

**INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER ATLANTA**  
**PURSUING GOD, PT. 1**  
**JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2017 – BILLY HUMPHREY**

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**I. Setting our Hearts to Pursue God**

A. Pursuing God is at the core of who we are as a spiritual family. Night and day prayer cannot happen by discipline alone (It requires discipline, but discipline would never sustain it). It's a function of hearts that have been gripped with desire and then have responded by seeking the One who is the object of that desire.

B. When you read through the scripture, you find that the biggest part of the biblical narrative is not mostly the moments of encounter; instead the biggest part of the biblical narrative is the steady pursuit of God by the people of God.

C. We love stories of encounters, healings, miracles, and revival. When we look at the Bible we find a lot of miracles and healings but we tend to forget that it's through the times of faithfulness and pursuit that the breakthroughs come. Most of the narrative is faithfulness over the long haul. For instance the book of Acts takes place over about 35 years.

D. If pursuing God is the primary way the people of God spent their time between moments of great miracles and encounters, it's going to be the same for us.

E. I want us to move on from shallow pursuit and microwave Christianity. Too many people live with a "lottery" faith... hoping they'll hit it big without actually daily pursuing God with their whole heart. We must realize that all the ingredients of pursuit are what makes for breakthrough. For instance, the days of pursuit and desire that preceded Acts 2 were just as important as the day of Pentecost itself.

**II. More than just the good stuff**

A. It's easy to read the bible looking for the "good stuff" and passing over the "not so good stuff." When we do this we don't actually have a credible picture of the bible or a biblical faith. For instance a when we read a passage like Psalm 27 is easy for us to mostly focus on the "One thing" part of the passage instead of considering everything else that's going on with David that gets him to the place of "One thing I desire"

**Psa 27:1-14** A Psalm of David. The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid? 2 When the wicked came against me To eat up my flesh, My enemies and foes, They stumbled and fell. 3 Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear; Though war may rise against me, In this I will be confident. 4 One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple. 5 For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall

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hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. 6 And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD. 7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me. 8 When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek." 9 Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation. 10 When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take care of me. 11 Teach me Your way, O LORD, And lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies. 12 Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; For false witnesses have risen against me, And such as breathe out violence. 13 I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living. 14 Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

B. We must learn to pursue God through blessing and trial and regardless of how quickly the Lord answers. Too often we hit the eject button on pursuing God if the Lord doesn't answer according to our timeframe. Our timeframe can't be the determinant as to whether we should continue or not continue to pursue God.

**III. Pursuit when breakthrough is delayed**

A. What keeps us pursuing when breakthrough is delayed? The answer is twofold:

1. His goodness

**Psalm 27:13** I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.

2. His promise

**Deu 4:29** But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

**Pro 2:3-5** Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, 4 If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; 5 Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God.

B. The breakthrough isn't our job. The breakthrough is God's job. Passionate pursuit is our job. If we do our job God promises He will do His.

**James 4:8** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you

**Jer 33:3** 'Call to me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'