

Newsletter Teaching for 7/4/07

The Sun Came Up Today!

Did you notice that the sun came up today? Did you spend any time wondering about whether or not it might rise in the east this morning? Most likely you went to bed last night fully believing that you would begin another day, as usual, with the sun lighting your way. That's because *the sun comes up every day*, without fail!

We have become accustomed to the faithfulness of the sun. In fact we plan and formulate our days with the assurance that the sun will indeed rise again. We live our lives according to that truth.

God's Word links the faithfulness of the sun with God's promise that He will always, without fail, respond to those who seek Him. Hosea 6:3 states:

*Oh, that we might know the LORD! Let us press on to know Him. **He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming rains of early spring.***

Pressing on to know the Lord carries a sense of urgency and intentionality in seeking God. God promises that those who press on to know Him will receive His full attention and response—just as surely as the sun came up today. We can seek God in confidence because He is the One who created the sun in the first place—and therefore He will not fail us!

Are We Seeking Him?

The wording “press on” is not descriptive of a casual seeker. God is not interested in responding powerfully to casual inquirers. “Press on” in the New Living Translation has the idea of hunting something down, to pursue, to run after, or chase someone. This very active pursuit of God has a condition attached to it. Some have referred to this as being a “God-chaser.” God's promise to respond is reserved for those who tenaciously seek Him with fervency of heart.

Jesus used the illustration in Matthew 13:44 of a man who finds a treasure in a field and sells everything he owns in order to buy the field. Why? He wanted to own the field and the assurance of the treasure as well. He knew that whatever it cost was nothing in comparison to what he would gain. It is that same kind of all-out-abandonment that God is looking for in our hearts. Does He find “pressing on” urgency in your heart?

Like Lost Car Keys

If you've ever lost your car keys, you know that sense of urgency and all-out-abandonment to find those keys—especially if you are late for an appointment! You don't casually sit down with a cup of coffee, ponder the situation of your lost keys, and determine that at a later time you will truly get serious about seeking them out. No, instead you are probably tossing couch cushions and pillows, digging in bags or purses, checking pockets, and moving piles of papers. You are searching with abandonment and

determination to find your keys as quickly as possible. You are not satisfied until you have those keys in your hands once again.

Why is it that we find it so hard to seek God with that kind of abandonment and desperation? If God promises to respond if we will seek Him, why do we find it so hard to pursue God with passion on behalf of our lives and our communities?

Is He Worth It?

One of the reasons may simply be that we are not really convinced that God is worth the effort. That may be a bit blunt, but it is certainly how we act. We live as though God's presence, power, anointing, and the sweetness of knowing Him are not worth the effort to change our schedules or rearrange our priorities.

If we could only understand that God is truly worth it! In Revelation 4-5, we get a glimpse of the heavenly perspective of God's worth. We are given a picture of the angels, saints, and heavenly creatures around the throne, declaring over and over again for all eternity: "You are worthy!" No one around the throne needs to be convinced of God's worthiness to be praised and sought after with relentless passion! We have so much to learn about the supreme worthiness of God.

Driven to Distraction

Multitudes of distractions fill our lives, our hearts, and our calendars, seemingly without reprieve. Day after day, distractions consume our attention. Even the thought of becoming a "God-chaser" is overwhelming because we don't know when we would fit that in! How do we free ourselves from the grip of those many things that keep us far away from a passionate pursuit of our all-worthy God? Sometimes it takes some intentional effort to help us break the stronghold of distractions so that we can experience a touch of the Lord's powerful presence—and thus create a hunger for more.

The staff and board of Prayer Transformation Ministries are in the midst of a 21-day call to intentional fasting and prayer called "The Divine Experiment." We are finding that the Word of God really is true—that if we make the effort to set aside some of those distractions and together seek His face, God does indeed come to us. We have been experiencing His presence in some profound ways. He is making us hungry for more of Him.

The Sun Will Come Up Tomorrow

Every day we stake our lives on the fact that the sun will indeed come up in the morning. In the same way, are you willing to stake your life on the truth that if you seek Him with all your heart—He will indeed respond? Consider setting aside some of the distractions of your life and become a God-chaser. He promises to meet you with profound power, healing, restoration, and hope.