

graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER¹ The Papou Study Bible is a daily study provided by me to



help folks explore the depth and joy of the “conneXion” life of God. It’s my personal study, and is not intended as a doctrinal statement or statement of any church or denomination or congregation. It’s also my belief that “grace” works, and the servant of God should always want to go deeper. Multi-tasking as usual, I’m also calling this the “Papou Study Bible.” I’m writing it as if I were speaking to my girls who love me and any descendant they have that love their Papou too. And to anyone who wants to consider me a spiritual Dad or “Papou.” I want them to be able to study the Bible with Papou (grandpa in Greek) after I’m gone---and if they don’t, I’ll haunt them. The Scriptures say it’s noble to “search the Scriptures daily” to verify truth like the ancient Bereans did (Acts 17:11). My folks came from Berea. My incredible Dad (and your grandfather and great grandfather, guys), Vasil Charles Valekis taught me to do this like he did---every day until I die. He taught me and everyone I know to go to church no matter what and to put God first. While Mama (Maria Pagona Stratakis Valekis) never really did this, she made sure we listened to Daddy on this one. She would have hit us with a spatula or frying pan or worse if we didn’t.

This is a simple sharing my “daily search.” And I’d like to think it is a continuation of God’s life through my Dad through me. Both my “Dads” by the way. And a way to honor him, mama and our loving “Dad”---God. And for all of us to be together, in Spirit, even when we I join them in heaven. I like to use

the Blue Letter literal, very “visual,” Greek translation a lot to help “visualize” these truths the beautiful way Greek enables you to view.

And I like to share this with folks serving in an elder capacity, or any capacity, to grow them, challenge them, and stretch them. But especially share it with anyone I’ve ever brought to Christ and family members who truly love me. And when you study these, I’ll make sure to connect with you from heaven. *Ever an orthodox Greek, Jim Valekis*

Christ IN You Series

Colossians 1:27 (King James Version)

²⁷To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is *Christ in you*, the hope of glory

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Amos 5 Part 2



I had several take aways from the last chapter. Israel was going to be like a person who falls and no one is available to pick her up. Like an old person without a life alert, and no one to rescue her. She was going to fall lone, and no one would be there or able to save. She would be diminished to a 10th of what she’d been. And she was encouraged:

“Seek me and live;⁵ do not seek Bethel,
do not go to Gilgal, do not journey to Beersheba.
For Gilgal will surely go into exile,
and Bethel will be reduced to nothing.”

So don’t worship at your “cultural” expression of my religion, which a wrangled up mess, anyway. Seek me, He says, and live. I’m going to continue a word search of the concept of seeking the Lord, then move back into the chapter.

¹ NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.

The Lord is to be SOUGHT. Let me continue with verses that speak to this.

Deuteronomy 4:29

But if from there you **seek** the **LORD** your God, you will find him if you **seek** him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Deuteronomy 12:5

But you are to **seek** the place the **LORD** your God will choose from among all your tribes to put his Name there for his dwelling. To that place you must go;

We are to “seek” the Lord. “Seek” Him! Even the place where He puts His Name. Seek Him. Here is the Hebrew word.

H1875 darash daw-rash'

properly, to tread or frequent; usually to follow (for pursuit or search); by implication, to seek or ask; specifically to worship.

Tread, frequent. Pursue. Search. Seek. Ask.

1 Kings 22:5

But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, “First **seek** the counsel of the **LORD**.”

1 Chronicles 16:10

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who **seek** the **LORD** rejoice.

1 Chronicles 16:11

Look to the **LORD** and his strength; **seek** his face always.

1 Chronicles 22:19

Now devote your heart and soul to **seeking** the **LORD** your God.

Here is what David taught his son.

1 Chronicles 28:9

“And you, my son Solomon, **acknowledge** the God of your father, and **serve him** with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the **LORD** searches every heart and understands every desire and every

thought. If you **seek** him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.

Here are the steps.

- 1. Acknowledge God**
- 2. Serve Him with *wholehearted devotion and a willing mind*. See text bar for Jesus' similar words.**
- 3. Seek Him.**
- 4. Don't forsake Him.**

Look at this verse in the CLV.

[\(CLV\) 1Ch 28:9](#)

And you, Solomon my son, know ⁷the Elohim of your ⁷fathers[~], and serve Him wholeheartedly and ⁱwith a delighting soul, for Yahweh inquires^l into all hearts, and He understands^l every form of devisings. If you ^lseek after Him, He shall be found ⁷by you; ⁺but if you ^lforsake Him, He shall cast you off for the future.

- 1. Know God.**
- 2. Serve Him wholeheartedly.**
- 3. Serve Him with a DELIGHTING SOUL.**
- 4. Seek after Him.**

[2 Chronicles 12:14](#)

He did evil because he had not set his heart on **seeking** the **LORD**.

Hmmm. I want to savor the "seek the Lord" verses. I may do that next.

[Ezra 6:21](#)

So the Israelites who had returned from the exile ate it, together with all who had **separated themselves from the unclean practices** of their Gentile neighbors in order to **seek the LORD**, the God of Israel.

[Psalm 22:26](#)

The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who **seek the LORD** will praise him— may your hearts live forever!

Deuteronomy 6:5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

HEART SOUL STRENGTH
The Hebrew is rendered this way: *utterly-of-you and-in-all-of soul-of-you in-all-of heart-of-you Elohim-of-you Yahweh and-you-love*

Matthew 22:37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

HEART SOUL MIND

Mark 12:30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

HEART SOUL MIND STRENGTH

Luke 10:27 He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

HEART SOUL STRENGTH MIND

Psalm 34:10

The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who **seek the LORD** lack no good thing.

Psalm 105:3

Glory in his holy name; **let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.**

Proverbs 28:5

Evildoers do not understand what is right, but those who **seek the LORD** understand it fully.

Isaiah 55:6

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

“In those days, at that time,” declares the LORD, “the people of Israel and the people of Judah together will go in tears to **seek the LORD** their God.

Let the wicked forsake their ways

and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,

and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Hosea 3:5

Afterward the Israelites will return and **seek the LORD** their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days.

Hosea 10:12

Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to **seek the LORD**, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you.

Amos 5:6

Seek the LORD and live, or he will sweep through the tribes of Joseph like a fire; it will devour them, and Bethel will have no one to quench it.

Zephaniah 2:3

Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger.

Zechariah 8:21

and the inhabitants of one city will go to another and say, 'Let us go at once to entreat the LORD and **seek the LORD** Almighty. I myself am going.'

Zechariah 8:22

And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to **seek the LORD** Almighty and to entreat him.”

Acts 15:17

that the rest of mankind may **seek the Lord**, even all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things’—

So this God’s advice to us---seek the Lord and live!

⁴This is what the LORD says to Israel:

“Seek me and live; do not seek Bethel, do not go to Gilgal, do not journey to Beersheba. For Gilgal will surely go into exile, and Bethel will be reduced to nothing.”

⁶**Seek the LORD and live,** or he will sweep through the tribes of Joseph like a fire; it will devour them, and Bethel will have no one to quench it.

Hebrews 12

²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken,

let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,

²⁹for our “God is a consuming fire.”

**God is a consuming fire. Seek the Lord and live!
His fire is cleansing, however. But it still hurts.**