

Seeking the Face of God

Scripture: **Daniel 9**

Series: **The Pilgrim Life: Living as God's People in a Pagan Land**

Sunday, May 29, 2016



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Overview

Daniel's confessional prayer teaches us that as pilgrims in a pagan world, we are not only seeking our home, we are seeking our God. Daniel pleaded with God and longed for the day when Jerusalem would be restored from its desolation and Israel released from its captivity. Daniel's hope for this restoration was grounded in the sovereign grace of God, whose decrees are sovereign over the kingdoms of men. Daniel's prayer also teaches us that there is no seeking God's grace without confessing our sins. The nearness of God is our ruin unless we have His pardon. In our seeking, our turning is the beginning of repentance. But we need not fear God, since His grace is greater than our sin. As we seek the face of God and come into His presence, His face will shine upon us because He loves us.

Corroborating Texts

Psalm 13:1; Psalm 27:9; Psalm 30:11-12; Psalm 73:28; Matthew 5:4; John 1:18; John 4:24; Ephesians 2:13; Hebrews 4:16

Discussion Questions

1. How often do you find yourself praying to God, but not really in a way that is seeking the face of God? Why do you think that is? What holds you back?
2. In your prayers, do you often seek God's grace without confessing your sins? If so, why? Do you think this lack of confession may be hindering your prayers?
3. Sometimes we presume upon God's grace without much thought of seeking Him or seeking His favor. Sometimes we underestimate God's grace and therefore don't seek Him or His favor. Where do you find yourself lately?
4. Do you feel the weight and burden of your sin is keeping you from seeking God more closely and trusting in His grace? If so, why? During these times, do you trust your feelings more than God's promises? Do you look to God's Word to counter the lies of the devil?
5. Pastor Joe mentioned five ways that we actively seek God: **turning, praying, fasting, mourning** and **confessing**. Which of these ways do you find the most difficult and why?
6. Reflect on a specific event in the past where you actively sought God's favor. How did you experience God's presence? Which area of your life are you currently seeking God's favor?