin you have committed, God has made eternal life in Heaven within reach for you through Jesus Christ.

This is God’s only begotten Son He sacrificed for you. Since you had sinned, you were in need of the perfect sacrifice to be made that could wash away your sins and make you just as if you had never sinned. No amount of good works that you could ever accomplish in your life could make such a sacrifice. You were entirely incapable of providing that kind of sacrifice for yourself. So, God has made it for you.

John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” God could have chosen to do nothing while you were lost in your sins, but He chose to act in your best interest. He gave His own

Son so that you could have the sins that you had committed *against* Him forgiven!

Not only did Jesus Christ leave Heaven and come to earth, but He endured great mistreatment throughout His life on this earth. At the end of His life, God watched His only begotten Son be severely beaten, be spat on, be blasphemed, be mocked, have a crown of thorns placed on His head, be crucified, and die upon the cross. This was a horrible way of death! Yet, God sacrificed to this great extent in order that you could have your sins forgiven! 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

So, you should know that you are wanted because God has sacrificed His only begotten Son for you because you had sinned against Him and were headed for eternal punishment in Hell. No matter how much anyone else says they care about you, no one can ever do as much for you as God has done through Jesus Christ! For, no one else is capable of doing anything to give you eternal salvation in Heaven and the opportunity to be forgiven of all your past sin. And, you must recognize that God did not sacrifice His Son for you so that you will be sad that your sin cost another so much suffering. Instead, He did so in order that you might live according to a grand purpose and find true fulfillment!

God revealed His will to you

The fourth unique way God has demonstrated He wants you more than anyone else does is that He has revealed His perfect will to you so that you can believe and obey it in order to be saved. So, God has not just given a set of laws and left you in the dark as to what they are. Instead, He has given you the opportunity to know His will completely. In doing so, you can know everything God has done to save you from your sins through Jesus Christ.

Listen to 2 Timothy 3:16-17. “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” Every word that is revealed in the pages of the Bible is truth

that comes from God. But, you should notice what this truth does.

First, the word of God teaches you everything you need to know. There are teachings that God wants you to accept as being true in order to save you from your sins. This book tells you about every one of these doctrines (teachings).

Second, the word of God works to convict and correct the sin that you have committed. God requires that you turn away from your past sins in order to be saved (see Acts 17:30). Fortunately, applying God's word to your life tells you all about the sin that you have committed and works to turn you away from those things and to the Lord.

Third, the word of God works to instruct you in all of the right ways that are according to the will of God. So, not only does God want you to eliminate sinful things from your life, but He also wants you to devote your life to His service. You don't have to guess what doing the will of God looks like, because God's word tells you everything that is involved.

Then, the result of all that God's word teaches is that you will be "thoroughly equipped for every good work." God gives you the perfect directions in living your life on this earth. Now, saving faith can be developed whenever you hear the word of God (Romans 10:17).

So, you should know that you are wanted because God has told you everything that you need to know to be saved and to live according to His will for your life. No advice anyone could ever give you could result in the saving of your soul. You desperately need to know these words that come from God. And, you must recognize that God has not given you all of these teachings and laws to prevent you from living your life how you want to live it. Instead, He did so in order that you might be faithfully obedient to Him and live according to a grand purpose and find true fulfillment!

What God Wants To Do For You

You should be confident that God wants you more than anyone else ever has or ever will! He has done far more to show His great loving care for you than anyone else is even capable of. Now, you should consider what God wants to do for you.

Save you

Everything that God wants to do for you is in your best interest. So, God does not want to see you (the one He has given physical and spiritual life) suffer for all eternity. This is exactly the reason why God has sent Jesus Christ to this earth as the sacrifice for sin. Again, John 3:16 identifies that God's love for you is so that you "should not perish but have everlasting life."

God knows that the fires of Hell will mean an eternity of torment. After all, God is the one who has created Hell as a means of punishing the devil and his angels for their rebellion against Him and their deceptive work in trying to pull you into their error. But, Matthew 25:41 demonstrates that God (as the righteous and fair Judge) will also condemn you to this same punishment if you do not obey Him. In that text, Jesus said "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

Given the severity of this punishment you deserve for sinning against Him, you should appreciate the fact that God wants to save you! For instance, 1 Timothy 2:4 says that God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." 2 Peter 3:9 says that God has delayed sending Jesus Christ to end this world because He is being "longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." So, He is giving you opportunity to repent of the sin that you have committed so that you can avoid perishing in the eternal torment of Hell!

Everything in what God does demonstrates that God wants to save you from the consequences of

your sins. Now, He does *not* have to do this. He could choose to condemn you to Hell the moment that you sin against Him. And, it would be perfectly fair for Him to do this. Yet, He wants something much better for you than that and He has done everything He can to save you (though He will not force you to be saved).

Lead you

Everything about what God does for you is to lead you in the ways that are right and good for your soul. He is as concerned for you as any shepherd is concerned for his sheep. He watches for what you need and leads you in the paths that will be beneficial for you. Listen to Psalm 23.

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.”

Whenever you allow God to lead you, you will never be in need (want). First, He will provide you with everything you need *physically*. For instance, Jesus said, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33). The “these things” relates to the physical necessities of life (i.e. food and clothing). So, if you will seek the ways of God first in your life, He will lead you in ways that will take care of your physical necessities.

Second, He will take care of you spiritually. Jesus said that He is the Good Shepherd and lays down His life for His sheep (John 10:11). Not only does God make your salvation from sin possible through the blood of Jesus Christ, but every word of God (in the Bible) leads you in ways that are beneficial to you. If you follow what He instructs, everything that happens to you will work out for your

spiritual good (Romans 8:28) – even though there may be some physical suffering involved.

Adopt you

Whenever you were living in sin, you were a child of Satan because you resembled Satan and did his will rather than God's. For instance, 1 John 3:8 says, “He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” And, Jesus directly told some individuals, “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it” (John 8:44).

At this time, you had a father who lied to you, deceived you, used you for evil purposes, and abused you spiritually. Thankfully, God has given you the opportunity to be adopted as one of His children. Listen to Romans 8:14-17.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”

If you allow yourself to be led by God's Spirit (who revealed the word of God), God adopts you as one of His children. And, being one of God's children is full of blessings! Although there are times of suffering that His children experience while they are living on this earth, He will reward them with a great inheritance. 1 Peter 1:4 speaks of the “inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away” that is “reserved in heaven for you.” So, your new father wants to do what is best for you at all times and wants to give you everlasting life!

Keep you

There are many dangers that you face on this earth. Satan and his allies are actively trying to hinder you from serving God faithfully. So, they are attacking you and trying to deceive you. Fortunately, God's power to save is also great enough that it can keep you from Satan's traps.

Although it is entirely possible for you to choose to fall for one of Satan's deceptions and traps, Satan and his allies are not powerful enough (by themselves) to steal you away from God! As the Good Shepherd, Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:27-29). So, as long as you only follow your Shepherd's voice, Satan cannot steal your salvation from you (though he can hurt you physically).

Jude says that God is "able to keep you from stumbling" and "present you faultless" (Jude 1:24). So, you must commit yourself to following the ways of God in order that you do not go back into the destructive ways of sin. Satan is powerless against God! The only way that he is capable of getting you away from God is if he can deceive you and get you to leave the care of your Shepherd.

Yet, even though Satan is trying to tempt you, God gives you a way out of every temptation. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." Notice the completeness of this statement. There is not a single temptation that Satan can use to overcome God's power to save you. Instead, God makes sure that you are able to defeat every temptation that comes your way. You must simply choose the way of escape God has provided.

Give your life purpose

God is the only way for you to find true purpose and happiness in your life. Without God,

your entire life is just a meaningless pursuit of earthly treasures, pleasures, and relationships that do not last. Although these things may seem pleasurable for a time, they will soon be recognized as meaningless whenever your earthly life ends.

So, Solomon concluded the following about everything that he experienced on this earth: "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity" (Ecclesiastes 1:2). He saw that everything was worthless and failed to produce true happiness. Even though he had great earthly wealth, experienced some of the greatest earthly pleasures available, experienced fame by being king, had many earthly relationships, etc., it was all worthless. The reason it was all worthless was because he knew that he would experience physical death and all of these things would end.

Therefore, as he searched for the true meaning of life, he concluded: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

The only thing that really matters is fearing God and keeping His commandments. This is because God will judge every person and those who have lived according to this purpose will be given eternal life in Heaven. Therefore, God wants you to realize your true purpose in life and live accordingly. He wants to take your earthly life from being a meaningless pursuit of temporary things and make it a purposeful pursuit of glorifying Him and striving for Heaven!

What God Wants From You

God wants you and He wants to do some great things for you. But, He will not force His will on you. Instead, He requires some things from you. So, you must carefully consider what the one who wants you wants from you.

Believe in Him

This God who has created you, provided for you, sacrificed for you, and revealed His will to you wants you to believe in Him. In fact, He has given you every piece of evidence you need to fully believe that He really does exist. For instance, Romans 1:19-20 says, “because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.”

Now, God has made it clear that “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). And, not only must you believe in God, but you must believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (John 8:24). If you do not, you will die in your sins.

But, God does not just want you to mentally accept that He and His Son are real. Instead, God wants you to fully trust in Him and obey Him. 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.” In fact, anything short of full trust in God that acts in obedience to His will is not true faith!

Be thankful for what He has done

God has done so much for you to demonstrate that He wants you! Now, He expects that you demonstrate your gratitude to Him. For instance, Colossians 3:17 says, “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.”

You should be expressing your gratitude for all the wonderful things God has done for you throughout your life. This expression of thanksgiving includes doing everything (whether in word or deed) in the name of the Lord Jesus. That is, if you are truly thankful to God, you will be devoting your life to following what He instructs.

One example of this can be seen in Luke 17:11-19. On this occasion, Jesus healed ten lepers (a horrible and incurable disease). Yet, after they did what Jesus had commanded them to be healed, only one of them returned to Jesus, glorified God with a loud voice, fell down at Jesus’ feet, and thanked Him. Unfortunately, there are many people who are like the nine lepers who use all that God has done for them in selfish ways. Instead, God wants you to be like the one leper who returned and gave thanks. Recognizing all that God has done for you ought to cause you to want to use your life to express your gratitude to God and praise Him!

Live your life to His glory

As you express your appreciation to God for everything He has done for you, you should want to live your life to His glory. In fact, God has created you so that you will glorify Him. Isaiah 43:7 says, “Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.”

You see, God did not do everything that He has done for you so that you will waste your life living for sin and the temporary pleasures and treasures of life that will lead you to eternal torment in Hell! Instead, He has done everything He has for you so that you will live your life to His glory and live eternally in Heaven! So, the apostle Paul said, “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Now, you must recognize that not everything you do accomplishes this purpose. Remember that sinning against God fails to glorify Him (Romans 3:23). So, in order to live your life to the glory of God, you must do everything in your life according to God’s authority and instructions that He has revealed in the pages of the Bible! For instance, Romans 12:1 says, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”

Do your part

God knows that every person He has created is different from the others. So, although He has given all mankind the exact same set of laws and instructions to follow, He recognizes that each person has different abilities and opportunities. Now, since God is a fair God, He does not expect any more of a person than he/she is capable of giving. Instead, God simply expects each person to do what he/she is capable of doing – no more and no less.

Christ's church is compared to a body. Like a body, everyone who is living to please God serves a different function in the body. Just like a physical body has hands, feet, eyes, ears, etc., the body of Christ has "many members" (1 Corinthians 12:12). Although some are capable of doing more than others in the body of Christ, all members are expected to do their very best in God's service!

So, Ephesians 4:16 says, "from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love." After all that God has done for you, how could you do anything less than devote yourself to God and do whatever you are capable of doing in His service? Anything less than what you are capable of contributing is simply not enough to give to the God who has sacrificed and been so generous to you!

Conclusion

God wants you! He has done so much for you that there can be no doubt about this. He only wants to do good things for you. Ultimately, this means that God wants to save your soul from the consequences of your sins. But, He wants you to give your life entirely to Him! Don't live another moment for anything or anyone else. Commit yourself to God today!

Study Questions

How important is to feel wanted?

1. How To Know God Wants You

How does God demonstrate He wants you by creating you?

How does God demonstrate He wants you by providing for you?

How does God demonstrate He wants you by sacrificing His Son for you?

How does God demonstrate He wants you by revealing His will to you?

2. What God Wants To Do For You

How does God want to save you?

How does God want to lead you?

How does God want to adopt you?

How does God want to keep you?

How does God want to give your life purpose?

3. What God Wants From You

What does it mean to believe in God?

What does it mean to be thankful for what God has done?

What does it mean to live your life to God's glory?

What does it mean to do your part in God's service?