

Relentless Pursuit

Psalm 42:1 As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. (NKJV)

SATAN IS RELENTLESS

John 10:10a The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

Romans 1:32 Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

John 20:30-31 ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are **written so that you may believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

GOD RELENTLESSLY PURSUES MANKIND

Colossians 1:19-20 ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

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.

1 Timothy 2:4 (God) who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Nothing can distract God in his great effort to seek and chase after mankind.

GOD PURSUES US THROUGH:

LONGSUFFERING

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Genesis 15:13b, 16b ¹³...they will be afflicted for four hundred years ¹⁶...for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.

CHASTISEMENT

Hebrews 12:6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.

Psalm 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.

SHAKING

Hebrews 12:26-27 ²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." ²⁷This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.

Exodus 34:14 For you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God

WHAT SHOULD OUR RESPONSE BE?

SEEK THE LORD

Matthew 7:7-8 ⁷Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.
⁸For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened

Luke 18:1, 7a ¹And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.
⁷And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night?...

Genesis 32:26b ...But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me.

Exodus 33:15 And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.

BE AN INTERCESSOR

Jude 1:23a save others by snatching them out of the fire ...

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit himself intercedes** for us with groanings too deep for words.

RESIST TEMPTATION AND SIN

Matthew 5:30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make no provision for the flesh**, to gratify its desires.

Psalms 139:23-24 ²³Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: ²⁴And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (KJV)

Genesis 4:7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, **but you must rule over it.**

1 Corinthians 9:25a, 27 ²⁵Every athlete **exercises self-control in all things**... ²⁷But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

REPENT

Jonah 3:10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

1 Kings 21:25 There was none who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of the Lord like Ahab, whom Jezebel his wife incited.

1 Kings 21:27-29 ²⁷And when Ahab heard those words, he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his flesh and fasted and lay in sackcloth and went about dejectedly. ²⁸And the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, ²⁹"Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the disaster in his days; but in his son's days I will bring the disaster upon his house."

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)