

Remnant Life Church
August 9, 2020
The Only Answer for Our Nation
Pt 5
-Seek My Face and Turn-
2 Chron 7:14

There are four conditions and three promises of **2 Chron 7:14** for the healing of our nation

First two conditions – Will humble themselves and pray

- The absolute necessity of humility
 - Humility is not self-deprecation or running yourself down
 - That is the world's definition of humility which is often false and a smoke-screen for pride
 - You are created in the image of God so there is value and worth in every single one of you
 - In humility, you give all glory and honor to God for every aspect of your life; which brings the blessings of God; which you give Him glory for; which brings more blessings – a beautiful cycle!

The second condition – Pray

- Prayer takes many forms, but in **2 Chron** this must be a prayer of repentance
- It echoes the words of Jesus, JtheB, and the disciples, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

This morning we look at the remaining two conditions: Seek my face and turn from your wicked ways

The third condition - Seek My face

Let's look at the two primary words:

- Seek – in the original language the word is *bah-CAHSH*
 - This is not only translated simply to look for something – which can be very passive
 - There is much higher degree of intensity in the meaning
 - Secure, desire, yearn, demand, and require
 - In other words, it is to be in pursuit of something
 - This requires great effort (school?)
 - One other synonym of that word is to hunger
 - Hunger is a basic need that everyone has
 - It is necessary for survival, to keep us alive
 - That is the same level of desire we should have for God; we need Him to live
- **2 Chronicles 16:10-11** - *Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.*
 - The NIV Bible references “seek” over 140 times and no one more than David

- **Psalm 27:4** - *One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.*
- **Psalm 105:4** - *Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.*
- **Psalm 119:2** - *Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart—*
- But David also tells us what keep us from seeking Him
 - **Psalm 10:4** - *In his pride the wicked man does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.*
- Other places:
 - **Jer 29:13** - *You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*
 - **Amos 5:4** - *This is what the LORD says to Israel: “Seek me and live;*
 - (Jesus) **Matt 6:33** - *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*
 - (Jesus) **Matt 7:7** - *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”*
 - These same words are echoed again by Jesus in **Rev 3:20**
 - (Jesus) **Luke 19:10** – *“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”*

Watch this: to only seek something is not enough

- It is critically important what you are seeking
- You can seek righteousness (the presence of God) or you can seek evil
- **2 Tim 2:22** - *Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*
- **Psalm 34:14** - *Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it*

David paints the perfect word picture of what our desire for God should be

- **Psalm 42:1-2** - *As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?*
 - David is not just speaking words, he is going into action
- Seeking God is about wanting Him at the center of your life more than anything else in the world
 - In that desire, God is your source for all things
 - He is your motivation
 - He is your comfort and your shelter
 - He is the pursuit of your heart and why you do all that you do – to please Him

Can you say, in all honesty, that you are seeking God?

- Remember, there is intensity in this effort
- Seeking Him is more than showing up at church once a week
- It is more than saying grace and thanking God for your food before you eat (which you should absolutely do, every time)
- It is more than reciting **John 3:16** in your mind before you go to bed at night
- It is a hungry, desperate pursuit for Him; for life

What is that pursuit of? His Face!

- What does that mean?

- Very simply – His presence
 - What makes His presence available to us?
 - First, a heart that has surrendered to Him
 - Second, our praises
 - **Psalm 140:13** - *Surely the righteous will praise your name, and the upright will live in your presence.*
 - The KJV of **Psalm 22:3** says that *He inhabits the praises of His people*
 - Third, a humble spirit dependent on God for all things of our lives

Fourth condition – Turn from their wicked ways

- This condition is the physical action resulting from a prayer of repentance
 - Repentance is only sure and complete if you change your behavior and actions
 - It is the discipline of repentance
 - We can we're sorry a thousand times but until our behavior changes there is no repentance
- If you are turning from one thing, you must, obviously, be turning toward something else
- That physical law is the picture of the action of repentance
- One of the OT Hebrew words for repent is *shoov*, and it means to turn back
 - A physical turning away
 - That is the picture of true repentance
 - You not only voice it, but you literally turn away and you are no longer near it

God's people (again, that is us) are called to turn away from the things of evil that produce sin, and turn toward Him

- That takes humility
- That takes praying for forgiveness and repenting

In order for us to receive the blessings and healing of the Lord, that He wants to give us because He loves us, we must then be willing to search our hearts for those things that are leading us away from Him

- And when those are revealed through the light of the Holy Spirit, we must turn away from them
- Once we have turned (or repented) we then seek His presence

What kinds of things might those be?

- Anything that comes before God or keeps us from seeking Him
- Money or Job?
- Your positions or status among other people
- Pride, hypocrisy
- Immoral behavior
- Cheating, stealing, gossiping

Confess, repent, and turn!

While God gives us the conditions for what we must do to see change come to our land – dare I say it, revival...

- He will do what He must
- He is calling for us to come to Him louder right now than ever before
- And I believe that in these past 6 months he has been showing us our idols

In just a short time, just like He did with the plagues of ancient Egypt, God has taken away everything that we worship as an idol in place of Him. It is as if God has been audibly saying...

You want to worship ATHLETES? I'll shut down the stadiums.

You want to worship MUSICIANS? I'll shut down the Civic Centers and concert halls.

You want to worship HOLLYWOOD? I'll shut down the theaters and their ability to continue cranking out the garbage that you absorb as entertainment

You want to worship MONEY? I'll shut down the economy and collapse the stock market. I will then allow the world to start telling you how commerce will take place moving toward a cashless system, a precursor to the coming of the antichrist and the end times.

You don't want to go to CHURCH? I'll make it where you long to go to church together.

Will humble themselves and pray; seek my face, and turn from your wicked ways