

Pursuing Jesus

Why must we pursue Jesus or follow Jesus passionately?

Because Jesus pursued us and came for us first in our sinful state. The reason Jesus came to this earth and lived as a man is because He loved us so much. When you love someone you pursue them.. right?

The Bible tells us in *Romans 5:6-8* Christ arrives right on time to make this happen. He didn't, and doesn't, wait for us to get ready. He presented himself for this sacrificial death when we were far too weak and rebellious to do anything to get ourselves ready. And even if we hadn't been so weak, we wouldn't have known what to do anyway. We can understand someone dying for a person worth dying for, and we can understand how someone good and noble could inspire us to selfless sacrifice. But God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to him.

Jesus put his love on the line for us by giving his life for us - this is love that pursues us where Jesus loved us first So why must we pursue Jesus passionately?

Jesus came to make us righteous through him. Jesus knew that our righteousness was filthy and any attempt made to become right with God was futile because of sin that came through Adam. So God had a plan of restoration through Jesus Christ whom God sent for us that through His blood we might be reconciled to God or brought back to relationship with God.

Rom 5: 17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the **gift** of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

Righteousness is to be made right with God, to be in a place where sin or the guilt of sin has no bearing on our lives. when we live in righteousness it is as if we had never sinned. This is what's amazing about being made righteous in Jesus Christ. No more condemnation. The devil has no power to condemn you and accuse you of sin! Hallelujah! Isn't this worth pursuing Jesus for?

Because Jesus loves us deeply - It is His love that compelled Him to come. It is love that compels you to follow someone. It is the unconditional love of Jesus that pursues us daily that even when we fail and fall and mess up at times his love never lets go. Even when we at times due to our ignorance and failures let go of Jesus, He never lets go of us. His love for us is constant.

When the nation of Israel were exiled to Babylon for 70 years by King Nebuchadnezzar because of their rebellion, Despite that God gives them a word through Jeremiah the prophet saying He will visit them and perform his good word toward them (Jer 29:10) and we all know vs 11 where God says He knows the thoughts he thinks towards us, thoughts of peace to give us a future and a hope... and He says when you call on Me and pray to Me I will listen.

Then in Jeremiah 31: 3-4 God says this: The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness. 4 I will build you up again, and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt.

God refers to Israel as “Virgin”(a woman who hasn't been touched sexually, a pure woman who has not had sexual relationships with a man) Can you see the love of God here saying even though you may have sinned and even though you have rebelled against me I am willing to overlook that and see you as a people who haven't been stained or touched by sin, I am willing to see you through my holiness. Hallelujah!

God is saying to someone here now: In spite of your past and the abuse and the disgrace you have gone through I am ready to restore back to your virginity as I am choosing to see you as a pure untouched person whom I have loved from the beginning of time and still continue to love you my dear child so do not be afraid or donot feel ashamed because I have clothed you with my righteous garment and have dressed you in my holiness.

This is unconditional love. Do you think we should pursue such a God who loves us so deeply? Should we not pursue Jesus passionately, meaning with all our heart?

Because with Jesus I am complete : *John 15:5 says: I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. In Colossians 2:10 - So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.*

Because All things are subject to His name - The name of Jesus King and Lord of all and over all- with Jesus You cannot lose. Jesus is the One. There's no one like him, no one who can compare to Him, no one higher than him.

Eph 1:19-22 And you will know God's great power. It can't be compared with anything else. His power works for us who believe. It is the same mighty strength God showed. He showed this when he raised Christ from the dead. God seated him at his right hand in his heavenly kingdom. 21 There Christ sits far above all who rule and have authority. He also sits far above all powers and kings. He is above every name that is appealed to in this world and in the world to come. 22 God placed all things under Christ's rule. He appointed him to be ruler over everything for the church.

Is it worth pursuing Jesus with all our heart? This Jesus who is Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. In Jesus, 'In him we live and move and exist.'(Acts 17:28)

You can have the life that Jesus died to give you that you might live life to the full because He paid for what you could not pay with his blood.

Let me close with this prayer from Eph 1:17-19 *I ask—ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—endless energy, boundless strength!*

How passionate are you for Jesus? How determined are we to pursue Jesus? The degree of passion you have will drive you to be passionate about Him and serve Him with all your heart. I pursue Jesus because He has made me righteous in Him, He loves me deeply and his love compels me, because with Jesus I am complete (nothing lacking, missing or broken) and because All things are subject to the One and only name of Jesus the name above all names. Pray: This could be a time for re dedication to Jesus to pursue him more deeply.