



# Emmaus Road Encounter

Bible Study Notes from the teaching ministry of Dr. Steve Highlander

## Five Principles for Seeking God

**“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6**

Preface: There is a difference between seeking God and seeking the things of God.

1. Without faith it is impossible to please God.
  - a. Faith provides substance and evidence Heb. 11:1
  - b. Faith is Believing God not Believing in God – Romans 4 Abraham BELIEVED God – he didn't just believe IN God or things about God. He took God at his word and acted on it.
  - c. Unless God speaks there is no basis for faith (faith comes by hearing God's word (Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4) God did not stop speaking 2000 years ago.
  - d. Personal stories – “The name you trust Speaks” Turning 60 in PNG
2. Those that Come to God:
  - a. We are to first and foremost seek God Himself – not just the things of God.
  - b. Moses and the promised Land Exodus 33:1-6; 12-23
    - i. I'll fulfill my promises, but I won't go with you.
    - ii. Get rid of your religious bling
    - iii. If I can't have you, I don't want your stuff
    - iv. I will go with you.
    - v. Show me your glory
  - c. Idolatry inserts something representing God - between God and the worshipper.
    - i. Ps. 115:4-8 idols described
    - ii. The tendency to idolatry is Innate in human nature. To substitute something physical as aid to worship. Slowly those aides become the objects of worship. Traditions, statues, the Bible, doctrines, positions, denominations, titles, relics, etc.
3. Must Believe that He is:
  - a. I AM the present tense God. Not he God of the past or the future.
  - b. God is who He revealed himself to be.
  - c. He does not need to be reformatted for 2022. We don't need to dumb Him down, we don't need to make him nicer, kinder, more loving, or socially acceptable to appeal to sinners.
  - d. God is not bi-polar!! He's perfectly balanced! God is Holy, and righteous, and loving. He is not one or the other. The tension between his righteousness and love is what produced salvation. Romans 3:26 God is “just and the Justifier”

continued on page 2

4. And that He is a rewarder
  - a. God has revealed Himself as a rewarder. (The acceptable year of the Lord...)
  - b. Genesis 15:1 “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.”
  - c. Luke 6:23 “...Great is your reward in heaven.”
  - d. Matthew 16:27 “The Son of Man will come ... then He will reward each according to his works.”
  - e. Revelation 22:12 “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”
  - f. 2 John 1:8 “Full Reward”
5. Of those who **diligently seek** Him
  - a. Jeremiah 29:11-14 “...And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the Lord...”
  - b. God does not reward Half-hearted efforts – If you put in 30% you don’t get 30% of God. (Yoda: “Do or do not. There is no try.”)
  - c. We cannot assume legalism is the answer to the problem “you just need to do one more thing to be right with God.” (Rich young ruler, “what do I lack?”)
  - d. The issue is divided hearts Psalm 86:11 ‘Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.’