

Be a Seeker

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If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth (Col. 3:1-2).

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commanded His audience to seek first the kingdom of God (Matt. 6:33). He assured them that they would find it (Matt. 7:7). As Christians, we are to be seekers. Seekers are motivated. They are goal-oriented and determined. They are sacrificial in the pursuit of their goal. In the above-cited text, Paul urged the saints at Colossae to seek the things that are above, where Christ is.

The word “things” is a broad and general word. What “things” did Paul have in mind when he wrote this passage? As readers, we are left to identify the things that are above, where Christ is. What “things” are associated with Christ? Love. Forgiveness. Hope. The list could go on and on. Rather than focus on the “things” we are to seek, consider how we are to seek.

Being a Seeker Means...

1. Having been raised with Christ. The context of this passage extends back to the second chapter. Paul described how the Colossians had been “buried with him (Christ DF) in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses” (Col. 2:12-13).

Our pursuit of all the goodness that rests above in Christ begins in baptism. Baptism represents rebirth, renewal, and or a new beginning. While we were dead in sin, God gives us new, regenerated life. Through this act of faith, we receive the forgiveness of our sins. Our hope changes. Our life begins a new course.

2. A change in desire. Paul instructed the Colossians to “set their minds on things above, not on things that are on earth...Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming” (Col. 3:2, 5-6). Sin is birthed in our hearts from lustful desire. James described this when he wrote, “But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death” (Jas. 1:14-15).

We will not gain what Christ wants to give us by seeking worldly things. Jesus warned, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your

heart will be also" (Matt. 6:19-21). If we treasure the wrong things, we can only expect to incur the wrath of God.

3. Sacrifice. Changing desires will necessitate sacrifice. As seekers, we must sacrifice sinful attitudes and behaviors. Paul described this aspect of seeking: "But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices" (Col. 3:8-9).

Sacrificing selfishness is difficult. Yet, sacrifice is enabled by our changing desires. Seekers recognize that sin will not help them in their pursuit of Heaven. While sacrifice is challenging at times, what we will gain is incomparable to what we forgo (2 Cor. 4:17).

4. Living by love. Being a seeker is not just about giving up our former way of life. Being a seeker is about a new way of living. Seekers live by the self-giving love of Christ. Paul wrote, "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony" (Col. 3:12-14).

Each of these traits represents "things above where Christ is." If we are seeking compassion, kindness, forbearance, and forgiveness, we must be willing to extend these Heavenly attributes to others. Living by love is how we encourage others to join us in seeking things above.

5. Let the word of Christ rule their lives. Seekers are guided by the word of Christ. Paul wrote, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Col. 3:16-17).

As Christ commands, seekers obey. They appeal to His authority as the guiding precept of their life. If we allow the word of Christ to rule in our lives, we will not be misled.

Conclusion

Being a seeker requires faith in God. Like Abraham, seekers of the past remained faithful in their pursuit of Heavenly things: "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God" (Heb. 11:8-10).

So, what are you seeking? What do you desire to gain? Who are you following in life? We must be careful we are not seeking the wrong things. The pursuit of worldly things is delusional. We will never be satisfied by them. In the end, we will perish with the world (1 John

2:15-17; 2 Pet. 3:10). Therefore, we must seek things that are above, where Christ is. This pursuit will ensure a fulfilled life today and an eternal life with Christ tomorrow.