



What We Need Most

What We Most Need

Isaiah 31:1; Deuteronomy 6:12-13; Nehemiah 4:14; 2 Peter 1:3
June 9, 2019

When we are not satisfied with our lives or church, we often seek to improve things. But sometimes we address secondary matters instead of primary. What we *most* need isn't the things we naturally focus on, such as more income for our families or better methods for our church. Instead, I believe what we need most of all is God. I also believe we should not and dare not reduce him to an assumption or a given.

Though it sounds strange to us, Scripture often warns us of the danger of forgetting God (Exodus 14:14; Deuteronomy 6:12; 8:11-14, 19; Nehemiah 4:13-14; 2 Timothy 2:8). We are to take God seriously and trust him above all else (Deuteronomy 6:13; Isaiah 8:11-13; 31:1; 51:12-13). His purpose will prevail, and what we might tend to think we are doing on our own is actually enabled by Him (Deuteronomy 8:15-18; Proverbs 19:21; cf. 16:1, 3). In God we can find what we most need (Matthew 6:25-34; 11:28-30; John 5:39-40; 2 Peter 1:3).

To clarify, I'm not saying we need to be more religious or more committed. Rather, we need God himself. I'm not saying more money, better jobs, and improved relevance are never called for. Rather, those are not the *main* thing we need. And needing God most of all doesn't mean we only sit around and pray and enjoy him all the time. We will need to make some decisions, take action, and work on some things. But any of these things we do must emerge from our relationship with God.

In the modern world, we were arrogant enough to believe we could solve all problems, but time has shown that is not the case. In the postmodern world, we may think the answers vary from person to person, that matters are not black and white or that there are no answers at all. But even these perspectives are somewhat modern, if we think they explain or solve the complexity of life. In fact, however, neither modernity nor postmodernity matters ultimately. What we most need is God, even if some may think that sounds too modern.

So today, I want to urge us to seek God. We were made for this (Acts 17:27). Failure to do so is characteristic of sinful humanity (Romans 3:11). If we have named God as our God, we should seek him earnestly (Psalm 63:1-5), and if we seek him with our whole heart, we *will* find him (Jeremiah 29:13). God may discipline us at times in hopes that we will seek him (Hosea 5:13-15). It is not always wrong to seek other help, but we must seek God above all (2 Chronicles 16:12; Isaiah 31:1). To seek him includes inquiring of him, putting our hope in him, and obeying him (Zephaniah 1:6; Lamentations 3:25; Psalm 119:10).

I also want to encourage us to know God (Matthew 7:21-23; John 17:3; Philippians 3:7-11) so that we can be people after his own heart (Acts 13:22; cf. all of David's life and words, especially Psalms). To know him includes having a relationship with him that leads us to become like him (Jeremiah 22:15-16).

Since we are actually starving for God, I urge us to nourish ourselves on him. We need to stop spending so much money on what is not bread and naively seeking things that do not satisfy, and instead learn to find nourishment in God (Isaiah 55:1-3; Psalm 42:1-2; John 4:1-26; 6:1-15, 25-69; 7:37-39).

Finally, I want to urge us all to fall in love with God (Isaiah 54:5-6; Hosea 2:14-20; Mark 12:30; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:31-32; Revelation 19:6-8). In sum, God's people need to remember that we need God more than anything else.

