

Seek ye...

By Lou Ann Mokwa

Luke 12:31 *"Seek ye the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added to you"*

What are humans naturally inclined to seek in our modern world? Many of us might answer that question with endeavors of fame, fortune, true-love, peace, happiness and freedom, just to name a few. Why do we seek these pursuits? Culturally we are focused on "searching for or being on a long-term quest"<sup>i</sup> for something life-changing and life-fulfilling. But consider an alternate definition of seek: "to try to discover, as by studying."<sup>ii</sup>

On rare occasions, fame and fortune can be achieved by studying or making a remarkable discovery. Consider Madam Curie who spent her life researching and ultimately discovering the element of radium, which when transformed into radiation, has forever changed the diagnosis and treatment of illness. Or Dr. Jonas Salk who procured the vaccine to treat the life-threatening and disabling disease of polio. However, in society today, we witness numerous examples of the fleeting and hollow nature of fame and fortune.

Consider the genuine pursuits of true-love, peace, happiness and freedom. Can they be achieved by discovery or studying?

Psalm 14:2 *"The LORD looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, who seek God."*

How can we understand and seek (i.e., "try to discover, as by studying") God?

*"May the LORD, who is good, pardon everyone who sets their heart on seeking God"* 2 Chronicles 30: 18-19.

First, pray that the Holy Spirit would fill you with the desire and passion to seek God through his Word. Then, initiate the discipline of daily time in God's Word, even if it is 5 minutes or less. Jot down your thoughts, questions or inspirations from what you have read. It matters not when, where or what Scripture you study, remember it is intimate time between you and God. *"I seek you with all my heart...I have hidden your word in my heart."* (Psalm 119: 10,11)

Group Bible study is an alternative (or additional) preference to studying and discovering God's Word. Some churches lack resources for a formal women's Bible study, consider asking one or two ladies to meet to focus on Scripture. Start small and casual, once a month, over coffee or tea. Jesus promises, *"for where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."* (Matt 18: 20) Benefits to studying with partners: it makes us more accountable, especially if the dates, times and locations are preset. Pastors are a great source for suggestions on what to study. There are many different women's

Bible studies, in multiple formats, just ensure the content is theologically sound. In-depth studies that include “homework” outside of group study can encourage the discipline of daily time in Scripture.

*“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” (Eph 4: 11, 12)*

Any time an opportunity arises to participate in a more formal Bible study, led by a pastor from a sound Bible-based seminary, prayerfully consider seeking this blessing. Seminary training gives pastors knowledge of the original Greek and Hebrew translations, history of the context, and the ability to answer some of the tough questions we as lay people, may struggle with. Additionally, the sound Bible doctrine pastors can provide is a priceless gift as we seek his Word.

Seeking God is essential to our faith. God has given and preserved his precious Word, use it to seek: discover as by studying, Him.

*“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” Heb 11:6*

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<sup>i</sup> Webster’s College Dictionary (New York: Random House Publishers, 1995) 1213

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid