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Essentials for owning your salvation

“Pursuing God”

Various Scripture

In seeking to “own” the privilege and power of spiritual disciplines:

- 1) We recognize the loving initiative of God.
Philippians 1:6; 2:13; Psalm 27:8

God wants to be known, more than we want to know him.

- 2) We respond by seeking intimacy with God.
Philippians 3:7-10; Psalm 27:4 & 8

The biblical model of our pursuit:

- Scripture-fed: The best way to talk to God is from His own word.
- Spirit-lead: We must learn from our 24/7 indwelling “prayer tutor.”
- Worship-based: We must seek God’s face before we seek His hand.

- 3) We resolve to maintain intentionality toward God.

The priority of the “one thing”

Psalm 27:4-6; Luke 10:42; Philippians 3:13

Download “*Pursuing God*” 2nd in the *Elements* series (1/15/2012) free, or share it via email, Facebook or Twitter at hcbc.com/media. You may also purchase a CD at the Resource Center in the East Lobby.

My Application

Use the following questions this week to reflect on what it would mean to align yourself with the truths taught in Scripture. Each question is meant for both personal reflection and as a catalyst for discussion with your family, friends, or small group.

- 1) Read Psalm 27 carefully. Write down the description of God's character found in this psalm. Take time to praise Him for these truths and thank Him for taking the initiative to bring you to an intimate knowledge of Him.
- 2) Review the "one thing" passages found in Psalm 27:4-6; Luke 10:42; Philippians 3:13. Write a summary description of what this "one thing" would look like in your life today. Then, list the "many things" that distract you from this one thing. Ask Christ for the grace to remain passionate and focused in your spiritual pursuit.
- 3) As you reflect on the message illustration of "swimming upstream in a downstream world," think of situations you have faced (and will face) this week when you feel the "downstream" temptations and struggles of the world's influence. Take time to pray for Christ's grace to help you swim "upstream" for His glory.
- 4) Reflect on the difference between simply seeking God's hand vs. seeking His face. Return to Psalm 27. List the benefits that can be yours when you seek God's face. Thank Him for His desire for an intimate relationship with you.

Recommended Reading: *Transforming Prayer: How Everything Changes When You See God's Face* (Bethany House)