**Day 1**

**THE PURSUIT**

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.* ***You will seek me and find me when******you seek me with all your heart.*** *I will be found by you,” declares the Lord.”* Jeremiah 29:11-13

**WELCOME TO PURSUIT**

***Pursuit***, a 10-day journey of pursuing Jesus through fasting and prayer. This devotional is centered on a promise that seems too good to be true, “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13). This is God’s promise for those who set their hearts and lives in His direction, not looking back! When we seek God with all our hearts, we not only encounter Him but are changed by Him in the process. What a promise, especially considering that the Lord has never broken or failed to fulfill His Word!

Today we begin our days of prayer and fasting by standing on the firm foundation that we will never be disappointed in our ***Pursuit*** of God (Isaiah 49:23). During these valuable days of pursuing God, I believe you are going to discover things you’ve never known; you are going to receive new revelations, you will grow in your intimacy with Jesus, and you are going to encounter the power of God like never before!

**GOD INITIATES DESIRE**

I believe you have chosen to set aside this time of fasting and prayer because the Spirit has drawn you. Let me be clear that it is the Lord who initiates our ***Pursuit*** by drawing us first to Him and then giving us the desire to respond. Jesus said, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them” (John 6:44). First, He draws, then He initiates desire, and by His grace, we respond.

**TAKE A MOMENT**

Thank God for drawing you to this place, this book, and this season of pursuing Him. Ask that He would increase the “draw” in you over these next 21-days. That there would be a deep longing to please Him and accomplish His will in your life. Ask for a

spiritual hunger and thirst at a whole new level. Just as Elisha asked for a double portion, be so bold as to ask for at least twice the spiritual hunger and appetite for His Work and presence. According to Philippians 2:13, as and believe that the Lord will create in you a deep and sustained longing to know and do His will.

***“For it is not your strength, but it is God who is effectively at work in you, both to will and to work, that is, strengthening, energizing, and creating in you the longing and the ability to fulfill your purpose for His good pleasure.”***

***Philippians 2:13 [AMP]***

**OUR RESPONSE IS PURSUIT**

Once we receive God’s invitation and determine to run after Him, we set something in motion that can’t be stopped. The enemy and your flesh would love to derail this time of intense. ***Pursuit*** because it carries the promise and capacity to change your life and the lives of those around you. When you set your heart and passion to pursue God, the enemy is powerless to keep you from your destiny of breakthrough. Be aware that in the days ahead, you will need resilience, perseverance, and resolve. ***The greater things of God are not for the casual observer*** of those who audit church occasionally. The greater things of God are for those who have identified and ignited a holy resolve to seek God until!

**DON’T STOP**

This command needs to be so deeply ingrained in your Spirit that your default response to delays, trials, and unanswered prayer, times of testing, or straight up spiritual attack is to stay in ***Pursuit*** mode! Don’t stop asking, seeking, and knocking. This mindset and lifestyle are what will lead you to certain breakthrough and lasting change.

**SEEK & FIND**

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ***You will seek me and find me*** when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the Lord.”

 Jeremiah 29:11-13

*“One day Jesus taught the apostles to keep praying and* ***never stop or lose hope****.”*  Luke 18:1 (TPT)

*“****Ask and keep on asking****, and it will be given to you;* ***seek and keep on seeking****, and you will find; knock and keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.”*  Matthew 7:7 (AMP)

Two key words stand out in this passage, **“seek”** and **“find.”** Let’s delve a little deeper.

1. To **seek** is, “to search for and not stop, to continue a quest until the object of our seeking has been obtained, and to create a well-worn path to the person or object we are in search of,” We are embarking on a “with all your heart” journey of Pursuit. My prayer during these 21-days is that you would develop a spirit of seeking. That it would become such a part of who you are, that you will never again be satisfied with a lackluster approach to god or casual prayer life!
2. To **find** is “To be encountered, lighted upon, discovered. To run right into, gain possession of, and find sufficient.” God promises that when we create a well-worn path to His presence, asking and seeking, we will, inevitably and most certainly find Him.

Is there anything greater than finding God? When we encounter Him, we discover new insights receive answers, healing, and direction; are filled with fresh passion and joy. THIS is the very essence and fullness of who God is! **There is nothing we** **need more in this life than to find and know God**. This is the quest you have embarked upon and the ***Pursuit*** you have started today.

***The nature of faith is persistence and the language of faith is asking and continuing to ask “until.”***

*“Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: Suppose you went to a friend’s house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of break. You say to him, “A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.” And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can’t help you.” But I tell you this – though he won’t do it for friendship’s sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and given you whatever you need* ***because of your shameless persistence****.”*

 Luke 11:5-8

Jesus gave this illustration right after the disciples came to Him asking Him to teach them how to pray. Jesus then gave them the master template for prayer, which we now know as The Lord’s prayer or the “Our Father.” The continuation of his teaching on prayer revealed this non-negotiable element of “shameless persistence” and that the door would be opened if we would answer prayer or His reluctance to bless His children. He delights in giving us good gifts, moving us into the abundance life He has already paid the price for. The reality is that there are demonic forces, we live on a broken planet, and there are elements that resist the will of God that require a determined, focused, persistent faith to break through.

**STAY THE COURSE**

There are going to be days where you may not feel like you’ve made headway, you have not received that download from heaven you were hoping for, and frankly, you don’t feel emotionally pumped about what you’ve committed yourself to. At times like this remember that you are a man or woman of faith. You know well the promises of God and have set your heart to be aligned with those promises. We are not moved by what we feel or by what we see, but by what we believe (II Corinthians 5:7)!

Prepare your mind and heart to ask and keep asking, seek, and keep seeking, knock, and keep knocking. The moment you position yourself with this kind of resolve, you qualify to be one who will receive answers, discovering the deeper things of God, and moving through open doors!

**MEMORY VERSE**

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

I will be found by you.”

Jeremiah 29:13

**PRAYER DIRECTIVE**

Start out your prayer time by asking God to give you a new resilience determination to “seek him until.” Pray Matthew 7:7 and Jeremiah 29:13 out loud. Declare that you are stepping into a new season of whole-hearted ***Pursuit*** and you don’t plan to back up or

back off! Pray for a fuller revelation of His amazing promises and that a greater faith for this time of ***Pursuit*** would fill your heart and mind like never before.

**THOUGHTS & NOTES**