<u>Hunger</u> – (thirst) compelling need to aquire, to be without and crave, (Starvation, famine, malnutrition)

Psalm 23 : The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. Psalm 42 - As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; Psalm 63 - O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Matt 5:6 - "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<u>Psalm 107:4-9</u> They wandered in the wilderness in a desert region; They did not find a way to an inhabited city. They were hungry and thirsty; Their soul fainted within them. Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble; He delivered them out of their distresses.

John 4:14 – Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; <u>14</u>but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." 6:35 - Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. 7:37 - Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.

1 Cor 10:3 - and all ate the same spiritual food; and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.

Exodus 17:1-6 Then all the congregation of the sons of Israel journeyed by stages from the wilderness of Sin, according to the command of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, and there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water that we may drink " And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and they grumbled against Moses and said, "Why, now, have you brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"

Isa 55:1 - Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost.

Desire – having an appetite, fond liking for...

Isa 26:9 - At night my soul longs for You, Indeed, my spirit within me seeks You diligently;

1 tim 3:1 - It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.

1 Peter 2:2 - like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

Psalm 73:25 - Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth.

Hebrews 13:18 - Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things.

Prov 4:23 - Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.

Ungodly desires – 1 Peter 4:3 - For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. 2 peter 2:8 - speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires -

<u>Pursue</u> — to follow close upon in order to overtake or capture; go with; attend: to strive to gain, proceed in that direction, to practice the attributes of,

1 cor 14:1 - Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

2 tim 2:2 - Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace,

Matt 6:21 - for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Psalm 34:14 - Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. (the attributes and characteristics of God)

Prov 15:9 - The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But He loves one who pursues righteousness.

Prov 11:19 - He who is steadfast in righteousness will attain to life, And he who pursues evil will bring about his own death.

Rom 14:19 - So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

<u>Chase</u> — to rush, or hasten, with inward drive and focus on the object or goal, devote one's attention to; with the hope of attracting, winning, or gaining

Abide — 1. to remain; continue; stay, dwell; reside. to accept without opposition or question... - 2. to put up with; tolerate; stand, to endure, sustain, or withstand without yielding or submitting

John 15:4 - Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

Lev 8:35 - Therefore shall <u>ye abide</u> at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation day and night seven days, and keep the charge of the Lord

1 Sam 19:2 - now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and **abide** in a secret place, and hide thyself:

1 Sam 22:23 - **Abide** thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard.

Wait — to be available or in readiness, to look forward to eagerly while things are postponed or delayed. to remain inactive until something expected happens.

Isa 26:8 - Indeed, while following the way of Your judgments, O LORD, We have waited for You eagerly;

Exod 24:12 - Then the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount and wait there, and I will give thee tables of stone and the law and commandments which I have written to teach them.

Number 8:24 -they shall go in to wait upon the service of the tabernacle of the congregation:

Numbers 9:8 - Moses replied to them, "Wait here until I hear what the Lord commands for you."

Numbers 22:19 - Now therefore, please wait also here this night, that I may know what Yahweh will speak to me more."

Duet 31:14 - And Moses and Joshua went and waited in the tabernacle of the testimony.

Psalm 5:3 - Lord, in the morning you will hear me; in the morning I will present my case to you and then wait expectantly for an answer.

Psalm 18:30 - As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is precise: a shield to all those that wait in him.

Psalm 31:24 - Be strong and confident, all you who wait on the Lord!

Psalm 27:14 - Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD

Psalm 130:5 - I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, And in His word do I hope.

Hosea 12:6 - Therefore, return to your God, Observe kindness and justice, And wait for your God continually.

Isa 40:31 - But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint

Luke 12:35 - Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit. "Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks.

Be still — remaining in place or at rest; motionless; stationary. free from sound or noise, hushed, as a place or

person; silent: free from turbulence or commotion; peaceful; tranquil; calm. without waves or perceptible current; not flowing, as water.

Psalm 46:10

He says, "**Be still**, and know that I am God; I will **be** exalted among the nations, I will **be** exalted in the earth." <u>Psalm 37:7</u>

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

Hebrews 4:1-11 Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it... For if Joshua had given them rest, (in the promise land) God would not have spoken later about another day. ⁹ There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; ¹⁰ for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. ¹¹ Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest

- Seeking God

Purpose: To help you pursue a relationship with God by developing a seeker's heart and by coming to know Jesus as revealed in God's Word, the Bible.

- <u>Acts 17:16-28</u>. Ever ask yourself: "What on earth am I here for?" You aren't alone! Why did God create you and bring you to this very point and time in your life? So that you would seek him and find him in order to have a personal relationship with him. Who takes the initiative in seeking this relationship? Because God loves us and desires a relationship with us, he has been actively determining times and places long before we ever thought about seeking him (*Psalm 14:2-3*). Why do so few seem to be seeking today? God is unknown and the image many have of him is distorted. To seek God, we must be willing to change our ideas about who God is to match what has been revealed to us in the Bible. There is nothing more important or exciting in life than to seek and to find our Creator God.
- Jeremiah 29:11-14. We will find God if we seek Him with all our heart. Have you ever done something with all your heart? What will it mean for you to seek God with all your heart?
- <u>Matthew 7:7-11</u>. What does God promise those who diligently seek? Prayer is the means by which we can make our requests known to God. Do you pray? As you seek to know God better, take him at his word that he truly listens and responds to our prayers as a loving Father.
- <u>Acts 8:26-40</u>. What do we know about this seeker? He is important and therefore certainly busy, but still finds time for God. He reads the Scriptures himself and asks questions about what he is reading. He is humble and sincere enough in his search to ask for help. What he learns he acts on right away, as seen with his baptism. How did he feel after coming to know God better? The burning questions he had about God were answered in an afternoon.
- <u>Acts 17:10-12</u>. What was it about these Berean seekers that made Luke refer to them as having "noble character"? What does "great eagerness" imply? Why was it important for them to "examine the Scriptures every day" for themselves? What was the result of this eager yet diligent attitude? As with prayer, reading the Bible is vitally important to knowing God.
- John 1:18. Jesus has made God known. Where do we begin our search for God? We begin by getting to know Jesus. To the degree that we know Jesus, we will know God.
- John 20:30-31. The Word of God produces faith in Jesus. What will we find if we seek God by coming to know Jesus through God's Word? Finding God begins with coming to faith in Jesus which promises true life now and eternal life later! As we take a closer look at Jesus, are you willing to make a heartfelt effort to draw closer to God by praying and reading the Bible?

Additional Helpful Scriptures:

- Deuteronomy 4:28-31
- <u>2 Chronicles 15:1-4</u>
- <u>Matthew 6:25-33</u>
- <u>Matthew 7:13-14</u>
- <u>Matthew 13:44-46</u>
- <u>Hebrews 11:6</u>

- I. What does it mean to "seek God"?
 - A. The psalmist well described man's search for God when he cried, "deep calleth unto deep ..." (Psalms 42)
 - B. It is the spirit of man longing for fellowship with God.

Psalms 63:1, 6-8; 84:2, 3 Song of Songs 3:1-4 Isaiah 26:9 John 4:23, 24 Romans 1:9 Philippians 3:3

II. The very purpose of man's existence is to seek God.

Acts 17:26-28

A. Failure to seek after God results in spiritual death.

Isaiah 5:13 Hosea 4:6

B. But an impartation of His life through us can be obtained by seeking Him with all our hearts.

Deuteronomy 30:6, 19, 20 Psalms 69:32 Proverbs 8:34, 35; 14:27; 19:23 Amos 5:4, 6, 8 John 14:6

III. He promises that those who diligently seek him shall find him.

Deuteronomy 4:29-31 (Jeremiah 29:11-14) 1 Chronicles 28:9 Psalms 9:10 Proverbs 8:17 Matthew 7:7 (Luke 11:9-10) John 6:37 James 4:8

A. We do not seek Him in vain.

Isaiah 45:19 Malachi 3:13, 14 B. He promises certain blessings and rewards to those who diligently seek His Face.

Psalms 107:9 Lamentations 3:25 Hebrews 11:6

1. Joy.

Psalms 70:4; 105:3

2. Peace and rest.

2 Chronicles 14:7; 15:12-15

3. Revelation.

Jeremiah 33:3

4. Understanding in the ways of God.

Proverbs 28:5

5. Strength.

1 Chronicles 16:11 Psalms 105:4 Isaiah 40:31; 41:1

6. Prosperity and provision.

2 Chronicles 26:5 Psalms 34:9, 10 Matthew 6:33

7. Security.

Psalm 27:4, 5

IV. God requires an immediate response on our part to the beckoning of the Spirit.

Psalms 27:8

A. The Lord, like a timid deer, is withdrawn.

Song of Songs 2:9

B. We must not delay when He calls (Song of Songs 5:2-6), but seek the Lord "while He may be found" (Isaiah 55:6).

C. Continued delay to the call of the Spirit may result in the hardening of our hearts (Hebrews 3:7-8, 15), and cause that the consciousness of His Presence be withheld from us.

2 Chronicles 32:31 Song of Songs 5:2-6, esp. v. 6 Hosea 5:15

V. God seeks those who will seek Him.

2 Chronicles 16:9 Psalms 14:2; 53:2 John 4:23

- A. "Continually."
 - 1 Chronicles 16:11
- B. Whole-heartedly.
 - 2 Chronicles 15:12 Psalms 119:2, 10 Jeremiah 29:13 Hebrews 10:22
- C. "Diligently."
 - Psalms 63:1 Proverbs 8:17 Isaiah 26:9
- D. Above all else.

Psalms 27:4; 73:25-26 Matthew 6:33