



World Christian Fellowship

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Seek with God will all your heart

Jeremiah 29:10-14, *For thus says the Lord: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. ¹¹For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹²Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. ¹⁴I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.*

Historical setting.

God delivers the Israelites from Egypt.

They become confederacy made up of tribes by 1400 B.C

They become a nation known as Israel after approximately by 400 years.

They become a nation and Saul become their first king by 1020 B.C.

Saul ruled for 40 years.

David ruled for 40 years.

Solomon ruled for 40 years.

Solomon's son Rehoboam become the king the nations divided into two.

Northern Kingdom known as Israel with 10 tribes with their headquarters Shechem.

Southern Kingdom knows as Judah become a nation with Judah and Benjamin tribe with their headquarters as Jerusalem.

The kingdoms become apostates by walking away from God.

God raises many prophets and give them warning to return back.

The prophets had only one message from God. **If you stary away from God bad things will happen.**

Northern Kingdom ignores the warnings of Prophets,

➤ Elijah,

- Amos,
- Isaiah,
- Hosea, and
- Micah.

By **722 B.C** Syrians came and took over the Northern kingdom.

The people went into intermingle with Syrians and they have polluted their race. They were known as Samaritans since they are not pure Jews. The Southern kingdom people looked at them very low.

Remember they accused Jesus as Samaritan!

The South is not stayed as pure, but they also become apostates.

God again sends the prophets to speak to them to change their ways. They were ill treating widows and poor. They started worshipping false gods.

The prophets give them the same warning which He did with northern kingdom.

The prophets had only one message from God. **If you stary away from God bad things will happen.**

God raised one such prophet his name is Jeremiah.

Jeremiah speaks to the people of God about His words for decades.

Jeremiah gives them warnings, corrections, rebukes.

They were written down by Baruch the scribe.

Jeremiah 36:4, *Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah; and Baruch wrote on a scroll of a book, at the instruction of Jeremiah, all the words of the Lord which He had spoken to him.*

Jeremiah first 25 chapter of the book his message is the same. For nearly **23 years** he has been preaching the same message is that **if you stay away from God bad things will happen.**

Now in the **25th Chapter of Jeremiah** the message shifts. I have been telling you all this while now this is about happen.

Exactly by **605, 597, and 586 B.C.** three times Babylonian king under Nebuchadnezzar they destroyed Jerusalem, temple, and all the living stock and people as captive.

Jeremiah lived to see the destruction and all the dismay it broke his and heart. Jeremiah crying and weeping that's why he is known as weeping prophet.

He was so despair that he wrote the next book in our bible known as Lamentations, a song of sorrow.

Jeremiah 29 is the letter written to the people who are already in exile in Babylon after 70 years.

The Jews left their home, and they are living in Babylon which is 900 miles away. Jeremiah sends this letter to them.

A letter of hope to them.

God write to them that you have seen the worst things in your life but now you are going to see the good things. Because God is faithful to His promise.

1. Distance from God.

People are staying away about 900 miles away.

It is not the physical distance Jeremiah is concerned but the spiritual distance they have with God.

You have abandoned God.

You have strayed from God.

How much ever God blessed you still you feel you are distance from God.

When your prayer is not answered you feel you are away from God.

Everything is going the opposite direction.

Emptiness.

Remember the time you gave your life to God.

Now you are far away from God.

How do you discern that you are away from God.

How dangerously you are away from God.

a) Warning.

Progression.

Psalms 1:1, *Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;*

Observe the progression.

Walking,

Standing,

Sitting.

Do not lose your conviction.

Ephesians 4:18-19, *having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

God gives us His warnings.

When you hear the message do you think it is for you?
Are you hearing it a message from a person or from God?

Seat belt warning in the car example.

You get used the warning sound but not hearing it at all.
You remove the warning sign itself rather than rectifying it.

Aeroplane parking brake and damaged the whole aircraft.

b) Decreased devotional life

Prayer,
Reading the Word of God, and
Praise.

What is the first thing you do in the morning?
Mobile phone.

Just check what is your screen time?

Keep you busy so that you will be away from God this is the Satan's strategy!

Luke 10:38-41, *Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. ³⁹And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." ⁴¹And ¶Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. ⁴²But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."*

Martha was busy for Jesus but not with Him.

Are you talking to God more or the people?

Who do you converse more?

Just reflect?

Are you reading your bible daily?

Are you opening the Bible only on Sundays?

What about your children?

Do you have bible reading with your kids?

Psalms 119:11, *Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.*

Are you committed to reading the word of God?
You need to speak to yourself the word of God.

Psalms 91:15, *He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honour him.*

If you are asking God and you are not able to hear His answer, then guess who moved away?

It is not God has moved away but you!

Bluetooth example.

Leaving the phone and walking away.

c) Un-Intentional unapologetically offensive to others.

What was the complaint about Judah from God?

See how you are treating the widows, poor, orphans, strangers, etc.

You can't treat the people the way you want and then say you are close to God.

People say what I feel I will say it!

How?

When you look down upon the people and think you are fine with God?

d) Committed to Worship together.

If you are not excited to come to church for the worship service, then there is something wrong.

You are not setting priority to be in the house of God then you have already distanced yourself.

Psalms 122:1, *I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord."*

Coming together to worship God should excite you more than going out meal, game, or sports, anything.

Have you lost your joy to worship God?

Don't blame the songs or the message.

Have you come here to give it to God or came here to get something like a consumer?

Are you weekend worship or weakened worship life?

You don't have to come to church to worship God?

Right!

God lives everywhere!

Well, you don't have to go home to be married. You can be married and never to go home still be married. Many of them like this only living their Christian life.

Corporate worship is also important.

e) Lost joy and peace

When you are walking with God is peace and Joy.

Isaiah 26:3, *You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.*

Nehemiah 8:10, *Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."*

Philippians 4:6-7, *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

Have you lost your first love?

Revelation 2:4, *Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.*

What keeps you away from God?

Idolatry.

The first commandment is not to have anything before God.

You might say I don't have any idols.

Right but then you have so many which takes away from God.

Phone,

Instagram,

Sports,

Golf,

Music,

5 Love languages by Gary chapman.

Words of Affirmation,

Acts of Service,

Receiving Gifts,

Quality Time, and

Physical Touch.

Yes, all these applicable towards God by us please.

Words of Affirmation.

Praising and thanking God.

Acts of Service.

Serving God in any capacity.

Receiving Gifts.

Your offerings with money.

Quality time.

Spending time alone with God.

Physical Touch.

Touching the poor and untouchables to show the love of God.

But number one God loves the most is spending quality time with Him.

People spend so much of time away from God but not with Him.

God says through Jeremiah that we can fix the problem.

V 13, *And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.*

It is your responsibility to seek Him.

Let this year be a time of seeking God.

Seek God!

All your heart!

Prayer and fasting.

Reading the word of God.

Deuteronomy 4:29, *But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.*

1 Chronicles 28:9, *“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.*

1 Chronicles 29:18-19, *and refined gold by weight for the altar of incense, and for the construction of the chariot, that is, the gold cherubim that spread their wings and overshadowed the ark of the covenant of the Lord.*¹⁹ *“All this,” said David, “the Lord made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans.”*

James 4:8, *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

Psalms 105:4, *Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face evermore!*