

**September 2. Read John 6:44-51.** We pursue God because, and only because, He has put something within us that compels us to go after Him. “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them.” We can’t take credit for pursuing God because that impulse originates with God. However, our part is following hard after him, and all the time we are pursuing Him we are already in His hand. “I cling to you; your right hand upholds me. (Psalm 63:8). And Psalm 42:1-2 says, “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?” It is up to us to ‘long’ for God. It is easy to get complacent about our spiritual lives and that will stunt our growth. When we have this desire to pursue God, we are able to let the world see Christ in us. God is waiting to be wanted.

**September 3. Read 1 Corinthians 4:7; Matthew 16:25.** We are often hesitant to give up our treasures to the Lord out of fear for their safety; this is especially true when those treasures are loved relatives and friends. But we don’t need to have these fears. Our Lord came to save. Everything is safe which we commit to Him, and nothing is really safe that we keep to ourselves. Our gifts and talents should also be turned over to God. They should be recognized for what they are, God’s loan to us, and should never be considered in any sense our own. We have no more right to claim credit for special abilities than for blue eyes or strong muscles. When we try to take credit and defend ourselves, then “ourselves” is all we have. But when we become defenseless, God becomes our defender.

**September 4. Read Genesis 28:16, Exodus 34:5.** If God is present at every point in space, if we cannot go where He is not, and if we cannot even conceive of a place where He is not, why then has not that Presence become the one universally celebrated fact of the world? The patriarch Jacob, he saw a vision of God and cried out in wonder, “Surely the Lord is in this place; and I wasn’t aware of it.” Jacob’s issue is ours - We do not know that God is here. What a difference it would make if we knew. The Presence and the evidence of God’s Presence are not the same. There can be the one without the other. God is here when we are totally unaware of it. He is *evident* only when and as we are aware of His Presence. On our part there must be surrender to the Spirit of God. It is the Spirit’s work to show us the Father and the Son. If we cooperate with Him in loving obedience God will make himself known to us, and that expression will be the difference between a nominal Christian life and a life radiant with the light of His face. Always, everywhere God is present, and always He seeks to show Himself. To each one he would reveal not only that He is, but *what* He is as well. He did not have to be persuaded to show Himself to Moses. “And the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord.” He not only made a verbal proclamation of His nature but He revealed His very Self to Moses so that the skin of Moses’ face shone with the supernatural light. It will be a great moment for some of us when we begin to believe that God’s promise of self-revelation is literally true: that He promised much, but promised no more than He intends to fulfill. Our pursuit of God is successful just because He is forever seeking to show Himself to us.

**September 5. [John 1:1](#); [Psalm 46:10](#).** It is important that we get still to wait on God. And it is best that we get alone, preferably with our Bible opened before us (or electronic device!) In this time we attempt to draw near to God and begin to hear Him speak to us in our hearts. Through the words, through the silence, through the impressions of what we are reading. Much of our religious unbelief is due to a wrong conception of and a wrong feeling for the Scriptures of Truth. A silent God suddenly began to speak in a book and when the book was finished lapsed back into silence again forever. Now we read the book as the record of what God said when He was in a speaking mood - for just a little time. With notions like that in our heads how can we believe? The facts are that God is not silent, has never been silent. It is the nature of God to speak. The second Person of the Holy Trinity is called the *Word*. The Bible is the inevitable outcome of God's continuous speech. It is the infallible declaration of His mind for us put into our familiar human words. If you want to pursue the Lord who pursues you, then when you read His Word, expect to hear and you will -the very Word of the Living God.

**September 6. Read [Psalm 57:5](#); [Revelation 4:11](#).** Much of our difficulty as seeking Christians stems from our unwillingness to take God as He is and adjust our lives accordingly. We insist upon trying to modify Him and to bring Him nearer to our own image. In the pursuit of God we work to bring our personality into conformity to His. We give God praise for being our creator and willingly surrender ourselves to Him in worship. When we decide this, we firmly place our foot outside of our world and into the heavenlies. We get a new viewpoint and a new power. Our break with the world will be the direct outcome of our changed relation to God. For the world of fallen men does not honor God. Millions call themselves by His Name and pay some token respect to Him, but a simple test will show how little He is really honored among them. Let the average man be put to the proof on the question of who is *above*, and his true position will be exposed. Let him be forced into making a choice between God and money, between God and men, between God and personal ambition, God and self, God and human love, and God will take second place every time. Those other things will be exalted above. However the man may protest, the proof is in the choices he makes day after day throughout his life.

Adapted from "Pursuit of God" by A.W. Tozer