

A photograph of a small, white lamb standing in a muddy forest clearing, looking directly at the camera. In the blurred background, a person in a long, light-colored robe is walking away. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting a misty or overcast day in a wooded area.

“Speak, Lord, for
your servant is
listening.”

1 Samuel 3:10

RELENTLESS 
pursuit

BIBLE STUDY

Transform My Heart

Transformation is different than personal growth. While looking at the following information, think about this: Your one God wants you to relentlessly pursue.

Personal Growth

1. I try harder
2. Limited to what I know
3. Limited to what I can do
4. How I see myself
5. I do it to become better

Transformation

1. God works in me (Philippians 1:6)
2. Based on God's vision (2 Peter 1:3-4)
3. Based on God's infinite power and grace (Ephesians 3:20)
4. How God sees you (Ephesians 1:3-8)
5. Anchored in Christ's perfection (2 Corinthians 5:17)

God is a God who relentlessly pursues people. He pursued you and found you! He is on a mission, and He wants you to join Him.

Why don't we?

Relentless pursuit only begins with relentless honesty, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24

Why don't I relentlessly pursue?

1. **I don't really believe in Heaven or Hell** (by the way, you can't believe in one without the other, according to Jesus). If this is your heart, meditate on these words from Jesus:
 - **Matthew 25:41** "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"
 - **2 Thessalonians 1:9** "They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might...."
 - **John 14:1-6** "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

- **Luke 23:39-43** “One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³ And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”
- **2 Corinthians 5:8** “Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.”

2. **I don't really care.** This is a hard one to admit, but it can happen to anyone. It is good to be honest. That is when the Lord can do His transforming work. These verses speak of God's law to our old self. If this is you, pray on these verses:

- **James 4:17** “So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.”
- **Matthew 24:12** “And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.”
- **Revelation 3:15-16** “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶

Let these verses speak to the new creation you are in Christ

- **Ephesians 2:10** “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”
- **1 Peter 2:9** “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”
- **John 15:16** “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.”

3. **I don't have the time.** If this is your reason, think on these verses:

- **Ephesians 5:15-16** “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.”
- **Ecclesiastes 3:1** “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”
- **Romans 13:11** “Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.”

4. I am fearful. We all struggle with feelings of fear. The question is, will those feelings lead us, or will we lead our feelings? Meditate on these verses:

- **Isaiah 41:10** “...fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”
- **2 Timothy 1:7** “...for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”

- **1 John 4:18** “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.”

5. **I don't really understand the Gospel.** If this is you, please read these verses and ask God to help you grasp the Gospel by faith:

- **John 3:16** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”
- **Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- **1 Peter 3:18** “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit...”

Hear God speak to you about how much He loves you. Think of what He has done for you and wants to do through you. He is calling you. Jesus says this to you: Mark 16:15 “And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

Think of your “One”

Our View	God's View
1.Short term - we want quick changes and are impatient with apathy or sins	1.Long-term - God wants us to see this as a lifetime endeavor
2.Judgmental - We are never called to judge unbelievers, and yet we do.	2.Gracious- God always stands ready to forgive and restore
3.Towards self - We get consumed by our circumstances only	3.Towards others - Jesus was thinking of you
4.Scarsity Mindset - never have enough time, energy, or skill	4.Abundance Mindset-He gives us what we need to do His will
5.Fear - fear of rejection, failure, or not saying the right thing	5.Love - when it comes to people, the opposite of fear is not courage, it is love.

This is the future God holds for you—and for the one you are praying will come to trust in Him:

Psalm 16:9-11; 1 Corinthians 2:9; Revelation 21:4; Revelation 3:21

Father God, I know you are on a relentless pursuit of love. I know you can reach anyone, regardless of how stiff-necked or hardened their heart may appear. No matter how far they have wandered from the flock, you will leave the 99 to find them. Your love is everlasting. You desire to see every person come into your loving family. I pray that _____ would encounter your life-changing grace and we ask in Jesus' name that they will fully yield to their Lord and Savior, Jesus and their life will be a testimony to your grace. In the wonderful and precious name of Jesus, I pray.
Amen.