

Become What You Seek

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We are told by Christ: ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. The implication is the we are searching; searching for something, maybe many things. Of course, it was directed toward our search for the truth of Christ, but it applies to all areas of our lives.

As human beings, we are always searching for something: truth, strength, hope, love, money, fame, the right partner, food, a place to live, stability, our purpose, a job, acceptance, appreciation, peace, recognition, God's Will, joy, the next step, fulfillment, self-acceptance ... the list is almost endless.

And as we stumble around in life, distracted, dazed, and confused from trying to figure it all out on our own, we lose sight of God's gifts and grace and guidance that come our way. And we are in good company. The Bible tells us of Moses, the great leader of Israel, who waited around 40 years seeking freedom from the Egyptians for his people. During those years the Bible used the Hebrew word 'natsab' several times to describe his status. 'Natsab' means to "stand in wait", to be positioned. Moses and his brother Aaron had been positioned where God wanted them; ready for Israel's release from Egyptian slavery.

As we seek throughout our lives, God will guide us towards a particular station in life, an amalgamation of circumstances that will prepare us for attaining what we seek. We will be given the opportunities to learn skills, knowledge, and the time and teachers

to develop talents. We are being prepared to ‘do’ something that can help with our search.

But God also does something at times much more profound for us. After Moses led his people out of Egypt, from Exodus 24:12 we are told: The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there.” Moses had waited forty years for God to direct him and was now being asked to wait again. Some Bible translations interpret that sentence as God asking him to go to the mountain and “stay there”. But the Hebrew word for this word wait, is ‘hayah’, which means “to be”.

So God is asking Moses to go up on the mountain and “be”, just be. The mighty warrior of Israel, the former prince of Egypt, one of the most pivotal pioneers of the Judeo-Christian faith, was told not to do anything with thousands of people seeking direction – he was told to just be: ‘hayah’.

This is important, because as we recall when Moses first met God, it was through the conversation with the burning bush. It was during this conversation that God instructed Moses to return to Egypt and get the Israelites out of slavery. Moses stalled and finally asked, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is His name?’” what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, ‘I Am who I am.’” I am that I am. The original Hebrew was ‘Hayah asher hayah’.

In other words, when God told Moses to go to the mountain and ‘hayah’, he was not being told to simply wait, but to spend time with ‘hayah asher hayah’, to come into the presence of the holy “I Am”. He was to take on the very likeness of God; to reflect on his Creator and emulate through his consciousness all that God is.

This is God’s instruction for us: to ‘hayah’ with the boundless ‘hayah asher hayah’; to be with the Divine I Am, the Oneness of All. We are told that God is Love, so when we move into prayer and go to the mountain, that high place with us, we become love, as God is Love. God is the embodiment of compassion; therefore, we get to be the embodiment of compassion, or strength, or peace.

It is one thing “to do” loving things, joyful things, peaceful things, but it is quite another “to be love, to be joy, and to be peace”. That is God’s will for us: to become that which we seek.

Jim Rohn said: “If you want to have more, you have to become more. Success is not something you pursue. What you pursue will elude you; it will elude you; it can be like trying to chase butterflies. Success is something you attract by the person you become. For things to improve, you have to improve. For things to get better, you have to get better. For things to change, you have to change. When you change, everything changes for you.”

When God flashes an idea into our heads and hearts, almost instinctively we start to make a list of all the things we need to do and the steps we must prioritize to accomplish that vision. But what we should first ask our self is this: Who do I need to become

in order to accomplish this task? It's not about what we need to do; it's about who we need to become. After asking that question, we can then pursue our dreams and visions fully conscious that as we move toward God's Will for us we will face obstacles and challenges that will strengthen us, teach us, and change us.

No matter what it is we want to change, we'll never achieve lasting change until we change. Once we improve, everything else around us will improve. When it comes to seeking in life, remember it is not the process that needs to be worked on; it is us.

We don't get from life what we want; we get from life what we are. We will only achieve our desires equal to our level of who we become. As a human being, the more our life can reflect the Child of God that is our true spiritual nature – the love, peace, tolerance, kindness, wisdom, and strength – the more we can help others and the more our own aspirations are realized.

There is an Equadorian word that can be helpful to keep in mind: it is the word 'miago'. It means "we come together for the common good". It is basically Christ's command to love your neighbor from an interactive communal perspective. It is the everyday 'help the next guy, pay it forward' kind of attitude. Your fence blows down and somebody comes over to help brace it up or replace it entirely. That is *miago*. It can be demonstrated by individuals, groups, or entire nations. When Chilean minors are trapped and excavators show up to help rescue them – that is *miago*.

It is what we call heroism; a choice we make in the moment to assist someone, despite our own limitations and fears. It is when we focus on others and possibilities, and not on ourselves and negative ‘what ifs’.

Whatever we are seeking in life, whether it is ways to serve or love others, discernment is the key. A couple of things to keep in mind:

- 1.) The most loving response is not always “yes”. Sometimes ‘no’ produces the space for healing, and we can learn to say no kindly.
- 2.) Overextending ourselves helps no one. Not attending to our own needs impairs our ability to help others.
- 3.) Avoid manipulation and manipulators. We can learn to:
 - A. Identify when we are being asked for money or something else that we do not have or cannot provide.
 - B. Detect when asked to do something we feel would harm the person making the request or someone else.
 - C. Discern whether we are being asked to enable someone who is running from life issues and the lessons gained from their struggle.
 - D. Determine if we are being asked to interfere in something that is not our business.

Whatever we are seeking, we probably feel a lack of that nature in our lives. To combat that feeling, try to inspire that quality in others. If we are seeking joy, we can inspire joy in others with kind positive words, big hugs, being in a persistently good mood, and by gossiping positively about people. Don’t be shy or underestimate how important you are to the people around you.

Proverbs 12:25 tells us: Worry weighs us down; a cheerful word picks us up.

The same is true with peace, love, and strength. When we inspire what we are searching for in others, we attract those qualities to us because we are focused on them, pondering them, and thinking about them. As Proverbs 23:7 says. *For as people think in their hearts, so they are.*

We can surround ourselves with whatever we are seeking in life. If we want hope, we can spend time with hopeful people, read hope-filled stories. Right now, is the best time to develop an atmosphere of whatever we need in life. Now is the time to become the person who demonstrates the qualities we are searching for. We are told in Philippians 4:8 -- "...whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things and the God of peace will be with you." And when the God of Peace is with us, so is the God of Love, Joy, Power, Confidence, and all the other Fruits of Spirit.

Motivational speaker Les Brown, says: To achieve something you have never achieved before you must become someone you have never been.

The solution to many of our woes is staring us in the face: we've got to change, by making new choices and becoming what we are seeking. I need more joy and happiness in my life. Then I can start the change, not by looking for it 'out there', but by developing it

within me. By sitting with God and reflecting on the happiness of God. I can then surround myself with happiness, joyful people and things that make me lighthearted.

To conclude, may I be so bold as to say that everything is tied to love – love of self, our neighbor, and God. By filling with the love of Christ, all other desires are fulfilled. I believe love is the basis for most, if not all, of our desires. I want more money. Why? -- perhaps because I want to be loved and respected. Money makes me feel secure, and since I don't much love myself, I feel insecure.

That may be total bunk, but I think there is a grain of truth to it. So, if we are seeking peace, let's start off each day with a question: How can I have fun, be more loving, and spread peace today in the world? By asking this question, we can become aware of things 'to do', but more importantly, we can become aware of who 'to be'. We can become aware that we are in the presence of the Divine "I Am" and can reflect all that God is. When we live in this manner, the right opportunities will start flowing our direction, and we will end up attracting all that we seek, and even more important, we'll be living an amazing Spirit-filled life.

Let us pray....