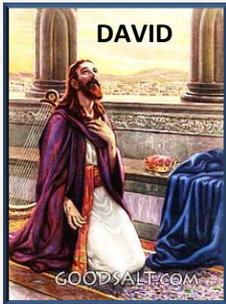


"WE WERE DESIGN TO LOVE AND LOVE ALONE"

God is love (1 John 4:16). Before the foundation of the earth, God has longed for a passionate, holy and eternal love story with human beings. We were designed for love and love alone. This is why we exist. This is what everything comes down to (Mt. 22:37,39). A passionate love response to His pursuit is the beauty that He desires (Ps. 45:10-11), something He can't take His eyes off (Ps. 14:2; 34:15; Song 6:5). He wanted a bride that would leave everything for love and utterly cling to her Beloved (Ps. 45:10-11; Eph. 5:31-32; Song 8:5).

"WHO WILL RESPOND?"



God is reaching out for us, yet so few respond to His wooing. He is calling for us, yet so few answer. God's heart aches over the neglect of His creation. When David became aware of God's pursuit of him, he made it his resolve to respond to it wholeheartedly. In Ps. 27:8 we see two longing hearts meet. Even today God's heart cry echoes throughout the earth: **'Seek My face!'** I just can't imagine the longing behind those words. Who will respond to them as David did? **"Why was there no man**

when I came? When I called, why was there none to answer? ... (Isa 50:2).

"When You said, 'Seek My face,' my heart said to You, 'Your face, O Lord, I shall seek.' (Ps. 27:8)

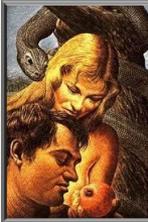
"WE CAN FIND OURSELVES LACKING AT TIMES"

At the core of all of creation lays God's dream of a mutual pursuit between God and man. At the very core of every born-again believer is the desire to be loved by God and to love Him back (Deut. 30:6; Ezekiel 36:26). This is why He created us, why He saved us and why we exist. The eyes of the Lord are seeking for people who are fully committed to Him, and many of us really want to be this kind of person in His eyes. We want to be wholehearted lovers of God, pursue Him with all that we are and have. Yet so often we find ourselves lacking behind right here.

"THE SMALLEST RESPONSE"

One of the glorious truths is that even our weak pursuit of Him actually moves His heart. Love offered, no matter how small, really touches Him. A single glance of our eyes, a short whispered prayer, weak response to His calling, a short **"I still love You"** actually ravishes His heart. Even in times when we are troubled about the smallness of our response to Him, God delights in our weak reaching out for Him. **"You have made My heart beat faster, My sister, My bride; you have made My heart beat faster with a single glance of your eyes ..."** (Song 4:9) **(PURSUING GOD TAKES A LIFETIME)**

We often read about how **"Someone Found God"**; usually after a life event that caused them to evaluate things. But did you know that God pursues us? Because of His very nature – which is love – He seeks to have a relationship with us. Let's take a look at those who dare to abandon their own lives for the joy and love in pursuit of their God. Since the beginning of time when God created Adam and Eve God was in pursuit of a loving relationship with His creation. God is Love and He desires our love for Him to a relinquishment of ourselves and our total love and obedience towards Him. Adam and Eve broke that relationship with God through their disobedience but God did not abandon mankind. He has been in pursuit of a people who will love Him, worship Him, trust Him and live for Him throughout history and up till today.



Because Satan deceived Adam and Eve, God made a promise that day in the Garden of Eden and this is His Word to Satan and to Mankind; **"The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life; And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."** (Genesis 3:14-15) The promise of Salvation through the **"Blood Atonement"** for the forgiveness of sins will come through His Son Jesus one day.

A MAN CALLED NOAH



God was now in pursuit of a people that would desire a covenant relationship with Himself. The Old Testament comes alive with such wonderful and amazing characters that love God and desired to be in relationship with Him. Noah was one of such men; **"This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God."** (Gen. 6:9)

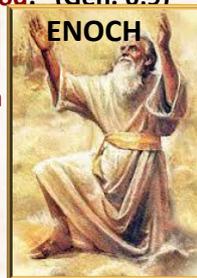
A MAN CALLED ENOCH

Then we have Enoch; **"Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away."** (Gen.5:24)

A MAN CALLED ABRAHAM



Then came Abraham; **"Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I Am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless."** (Genesis 17:19)





A MAN CALLED JOSEPH

Here we have Joseph; "He blessed Joseph, and said, "The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God Who has been my shepherd all my life to this day." (Genesis 48:15) No matter the difficulties of Joseph's circumstances he never abandon his pursuit for God. All throughout the ancient text God is forever calling out to men and women to love Him as much as He loves us. This list goes on and on about those who dare to abandon their

own earthly desires in pursuit of the Holy, Righteous, Almighty Living God Who is the creator of all life.

"A MAN CALLED MOSES"

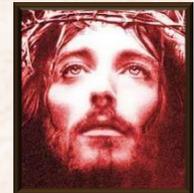


Now we come to a very interesting character indeed. A man called Moses the Deliver (Type of Christ). God is about to act on His promise to Abraham and deliver the slaves of Egypt who are the disobedient decedents of Abraham and now God will use Moses to bring them back to

Himself. "I have indeed heard the cry of My people, and I see how the Egyptians are oppressing them. Now I Am sending you to the king of Egypt so that you can lead My people out of his country." But Moses said to God, "I am nobody. How can I go to the king and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" God answered, "I will be with you, and when you bring the people out of Egypt, you will worship Me on this mountain. That will be the proof that I have sent you." But Moses replied, "When I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is His Name?' So what can I tell them?" God said, "I Am who I Am. You must tell them: 'The One Who is called I Am has sent me to you.'" (Exodus 3:9-14)

"A MAN WHO SHOWED US HOW TO LOVE"

We now move forward when God's redemption is now completed through His Son. A New Covenant is established through Jesus' "Blood Atonement". A Man Who knew no sin gave Himself as sin so through Him we might be saved. This is the ultimate love act of grace for all humanity. All are welcome to receive, but once we receive this gift the question is who is willing to live a life in pursuit of Him?



"CAPTURING GOD'S HEART"



All these men of God all had something in common. They captured God's heart by abandoning their self wills in exchange for something greater than themselves. They discovered the meaning and purpose of their lives came from the Creator Himself. When they connected with Him they discovered who they were created to be, in Him. So how do we begin this life long journey in pursuit of God so we too can be that man or women after God's own heart?

"GOD'S DESIRE: MAN'S PURSUIT OF GOD"

God is pursuing us. He is actively, patiently and passionately wooing our hearts. And He is driven by this one desire: to find people who would respond to His pursuit and seek Him back. The eyes of the Lord are attentively and incessantly scanning the earth to find these men and women who understand that He longs for intimacy with human beings and who would long for intimacy with Him. The divine Husband is seeking a like-minded bride who would care as much about His heart as He cares about hers. "The Lord has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God." (Ps 14:2)

"WE ARE HIS PRECIOUS PEARL"



The interplay of these two pursuits – His and ours – is beautifully illustrated in the two parables of Mathew 13:44-46. "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again,

the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it." He is the treasure, we are the pearl of great price. He gave everything to acquire the pearl. Now He is looking for people who would give everything for God, the most precious treasure.

"GOD WANTS TO BE FOUND"

It's stunning how approachable God makes Himself. He is not hiding somewhere, concealing Himself from mankind. He hasn't made it difficult or complicated to find Him. It's not a special privilege reserved for only a few select. He wants to be found, He wants to be known. "Therefore My people shall know My name; therefore in that day I am the one who is speaking, 'Here I am.'" (Isa 52:6) "You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, declares the Lord ... (Jer. 29:13-14)