



# “better THAN PERFECT”

## Legacy of Purpose

Text: 1 Chronicles 28: 9-10

Grow Group and Discipleship Director Luann Riley

1. Who is someone in your life who left an impactful legacy? What was it about them that left such an impression on you, and the people around them?
2. Read 1 Chronicles 28:9-10.
  - a. What does David say should be Solomon’s #1 priority?
  - b. Remember who David is talking to: his heir, the next leader of an entire nation. If someone asked you what the #1 priority of a leader should be, whether in the home, in the work place, in a volunteer organization, etc., what would your answer be?
  - c. Why did David list this as #1 priority? As you ponder this, think back on David’s life as we have been studying about. How might his life experiences have influenced what he wanted to be sure he passed down to his son as of first importance?
  - d. How would you define in your own words the difference between knowing ABOUT God and actually KNOWING God?
  - e. When in your life did God become real to you? When did He move from being THE God to YOUR God?
  - f. How do we move from simply knowing about God to actually developing our relationship with him?
  - g. What is the sort of commitment level to God is David calling Solomon to?
  - h. We often think of service to the Lord as being something physical, which it certainly can be. How do we serve the Lord with our mind and heart?
3. Puritan preacher Jonathan Edwards, in his famous Resolutions, said, “Resolved, that I will live so as I shall wish I had done when I come to die.” It may seem morose, but Scripture regularly reminds us to remember how fleeting life is. (See Psalm 144:4, James 4:14.) Why? Because it is by regularly reminding ourselves how quickly and often shockingly death can come that we become most greatly motivated to make every moment count. Luann shared a recent life event that caused her to pause and consider her legacy. Please share about the most recent similar experience in your life and how that affected you.

4. See Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 22:37, Mark 12:30, Luke 10:27. What are you doing in your life right now that is leading you towards a legacy as one who knew, loved, and served God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might?
  - a. When was your most recent course correct with God? Share with the group how you did it and what you did to encourage others that we can all do it.
  - b. Where do you need to course correct? What do you need to start doing or get back to doing? What do you need to stop doing or cut back on?

Challenge: Read Hebrews 12:1-2. What does the author of Hebrews say is key to running the race of life well? What is one practical way you can put this into practice this week?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You that Your perfect plans and purposes can never be frustrated and that You are working quietly in the background in order that Your divine will continues to progress towards its ultimate goal, as year succeeds to year.

I praise You that You have given me life and made me a new creation in Christ and thank You Father, that You have a special purpose for my life too. Thank You that by Your grace You are carrying out Your purposes in the lives of all Your children - that Christ is all and in all and I pray that this may be realized in my life too.

Enable and equip me I pray, to fulfill the plan and purpose that you have for me to do and I ask that You would use each gift and every talent that You have graciously given to me, to Your praise and glory.

Help me to fulfill all that You would have me do in my life and may I be obedient to Your voice as I seek to carry out Your purpose for my life. May I rejoice evermore and pray without ceasing. Amen

*“who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.” (2 Timothy 1:9)*

## STUDY DEEPER

### What Does It Mean to Seek the Lord?

Seeking the Lord means seeking his presence. “Presence” is a common translation of the Hebrew word “face.” Literally, we are to seek his “face.” But this is the Hebraic way of having access to God. To be before his face is to be in his presence.

But aren’t his children always in his presence? Yes and no. Yes in two senses: First, in the sense that God is omnipresent and therefore always near everything and everyone. He holds everything in being. His power is ever-present in sustaining and governing all things.

And second, yes, he is always present with his children in the sense of his covenant commitment to always stand by us and work for us and turn everything for our good. “Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

### When He’s Not with Us

But there is a sense in which God’s presence is not with us always. For this reason, the Bible repeatedly calls us to “seek the Lord . . . seek his presence continually.” God’s manifest, conscious, trusted presence is not our constant experience. There are seasons when we become neglectful of God and give him no thought and do not put trust in him and we find him “unmanifested” – that is, unperceived as great and beautiful and valuable by the eyes of our hearts.

“God calls us to enjoy continual consciousness of his supreme greatness and beauty and worth.”

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His face – the brightness of his personal character – is hidden behind the curtain of our carnal desires. This condition is always ready to overtake us. That is why we are told to “seek his presence continually.” God calls us to enjoy continual consciousness of his supreme greatness and beauty and worth.

### What It Means to Seek

This happens through “seeking.” Continual seeking. But what does that mean practically? Both the Old and New Testaments say it is a “setting of the mind and heart” on God. It is the conscious fixing or focusing of our mind’s attention and our heart’s affection on God.

“Now set your mind and heart to seek the Lord your God.” (1 Chronicles 22:19)

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”  
(Colossians 3:1–2)

#### A Conscious Choice

This setting of the mind is the opposite of mental coasting. It is a conscious choice to direct the heart toward God. This is what Paul prays for the church: “May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ” (2 Thessalonians 3:5). It is a conscious effort on our part. But that effort to seek God is a gift from God.

“Seeking God is the conscious effort to get through the natural means to God himself.” Tweet  
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We do not make this mental and emotional effort to seek God because he is lost. That’s why we would seek a coin or a sheep. But God is not lost. Nevertheless, there is always something through which or around which we must go to meet him consciously. This going through or around is what seeking is. He is often hidden. Veiled. We must go through mediators and around obstacles.

The heavens are telling the glory of God. So we can seek him through that. He reveals himself in his word. So we can seek him through that. He shows himself to us in the evidences of grace in other people. So we can seek him through that. The seeking is the conscious effort to get through the natural means to God himself – to constantly set our minds toward God in all our experiences, to direct our minds and hearts toward him through the means of his revelation. This is what seeking God means.

#### Obstacles to Avoid

And there are endless obstacles that we must get around in order to see him clearly, and so that we can be in the light of his presence. We must flee spiritually dulling activities. We must run from them and get around them. They are blocking our way.

We know what makes us vitally sensitive to God’s appearances in the world and in the word. And we know what dulls us and blinds us and makes us not even want to seek him. These things we must move away from and go around if we would see God. That is what seeking God involves.

“The great promise to those who seek the Lord is that he will be found.” Tweet Share on  
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And as we direct our minds and hearts Godward in all our experiences, we cry out to him. This too is what seeking him means.

“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.” (Isaiah 55:6)

“If you will seek God and plead with the Almighty for mercy . . .” (Job 8:5)

Seeking involves calling and pleading. “O Lord, open my eyes. O Lord, pull back the curtain of my own blindness. Lord, have mercy and reveal yourself. I long to see your face.”

### Humility Essential

The great obstacle to seeking the Lord is pride. “In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him” (Psalm 10:4). Therefore, humility is essential to seeking the Lord.

The great promise to those who seek the Lord is that he will be found. “If you seek him, he will be found by you” (1 Chronicles 28:9). And when he is found, there is great reward. “Whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him” (Hebrews 11:6). God himself is our greatest reward. And when we have him, we have everything. Therefore, “Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!”

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-does-it-mean-to-seek-the-lord>