

135 – Seek (Tamra Jean), but be a reluctant saint

Revelation of the Lord is an exciting and fearful thing all at once, so when -- Tamra Jean emailed me earlier in the week about sharing something on Light Up the Scriptures that the Lord had shown her, her biggest concern was whether she would be ready in time. Sometime this morning, after she'd sent an email about the gist of what she was seeing, we talked about how to know whether she was seeing clearly, and even more importantly, whether her desire to share was coming from her or from God.

I only asked her one question: *“Are you excited about what God is showing you?”* Tamra's voice changed instantly into child-like enthusiasm and delight with what she was finding. I told her that's how she would know the genuine from the fake, the difference between revelation from God and some personally cooked up idea of the truth: It's a strange combination between an excitement you can't bear to keep inside, and holy fear about saying a word to anyone.

People living out of the flesh can't wait to shout from the rooftops and show how much they know. They love the attention, recognition, and status that accompany someone who speaks well and can inspire others with his or her charisma. But genuine men and women of God are reluctant saints. Not only do they NOT seek position or recognition, they **shy** from it, they're embarrassed by any attention it brings, and they are quick to give God all the glory, knowing that they deserve none because true revelation is the Father's word with His heart to His children.

The problem for the genuine son or daughter of God is that the unction of the Holy spirit within them won't let them rest until they share exactly and fully what God is revealing to them. It's completely backwards from how people usually do things, but it's exactly what God chooses throughout the scriptures: reluctant saints.

Moses wanted God to let him off from speaking to Pharaoh and Israel. He angered God with his begging to find someone else. Yet he HAD to speak God's words to a stubborn nation of people for over 40 years.

Jesus was reluctant to assume any position. He knew that He had one, but how many times do we read about Him cautioning someone – even His own disciples, not to tell anyone Who He was or what He had done.

Look at any prophet, and you'll find a man or woman who had no desire for office, but whom God chose, nonetheless.

The gung-ho saints are the ones to watch out for. They look good and sound good, but they operate from pride and self-importance, instead of holy fear. Genuine people of God seek not position, recognition, wealth, reputation, possessions. They are reluctant to say much because they know that all they are and have is God's; they hold nothing dear to themselves...not even their own lives. God **trusts** the reluctant saint. He reveals Himself and His word to them in ways that others miss, but will benefit from greatly if they'll just pay attention.

In Philippians 3, the Apostle Paul says to "be carrying out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Why fear and trembling? Paul answers the question in verse 13:

for it is **God** Who is operating in you to will as well as to work for the sake of His delight.

The reluctant saint can be trusted to share God's revelation with the Body of Christ because he or she KNOWS, beyond a shadow of doubt, that he or she is NOT the one willing and working. **God** is operating in reluctant saints – whom He calls sons and daughters – brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ – to **will** as well as to **work** FOR the sake of **HIS** delight, not their own.

Tamra Jean will be embarrassed for me to call her a saint, but I do as Paul did in recognizing all the brethren and sisters of the Lord. What she has for us tonight will edify the Body of Christ; so Tamra Jean, Daughter of the Most High God, please share with us His revelation to you.

SEEK

God gave me ONE WORD after Jammie Church on Tuesday night: **SEEK** – “*make an effort to find*” (from the Concordant Literal Keyword Concordance).

Thayer’s lexicon: “[find out] *by thinking, meditating, reasoning; to enquire into, aim at, strive after; to require; to crave; also demand something from someone*”

What I saw here is that seeking is purpose, deliberate, demanding, and even relentless. There have been times in my life – and perhaps in yours too – when I have looked at God, demanding to know something; or demanding his help to be delivered of something. I was done praying and pleading in any meek or plaintive way; I’d already done that.

Matthew 7:7-8, Jesus said,

Request and it shall be given you. Seek and you shall find. Knock and it shall be opened to you.

8 For everyone who is requesting is obtaining, and who is seeking is finding, and to him who is knocking it shall be opened.

Look at the order there: Request, Seek, Knock. Ask, Demand, and Bang on the door (like Peter knocked insistently on the door, after the angel released him from prison, and the other disciples refused to answer. The Father will NOT refuse. Seeking means finding...with enough perseverance.

What the WORLD says to seek – Hey, what I used to seek: love, money, stability.

What does GOD want me to seek? Well, let us look at the GREATEST example of THE ONE that was here on earth...

What did JESUS SEEK?

John 5:30

for I am NOT seeking MY will, but the will of Him who sends me.

Seeking takes TIME and EFFORT. Jesus woke up early, still in the night and went to a desolate place and prayed... (Mark 1:35)

I would do WELL to seek what Jesus did - GOD'S WILL for my life!

In the past, what I would seek would be to KEEP my amazing job; to SEARCH for a man to take care of me...

As someone in my life has said to me for YEARS:

"How's THAT workin for ya?"
WELL, TERRIBLE, THANK **ME** VERY MUCH.

So, THIS TIME...THIS TIME I WILL DO IT GOD'S WAY!!!
Praise GOD for HIS FAITHFULNESS and GIVING me another chance...
And another... and another...

As Barbara and Laura have shared with me, they wake up in the morning and say to God, "What would YOU have me do today Lord?"

For those of us blessed with 9-5 jobs right now,
Or in school (TOTALLY MARVELOUS TATIANA!)
It could be more like, "Lord, who would you have me talk to?
Anyone? Help me to lead a quiet life Lord..."

Matt 6:33 says:

...“SEEK FIRST the Kingdom and its righteousness...” and clothes and food
and drink will be given to you

Look at the order here, SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM

(which is not of this world John 18:36, but it is within you Luke 17:21)

*All the things we NEED to live,

*SIMPLE, clothing, food, and drink.

*Notice what It does NOT SAY: Matching bathroom decor or designer clothes,
or even sleep (or whatever OUR idea of "life is"...))

THIS IS AMAZING:

What is THE FATHER, GOD ALMIGHTY IN HEAVEN seeking?

John 4:23 - Let's read **vs 19-24**:

The woman is saying to Him, "Lord, I behold that thou art a prophet.

20 Our fathers worship in this mountain, and you say that in Jerusalem is the place where one must worship."

21 Jesus is saying to her, "**Believe Me, woman, that, coming is an hour when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem shall you be worshipping the Father.**

22 You are worshipping that of which you are not aware; we are worshipping that of which we are aware, for salvation is of the Jews.

23 But **coming is the hour, and now is, when the true worshipers will be**

worshiping the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father also is seeking such to be worshiping Him.

He is “*making an effort to find; He is aiming at, striving after, requiring, craving, and [even] demanding*” **true worshippers**. Not “worship,” but “worshipERS” ... **true** ones.

Worship means: “*Toward-teem*” (proskuneo): “*be devout, offer divine service, glory, revere, willful ritual.*”

I saw three things here:

1. In verse 21, Jesus “dislocated” worship from a piece of land, no matter how holy it may be designated to be.
2. In verse 23, He relocates worship “in spirit and in truth,” but this is only for “**TRUE worshippers.**” That suggests that there are also “fake” or “false” worshippers.
3. So, it’s not any kind of worship, by anyone who worships, but only **TRUE worshippers** are the ones whom the Father seeks.

What if, just as Barbara says, “When you can Hear God say NO, then you will hear him also say Yes.”

So possibly, could it also be said? When you can do *NOTHING* for God, then you can do *something* for God.” (This is simply my opinion, open for discussion, not a word from God, check this in your own spirit, and let me know what you got...)

By doing “nothing,” I mean as taught us in the big box churches. Instead, **SIMPLY** worship God, with all your heart and mind and quiet life, Giving **ALL** glory to God, taking **NONE** for yourself.

Have you **NOTICED EVERY TIME** I (or anyone) gives Barbara or Tom a compliment, they say “**PRAISE GOD, or TO GOD BE THE GLORY**” what **HUMBLE** examples, **THANK YOU BOTH** for your **LIVES** and **THE WAY YOU LIVE, EVERY MOMENT, EVERY BREATH!**

At work on Thursday I complimented this woman for having **ALL** her tenant balances zero, they all owed nothing! There are five total property managers in this company, she is the only one with zero balances for all her tenants. I sent her an email and told her in person, “Great **JOB!**” And I was **SO SHOCKED** when she responded, “**OF COURSE! LOOK WHO YOU ARE TALKING TO.**” No condemnation here, I **USED TO**

do that too, but I am SO USED to you all, my family responding TO GOD BE THE GLORY GIRL, that her response really did shock me.

AND look can happen when people DO seek Him:

Heb 11:5-6

By faith, Enoch was transferred, so as not to be acquainted with death, and was not found, because God transfers him. For before his transference he is attested to have pleased God well. Now apart from faith it is impossible to be well pleasing, for he who is coming to God must believe that He is, and is becoming a rewarder of those who are seeking Him out.

HOW ENCOURAGING!!!

We could write our OWN **Hebrews 11...**

- And by Faith, Barbara walked for TWENTY YEARS, seeing visions of things, yet not seeing them in the flesh. Continued walking, with no one by her side. People getting on, people getting off, not fading HER WALK in the least!!!
- And by Faith, Tom, is WALKING breath by breath, LIVING a GREAT EXAMPLE for all of us who follow. HOLDING TWO SWORDS, one in each hand, not even for himself, but for his fellow believers! He will soon be rewarded, resting until JESUS COMES!!! HALELUJAH!!!
- And by Faith, Laura, the FIRST to make it out of New England, the cold EGYPT, is STANDING in the Gap, CALLING THE REST OF US ON, ENCOURAGING US, PASTORING WITH A HEART OF PURE GOLD!!!
- And the rest of us, what do WE WANT OURS TO SAY!!! SO LET US PROPHECY...
- And by Faith Tamra leaves her cold Egypt, when GOD PARTS her red sea, IN HIS UNIQUE way, she goes on, FOLLOWING THE CALL of GOD ON HER LIFE. GIVING UP EVERYTHING, not needing to understand, WALKS ON, forgetting the past, pressing on towards the goal, GOD'S GOAL of her call in Christ Jesus. Tamra MAKES IT!!! SHE MAKES IT TO GOD'S PROMISED LAND, SINGING AND MAKING JOYFUL SONGS IN HER HEART TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY GOD, EL SHADAI, THE WHOLE WAY!!!
- And by Faith Ashley, not seeing or understanding God's ways when she was 5, ALSO CALLED OUT OF the cold Egypt, in GOD'S TIMING, goes on in life, LEAVES her past behind, just as her mother did before her!!! Ashley FINDS GOD, the TRUE GOD, and fulfills the MANY prophecies spoken of her, ASSISTING her mother, working for God ALONE, in the helping of HUNDREDS of OTHERS from THEIR EGYPTS!
- What do you want yours to say, David let me know what yours is, I'll add it to the LIST! CONGRADULATIONS YOU MADE IT!! Tatiana, Taylor, Claudia, speak yours... write them along with me... Just as was spoken on Jammie Church, PROPHECY...

I Chron. 16:11

The New King James Version says:

**Seek the Lord and His strength;
Seek His face evermore.**

Complete Jewish Bible:

**Seek Adonai and His strength,
Always seek His presence.**

PRESENCE, WHAT A GREAT WORD, WHAT A GREAT THING!!!

The Concordant literal says:

**Seek after Yahweh and His strength:
Seek after his face continually.**

I LOVE these two last translations: ***“Seek HIS presence continually,”*** If I may put them both together!!!

Close your eyes for a moment, if you would.

REMEMBER WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE IN GOD’S PRESENCE?

LET US (me included) LIVE THERE CONTINUALLY!!!

Let’s look at **1 Chronicles 16** again, this time reading **vs 7-14**.

The Concordant Literal reads:

**Then, on that day, David gave a psalm for the first time to acclaim Yahweh
by means of Asaph and his brothers:**

8 Acclaim Yahweh! Call on His Name!

Make known His actions among the peoples!

9 Sing to Him! Make melody to Him!

Meditate on all His marvelous works!

10 Boast in His holy Name! Let the heart of those seeking Yahweh rejoice!

*** THIS CAUGHT ME, let the heart of those seeking Yahweh REJOICE!!!

*** THIS IS NEW FOR ME, to REJOICE in my heart.

I WAS TAUGHT, as I believe HUNDREDS of others are, TO BE SERIOUS, STRICT, STONE FACED, HARD almost, when in God’s house or when “worshiping” God especially.

PRAISE GOD FOR HIS word and HIS revelation and correctly cutting!!!

11 Seek after Yahweh and His strength; Seek His face continually.

12 Remember His marvelous works that He has done,

Look at the order here, I believe this is how we can seek his presence continually, by remembering HIS marvelous works

**Remember His marvelous works that He has done,
13 O seed of Israel, His servants Sons of Jacob, His chosen ones.**

*** THAT IS US, YOU AND ME, HIS CHOSEN ONES!!! DO YOU KNOW, DO YOU REALLY DEEP DOWN INSIDE KNOW THAT YOU, YOU ARE CHOSEN BY GOD?!?!

*** Might I be so BOLD as to say, if you are on this line, right now, HEARING my voice, YOU ARE CHOSEN BY GOD, EQUALLY AS ABRAHAM WAS CHOSEN, EQUALLY AS DAVID WAS CHOSEN, EQUALLY AS ANY "HERO" in the Bible was chosen, So are you!!! PUT YOUR NAME IN THERE!!!

14He is Yahweh, our Elohim; His judgments are in all the earth.

Father I thank you, I thank you for SHOWING your secrets, For GIVING your WORD, for wanting my life to be SO SIMPLE. Thank you. My life is yours, Amen and Amen.

A couple of weeks ago, we looked at the word, **PURSUE**: chase with good intent. Tonight, we're looking at the word, **SEEK**: make an effort to find. Since opening LUTS as a classroom where all may be free to share as the Lord leads, we've looked at several words:

Tamra began with the word **Utter**. Tatiana contributed **Courage, Trust and Faith**. Dave added **Pursue, Forfeit** and **Refuse**. Tonight Tamra added **Seek** to the list.

Look at the progression: We've been invited to utter – to speak or emit sounds – that we may not have considered uttering before. That takes courage, trust and faith (in God and in ourselves...that we are hearing from Him). We've seen what is worth pursuing – chasing after – and that all else is forfeit and refuse. May we live our lives continually seeking the Father's face and His voice. In so doing, we will lack for nothing, for we will have become true worshipers after whom He Himself is seeking.

Father, I pray that we would all agree: we earnestly seek to be true worshipers, courageously uttering what You instruct us to utter. Father, I pray that our faith and trust in You compels us to seek You – to crave You, aim for You, strive toward You, forfeiting all else and counting it as refuse. Lord, we single-mindedly pursue – chase after the prize of the calling above in Christ Jesus. Meanwhile, we do not look back or ponder the things of the past, for truly, they are refuse, and we willingly and even eagerly forfeit them.