***Finding God***

*Instead Of Religion In This Religious World*

**Introduction**

 Mankind’s search for relevance has, in every generation, led him to both experiment with and exploit to his own advantage every option that has ever been discovered or laid bare, but until man comes face-to-face with the truth and presence of the Living God, he will always be in search mode without remedy.

**Objective**:

To discover and cultivate a genuine and long-lasting relationship with the God who

created me.

**Prerequisites**:

 1. Understanding the need – Just a few moments of time researching the story of the

 Bible, understanding to whom it is addressed, and realizing the outcome, will

certainly lay the groundwork for why I need this Boot Camp;

2. Commitment – I have to decide that I am going to do this, regardless of the

interruptions or repercussions – and there will be many – and prioritize this

commitment above anything else in my life calendar;

 3. Plan – A standard of performance that I promise myself to faithfully follow – this will

 be, by necessity, as unique as I am, for no two people are exactly alike;

 4. The Standard – I must set my total confidence in the teaching and truths of the Bible.

 All decisions as to purpose and/or direction must be weighed and brought into

agreement with the Word of God. The particular translation that is chosen, while

it may seem irrelevant at the onset, will become ever more important as learning and revelation become routinely common place.

Note: A good concordance, accompanied by a word-for-word Hebrew/Greek dictionary, will prove to be of great value considering some of the liberalities taken by some of the writers of later translations of the Bible.

**Making The Commitment**:

 1. Questions of TIME (the amount of time is not quite as important as quality of time):

 A. When can I be alone, expecting to be uninterrupted?

 B. When am I most alert and able to devote my full attention?

 2. Questions of ATTITUDE:

 A. Be Vigilant - In the beginning, my commitment of time and quality of

 performance must be tolerant of a sense of ‘routine’, confident that the

 Lord will show up as expression becomes experience and experience turns

 to relationship.

 B. Be on Guard/Alert - I must always be conscious of the fact that the strongest of

 my adversaries is, and will continue, in this life, to be, the influential

desires/cravings of my earth-bound inner self.

 C. Be Hopeful - I must always anticipate that the Lord, through my developing

 Relationship with the Holy Spirit, will show up with encouragement,

 instruction, and an ever-increasing sense of fellowship.

*Finding God (continued, Page 2)*

 3. Questions of willingness to RESPOND:

 A. The Bible is a living instrument of the Living Word (Jesus Christ), and,

 therefore, I should anticipate AND respond with an attitude of surrender

when I begin to realize that my reading/studying of the Bible is beginning

to speak directly to me in a personal way.

 B. As the Holy Spirit begins to speak to my inner self, through my

 reading/studying, I can trust that it is Him (the Holy Spirit) and not

 something, or someone, else, because He will always

relate/converse/instruct me in total agreement with the Word of God.

 4. Questions of TRUST:

 A. External influences – attitudes, opinions, conditions of relationship, that I

 encounter from other persons through my daily interaction with, and

 commitment to, others must be weighed in comparison to what the Word

 of God declares as real truth.

 B. Religious comparisons – Christianity, as it is expressed in my daily walk with

 and total dependence upon my relationship with God, by His Son Jesus

 Christ, and through the Holy Spirit, should never be comparatively

 equated to any other expression of Spiritism/religion, regardless of that

 expression’s seeming sincerity nor the quality of its followers/proponents.

 C. Emotionalism – While there are reported events of seemingly ‘spiritual’

 happenings in religious environments other than true Christianity, these

 ‘happenings’ entice the follower(s) to pursue a sense of self-gratification

(performance), or require an unquestioned commitment to a person other

than Jesus Christ, or dedication to an organization/activity that does not

agree with, nor promote performance of the Word of God (cults).

D. Spiritism – There are religious organizations/activities outside of Christianity

 that bear witness of unusual, and often unexplainable, events of a spiritual

 nature, which in the absence of the work of the Holy Spirit, can only be

 attributed to the manifestation(s) of demonic activity. These ungodly

 spirits can take control of an unwary, or surrendered, individual, and,

 thereafter, control that individual’s performance and abilities. Such a

 condition can only be reversed by the exercise of the power and authority

 of the Holy Spirit, usually working through the life and ministry of a

 Spirit-filled born-again believer of Jesus Christ.

E. Truth in Relationship – As my relationship with the Holy Spirit deepens by my

 daily study of the Word of God and my ongoing commitment to allow the

 Holy Spirit to counsel my attitude(s) and direct my actions, I can place

 total confidence in His (the Holy Spirit) leadership, because He leads in

 perfect compliance with the Word of God, which is the written Will of

 God.

**Making It Happen**:

 1. Getting myself alone – A place of quiet and solitude is not always easy to find, but it is

 essential that I find a place, or places, where I can offer some quality time to

 being with God;

 2. Keeping personal notes – So often, when I find myself caught up in the presence of the

 Holy Spirit, my heart receives something that needs to be recorded;

*Finding God (continued, Page 3)*

 3. Settling my heart – The rest of the day will find a way to take care of itself, but for

 now, I need to clear my mind and prepare my spirit to reach only toward God;

 4. Moving into the Word of God – I need to have a schedule for reading, but I must also

make my heart available for the Holy Spirit to take me in to a special and/or

timely Word;

 5. When reading turns into revelation – As I follow what often seems to be my reading

routine, the Holy Spirit takes a message of long ago, or a story of someone else’s

events, and places me personally into the action of its direction or purpose, thereby presenting both direction and hope for my challenges;

 6. When study turns into worship – When I realize that what I am experiencing in my

 studies and prayers is being conformed to my personal needs, I take the time, in

His presence, to worship my God – praising Him for His holiness and thanking

Him for His provision;

 7. Stopping when it’s over – When I realize the Holy Spirit’s anointing has lifted from

this particular devotional time, I need to take what I have experienced and what I

have learned into my day. Tarrying beyond the awareness of the presence of the

anointing will tend to cause me to haphazardly begin to blend my personal

thoughts and earthly aspirations into that which has been revealed by the Holy

Spirit.

**Enjoy The Lord’s Presence – Embrace The Search !**