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## Diligent in Pursuit

By Teresa Hampton

It never ceases to amaze me how diligent some people are when it comes to shopping during this time of the year. They make lists and strategize for weeks before the sale day. As it draws near, they're excited and focused. They wait in long lines in freezing temperatures for hours on end, and when the doors finally open, they gladly endure the rush and rudeness of strangers. They charge, panting all the way, until the perfect gift (marked down 50% or more) is placed in their cart.

It makes one wonder what great things might happen if people had that kind of diligence about pursuing God. What marvelous good could be accomplished if people (including the Lord's people) were that focused and excited about searching for truth in His word? To what lengths would we go to seek spiritual things?

The Psalmist said, *As the deer pants for flowing waters, so pants my soul for you, O God* (42:1), and *With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh let me not wander from Your commandments* (119:10). David so loved God and his word that he devoted one hundred seventy-six verses of a song to God's precepts and commandments, composing eight stanzas for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. He wrote of the beauty, strength, comfort, refuge, mercy, and much more to be found in scripture.

There is no greater pursuit than diligently seeking God as he reveals himself in the Bible, and there is no greater gift we can give others than using the same holy word to help them understand God's will. Everything else pales in comparison!

**Today's Verse:** *O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water* (Psalm 63:1).

**Bonus:** Next page

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**Psalm 14:2**

The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who **seek** after God.

**1 Chron. 16:11**

**Seek** the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

**Isaiah 29:9**

My soul yearns for you in the night; my spirit within me earnestly **seeks** you. For when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.

**Isaiah 51:1**

“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who **seek** the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.

**Jeremiah 29:13**

You will **seek** me and find me, when you **seek** me with all your heart.

**Lamentations 3:25**

The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who **seeks** him.

**Matthew 6:33**

But **seek** first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

**Luke 11:10**

For everyone who asks receives, and the one who **seeks** finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

**Colossians 3:1**

If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek** the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

**1 Tim. 6:11b**

**Pursue** righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.

**2 Tim. 2:15**

Be **diligent** to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.