

Are you a God Chaser?



May 28, 2005 – Coulter's Community Church of God (Seventh Day)



~As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God.~
[PSALM 42:1] [NAS]

I feel like what Peter said in 2 Peter 1:12, *Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you.* [NAS] So just consider today that I'm speaking to myself. I have found out that a lot of the times when I speak I'm saying something that I need to hear and not necessarily the audience. Most of the time, I'm preaching to myself.

But today I want to ask you. Are you chasing after God? Do you think about Him all the time? Do you literally breath, eat and sleep in His presence? Do you know anyone that is a God chaser? Think ?----- What is a God Chaser? What does it take to be a God chaser? God chasers are not satisfied with reading and learning about Him, they want to know God in a very personal and intimate way. They are God seekers, God followers, God disciples. They are not satisfied with anything less than seeking His face.

Let's consider the Old Testament. Take King David for instance, David was seeking after God's own heart. In I Samuel 13:14 Samuel the prophet said to Saul; *"But now your kingdom shall not endure. The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."* [1 SAMUEL 13:14] [NAS] Paul also references this verse at Antioch in Acts 13:22; *"After He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said,*



'I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will.' [ACTS 13:22] [NAS] David was seeking the heart of God. David's

hunger for God was so great that there was no flesh left, he burned it off in seeking the Lord. To seek the heart of God there can be no carnal flesh, you have to be all spiritual. You must not be of this world. You must be of the next world external.

God knows our heart, that's the way we are judged, not the appearance. In I Samuel 16:7; *But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the*

LORD looks at the heart." [1 SAMUEL 16:7] [NAS] If I was judged on just my appearance I would certainly be in a lot of trouble. But thanks be to God, He judges the heart, because only He knows the heart of each individual.



What does it take to be a God chaser? First and foremost we are to be totally committed or sold out to God. We are to totally obey Him in His will for our life. 1 Samuel 15:22 says, *Samuel said, "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.* [1 SAMUEL 15:22] [NAS] There is no way you can get close to God without obeying his commands and precepts. You can't serve two masters. Jesus said in Matthew 16:24a; *"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other.* [MATTHEW 6:24a] [NAS]

The rewards are so great when we are able to be in that perfect intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. Paul tells us, and he was quoting Isaiah in I Corinthians 2:9; *but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."* [1 CORINTHIANS 2:9] [NAS] The rewards are so wonderful that the eye has not seen and the ear has not heard the great things God has for us. These rewards will be for the followers that have a heart for God. Even in our wildest imagination we cannot imagine what God has in store for us, it's beyond human words and thinking.

We can not accomplish the task of seeking God's heart without the spirit of God in us. Take another look into I Corinthians, try 2:10; *For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.* [1CORINTHIANS 2:10] [NAS] Paul knew



where his strength came from. Look what Paul says in I Corinthians 2:2; *For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.* [1 CORINTHIANS 2:2] [NAS] When we are chasing God there is no other way but with God's spirit.

There are so many good verses in I Corinthians 2, let's just read the whole chapter. It deals with Paul's reliance upon the spirit. As educated and smart as Paul was, he recognized that he could not get to God with his own carnal flesh, he was seeking the mind of Christ.

I Corinthians Chapter Two.

1 *And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.*



2 *For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.*

3 *I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling,*

4 *and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,*

5 *so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.*

6 *Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away;*

7 *but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory;*

8 *the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;*

9 *but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."*

10 *For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.*

11 *For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.*

12 *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,*

13 *which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.*

14 *But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.*

15 *But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.*

16 *For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.*



Paul knew where his strength came from, not from his education, not from his flesh, but from the “Spirit of the Lord.” Paul said “I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.” This is all he needed to know. There are many religions in this world, but none, let me remind you, “NONE” has a leader and savior like Jesus Christ. Christ was crucified, died, buried in the tomb and resurrected the third day from the dead; just as He said He would. No other religion can claim this. All the other religious leaders are “STILL” in the grave.

We are sometimes so caught up in everything else that we forget about God. Like me ask a few questions.

- ✚ Are we reading and meditating on God more than anything else we are doing?
- ✚ Do we read the Scriptures more than we read any other book?
- ✚ Do we study and think about God more than we watch TV?
- ✚ Are we so consumed with God that we don’t care what other people think?
- ✚ Are we living a holy life style?
 - Are we not reading what we used to read?
 - Are we not watching what we used to watch?
 - Are we not doing the unholy things that we used to do?
- ✚ Are we hungry and thirsting after God?

Jesus said in Matthew 5:6; *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.* [MATTHEW 5:6] [NAS] We can get so caught up in doing things for Him that we forget to know Him. Christianity is not a “works” religion. We cannot work ourselves into Heaven, we can only get to Heaven and Jesus by the grace of God. Not that there is anything wrong with works, but works alone will not get you to heaven. First we are to seek God as recorded in Matthew 6:33; *"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.* [MATTHEW 6:33] [NAS] And then do the righteous works as noted in James 2:18; *But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."* [JAMES 2:18] [NAS] James here is clarifying that if you have faith, you will be known by your works; that is righteous works! It’s like the saying; “Don’t tell me, show me.” Don’t pretend one thing and show me something else. Let your light shine in the name of Jesus Christ. When other people see you they will then see Christ because you will have the mind of Christ as Paul told us earlier in Corinthians.

Paul lets us know that it's a race, a race to the end, and at the end it will be finished and the finish is when we are in God's Glory. Look what he says in Philippians 3:12; *I don't mean to say I am perfect. I haven't learned all I should even yet, but I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ saved me for and wants me to be.* [PHILIPPIANS 3:12] [TLB] Does it sound like any worldly flesh on Paul, I don't think so. Paul was truly a God Chaser, he continued to run the race to the finish, he continued to seek God's face.



We are to seek God's face as it says in Second Chronicles 7:14; *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.* [2 CHRONICLES 7:14] [KJV] I find it hard for me and maybe for some others to humble ourselves, to pray and to seek God's face. But that is what we are to do because it's what the scripture tells us to do. What is in the way? It's the flesh. Paul tells us how he does it in I Corinthians 15:31; *I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.* [1 CORINTHIANS 15:31] [KJV] Paul had the same problem we have, dieing to the flesh daily. The more the Lord smells our burning flesh the closer He can get to us and the closer we can get to Him. We are to be lead by the spirit. Why is it? That many of us will not let go and let God have His way with us? We keep holding back. We will let the spirit take us so far and then we get uncomfortable. It's outside our comfort zone. In I Thessalonians 5:19 Paul says that we are "quenching the Spirit." We need to "Let go and let God." Just let that flesh burn off and we can get that much closer to God. As we read in Second Chronicles we are to "Pray" and "Seek His Face."

So many of us are seeking His benefits, not His face, we belong to the "Bless Me Lord Club." It's a two-way street we have to go to God and then He can get closer to us. It's known as burning the worldly flesh. He doesn't want our gifts, He wants us. He doesn't care about your carpet, your nice buildings, your grounds, He cares about you. How do we burn the flesh, by



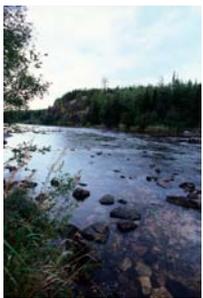
repentance, and only by repentance? A number of us are broke, but not broken. We have to be completely broken before God. Our flesh has to smell like death to God. Do you think that we like the smell of death? No, so we are reluctant to become completely broken before God. It's very uncomfortable to be completely broken and it's out of our comfort zone. But, sometimes we have to do the uncomfortable things to become comfortable with them. As one writer put it, "create a comfort zone for God and a discomfort zone for fleshly man."

We are to worship and glorify God, that's our purpose on earth. We can only do that if we burn away the worldly flesh. Matthew even says that we are to become as little children, just lead around by the hand with the glory of God. We are to keep our eyes on God. See what happens is that we take our eyes off God and we forget about Him. It's just as Peter came walking on the waters in Matthew 14:30, The Living Bible says; *But when he looked around at the high waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted.* [MATTHEW 14:30] [TLB] Peter took his eyes off Jesus. And that is what we do sometimes, we take our eyes off Jesus and then we start sinking. We don't realize or understand what is happening. We start wondering why has God



forsaken us. He wasn't forsaken us, we have forsaken Him. We are the one that took our eyes off Him. He is always there. We can't do the ways of God if we don't seek Him and keep our eyes on Him and not the world. Can't help but quote one of my favorite Bible verses here, Romans 12:2; *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.* [ROMANS 12:2] [NAS] This verse is so important and clear to me. We are to be in the world, but not of this world. [GAP – Good, Aceptable, Perfect, Gap between God.]

Everything in life continues to move on with each passing day, we are not the same yesterday as we are today. If nothing else we are one day older. As an old Indian saying goes and it's true;



"We never step into the same river twice." From this point on we will do one of two things, we will continue on the same path that we are on or we will grow into an intimate relationship with Jesus. We are either growing toward Jesus or away from Him. We will continue in that same comfort zone or we will get out of that comfort zone and seek the face of God. Hopefully we will humble ourselves, pray and seek the face of God and then let God burn away that worldly flesh so we can see more of

Him. Hopefully we will:

- ✚ Seek the giver, not the gifts.
- ✚ Seek the creator, not the creation.
- ✚ Seek the blesser, not the blessings.
- ✚ Seek the face of God, not the worldly flesh of this world.

When we die to the flesh, God can live in us. There is flesh or God or a combination of both. The more flesh we have, the less we have of God, and the less of the flesh we have, the more we have of God. It's as if I can only pick up so much in one hand. I reach down and grab all I can hold

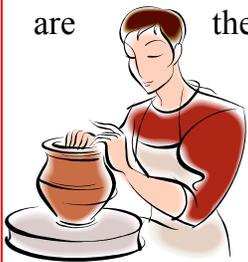
and it's the flesh. As I drop part of the flesh from my hand the more God I can pick-up. And eventually, as I drop all the flesh out of my hand and I can pick-up only God.

God is not looking for a date, He's looking for a long-term total commitment. Many people today think they can take all they can from God and never commit or give back. Just like in life, there are "Givers and Takers." We are to be givers. We are to give our lives to Jesus Christ. God desires from us a total and intimate relationship with Him. We can date someone here on earth and



not have any commitment whatsoever, but God is not looking for that. But when we propose to someone to marry and we marry, we have then totally committed our life to them for the rest of our life. That is what God is looking for, "a total life-time commitment." He's looking for a bride, not a date.

It's not about me, it's not about you, it's not about us, it's only about Jesus Christ. As we discussed in my Food Seminar, most of us are addicted to sugar or some other food. We need to "Get addicted to God." Let God take control of your life. Get out of your comfort zone of letting God have some areas of your life and you continuing to control other areas. God is interested in ALL aspects of your life, not only your food, finances, spiritual, job, health, etc. He wants to be a whole part of you. Yes, let's do get "Addicted to God." We hear a song often and we sing it here sometimes, the verses go. "Change my heart on God, may I be like you. You are the potter, I am the clay, mold me and make me more like you." You know, these verses are true. We are



the clay. We are to let God mold us into what he wants. As the song writer puts it; "SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL, SOMETHING GOOD." Have you ever seen a clay pot made by the potter? It's beautiful. If the clay is just right, the potter can mold that piece of clay into something beautiful with all kinds of shapes. Well we are the clay and if we will let God into our life, He can shape us and make something beautiful of our life. But it has to be a total surrender.

God can only mold and shape us when we die to self, when there is no more flesh to burn. Flesh is of this world. Paul says in I Corinthians 15:31 that "he dies daily." Then in Luke 9:23, Jesus said, *And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.* [LUKE 9:23] [NAS] When we deny our self, we burn the flesh away and take up his cross, His message, His gospel. And what does it say, "Daily." You must surrender all as Paul said in I Corinthians 6:20, you leave nothing on the table; *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

[1 CORINTHIANS 6:20] [KJV] In Tommy Tenney's book "Prayer of a God Chaser" he quotes Ralph Waldo Emerson concerning what and who we worship. The quote - "The gods we worship write their names on our faces, be sure of that. And a man will worship something – have no doubt about that either. He may think that his tribute is paid in secret in the dark recesses of his heart – but it will come out. That which dominates will determine his life and character. Therefore, it behooves us to be careful what we worship, for what we are worshipping we are becoming."

Let me leave you with these few questions.

I have some "Are You" questions

- ✚ Are you a God Chaser?
- ✚ Are you seeking after God daily?
- ✚ Are you denying yourself and going after Him?
- ✚ Are you taking up your cross daily and following Him?
- ✚ Are you burning all that flesh away so God can get closer to you?
- ✚ Are you seeking a real intimate relationship with God?
- ✚ Are you reading and studying daily, the Word of God, your Bible?
- ✚ Are you ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
- ✚ Are you totally committed to God?
- ✚ Are you addicted to God?

Let God control your life. As you know we are free moral agents. We can do what we want to do. We can leave God out of our life. It's not wise, but we can. God leaves all those decisions up to us. God is always there 24/7. So the closer we get to God the closer He gets to us. It's all a matter of the flesh.

Be a God Chaser!



I have gotten information for this article from a number of different sources; internet, Bibles, dictionaries, and study materials from several different authors, etc. I do not take credit for these writings since there are many. In many cases, I did not keep up with this information in order to give proper credit. My comments and rewriting of the sources are in this article. I therefore cannot take full credit for this study. The full credit would have to go to Jesus Christ, the creator of all things. This is my own opinions based on my understanding of Scripture as the Word of God.



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P.S. Message was inspired a book by Tommy Tenney, "The God Chasers," many of his ideas and quotes are from this book. I do not completely agree with all his comments but find the book inspiring.