

1: Sermons about Pursuit Of God - www.enganchecubano.com

Seekers Always Prosper In Passionate Pursuit Of God By Jeremy Pearsons. To "seek," also means, to "worship." There is a connection between abundance, prosperity, and seeking God; but seeking always comes first.

I feel in love with Torrey the first time that I visited. So, a few weeks ago I went back for the weekend and here are my suggestions for 48 hours of fun. Torrey is a tiny tree-lined town and what it lacks in population it makes up for in charm. But this quaint town is a perfect home base for a weekend of exploring. There is a pool, laundromat, general store, and deli on the premises. I have stayed here many times and always been pleased. Day 1 Arrive in Torrey in time for lunch. Drive the ten minute drive into Capitol Reef National Park and stop at the Fruita campground and picnic area. Picnic among the orchard and feel free to pick fruit if in season. After lunch drive through Capitol Reef taking in the steep red rock formations. Capitol Reef is home to a huge wrinkle in the earth called Waterpocket Fold. Drive the scenic byway or head to a trailhead for a hike. Get back to Torrey in time for the Saturday afternoon farmers market which runs on Main Street between 4: Pick up homemade bread, fresh produce, or local eggs while listening to live music. Head over to the Capitol Reef Inn and Cafe for their ten vegetable salads to start your meal and I loved the shrimp tostadas. The salmon filet was also delicious. Make the 50 miles drive of twisting two-lane highway to Boulder, Utah. A meal here is worth the price and drive. They proprietors, Blake and Jen, have been cultivating food via their farm and preparing creative meals here for nearly twenty years. After your meal, drive back to Torrey for a nap. Drive a little bit past Boulder on twisting two-lane highway to Escalante, Utah. Hike to the stunning Lower Calf Creek Falls. Find information about the hike here. As you stand at the base of the falls gaze in wonder as your place in the world comes clearly into focus. Pack up and head home while planning your next trip to Torrey.

2: Passionate Pursuit of God - a passionate prayer in pursuit of God's presence

Brad Lomenick. Brad Lomenick is the president and lead visionary of Catalyst, one of America's most influential leadership movements. He is the author of The Catalyst Leader: 8 Essentials for Becoming a Change Maker.

Description Product Description There are different kinds of people with different passions. Some are passionate about their jobs and careers. For some it is houses and automobiles. Some are passionate about entertainment and enjoyment. What is your passion today? There was a man in the Bible who was passionate about the presence of God all the days of his life. His name is David. God took him from the level of an ordinary shepherd boy to a great king. We see the Lord Jesus being born in the clan of David. In this world, there are people who would love that kind of promotions coming their way. But where are the people who seek God the way David sought? May the Lord help us seek Him with all our heart. How to develop a passion for God? Spend time with the Lord: David says that he could not find the presence of God until he waited patiently for it. David took the time and waited for the Lord. Almost everything is computerized and automated. Fast this and fast that. No one has the time to relax to even have food. With God, there is no set waiting time. We got to wait patiently. That is why people do not get to spend time with the Lord. They read all about prayer and meditating the Word. You have to go and wait there before you can meet Him. David had only one desire that he might dwell in the house of the Lord, All the days of his life and just behold the beauty of the Lord. The presence of God must be your foremost desire if you want it. Moses said in Exodus God went with them in a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day. Will you be someone who seeks God for who He is! Desire the presence of God more than anything in this world! Become a presence seeker! Passionate people become presence carriers: The Bible declares, you are the temple of the Holy Spirit. When you are filled with the presence of God, you start carrying His presence wherever you go. God will transform you from a presence seeker to a presence carrier. This is what happened to Peter. Peter was walking the streets of Jerusalem. They brought sick people on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them and they were all healed Acts 5: You too can carry the presence of God in that fashion. God is a respecter of no man. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? David is so desperate for God. The secret is when God sees that, you are after Him, He starts coming after you. The Bible says, in James 4: But there are a very few people, who seek God for who He is. Will you be one among those? God is looking for people who will hunger and thirst for His presence!

3: GOD'S PRESENCE SEEKERS | The Potter's Ministries

A passionate pursuit of God 1/6/02 By: Pastor Ron Crandall Ex ,13&14,16&17,20 11 And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.

And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Today we will look at two more: The Covenant of Grace Grace is undeserved favor. God showers us with his grace. The greatest example of that, of course, is giving his son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross, paying the penalty for our sins. Did any of us deserve that? But he offered forgiveness because of his unconditional love for us. But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. Jesus suffered a horrendous death on the cross for us. He offers us eternal life with him in a perfect place called heaven. When we just think about how much Jesus loves us and what he has done, we should be drawn immediately into passionate worship. We should all worship him as individuals. But we should also worship him together as a corporate body. Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Together let us honor him in all we do. May we teach and encourage one another and worship him in unity. Prayer Father, please forgive me for the times I have taken your grace for granted. As I worship, help me keep my eyes on Jesus and the grace that abounds because of your unconditional love and sacrifice. May I join others in the body of Christ as we honor and worship you with one voice. These thoughts were drawn from "A Passionate Pursuit of God: Drawing Nearer to Him" by Dr. This minute format will accommodate groups with limited meeting times. This curriculum was written especially for small groups and we encourage people to use it that way. However, it can also be used effectively as a personal study for individuals or couples. We hope these devotions are a blessing to you and to others in your life. We are happy to provide them for you at no cost, but thought you might want to consider a donation to help our ministry with the expense involved. You can safely donate through our website. Visit us on Facebook! Living Free is a registered trademark. When reproduced to share with others, please acknowledge the source as Living Free, Chattanooga, TN, www. Must have written permission to use in any format to be sold. Permission may be requested by sending an e-mail to This email address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.

4: Hello Fun Seekers - The Passionate Pursuit of Delight

This year, our theme is: "Worship: A Passionate Pursuit of God." And during the year, we will be talking a lot about worship and our services. We will speak about a variety of topics including praise, tithes and offerings, the proclamation of the Word, music, communion, baptism, and prayer.

The same thing happens when I gaze at a painting by Rembrandt or read the novels of Twain. When he makes a sunset and when he gives the gift of artistic talent to someone, God reveals himself. Through what he made directly in creation: How people express themselves is part of what makes up culture. The Sower brings seed out of his bag and the Spirit blows on them as they leave his hand to find their way into all forms of human civilization. Culture has to do with arts and sciences, patterns of thought, spirituality, community, morals, etc. I think that the Sower sows the living seeds from his Garden into each human culture in order to influence people in those cultures to follow the clues back to his Paradise. The Sower, his Son, and the Spirit have for eternity lived in perfect and unbroken community. Well, there was one moment in time where there was a break, but it was planned and rectified after a three-day hiatus! Part of what it means to be made in their image is our penchant for living in relationship and community. If not for a Maker who loves and yearns to be loved, why would we be so intent on the same? The field of Creation is in front of us, the field of Conscience inside us, and the field of Culture is all around us. God surrounds us within and without with traces of his person. He really seems to want to be known. But even when a society fails, when it implodes on itself by its anti-God attitudes and actions, I think God uses even these to attract attention to himself by offering a better way. We learn by negative examples as well as by positive. God uses instances of botched society which is merely the cumulative failure of its adherents to beckon people to himself. People who are frustrated by the failure of their society may be thus incited toward his good society. Cornelius seemed to have a fairly honed sense of who God is without the benefit of a human witness. Or did his society direct him so diametrically opposite of Paradise that it drove him to seek God for a better way? Peter showed up, and Cornelius and his friends got filled with the Holy Spirit before Peter was even finished explaining the Gospel to them! Yes, I do think that the Sower, who goes to the ends of the earth to get his seed scattered by the breath of the Spirit to every realm of life, will even pursue people into the realm of religion Christian or not. Is Jesus the only way to God? For a much more thorough and provocative treatment of this theme you might be interested to read one or more of these books: People myself included can suppress the truth and look holy while we do it! The longer I mused about it, my offense eased and I began to wonder how much of his seed God might be planting along religious paths. Could it be that he cares enough about the billions of Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists to leave clues about himself in their systems of worship? Could it be that God is willing to walk to the end of such planks in order to beckon people onto his sturdy beam Jesus? The Son sacrificed himself for every person in history, the Sower sows seed from the life-tree in every place on the planet, and the Spirit furiously blows the seed all over the world in every conscience and culture. But what I do know for sure is that the Son paid for everyone who was banned from the Garden, that the Sower plants his seeds prodigiously in every inch of soil he can find, and that the Spirit blows those seeds everywhere people are. I mean those queer strange stories scattered through all the heathen religions about a god who dies and comes to life again and, by his death, has somehow given new life to men. For he is dimly present in the good side of the inferior teachers they follow. In the parable of the Sheep and Goats Matthew 25 those who are saved do not seem to know that they have served Christ. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth. When he comes, he will explain everything to us. I think there is. He saw that she had an inner longing for God and offered her living water to satisfy her nagging thirst. He found in her a person who was already eating the fruit of the Sower and led her to find the tree from which it came. I know him and am going to reveal him to you. The Spirit had blown the seed of the Sower into the

Jewish-hated cult of the Samaritans. God knows and judges people by their hearts, not by their doctrinal statement! I wonder if their stories are included in the Bible in order to show us that the seed has been effectively sown in surprising places. Job, who probably lived before Abraham, had no Bible; and yet God somehow made himself known to him. The Philistine king Abimelech had personal visitations from God. Rahab, not only a prostitute, but was also a citizen of the sin-filled city of Jericho. Is it possible that these are representative of many others to whom God has revealed himself over the millennia? Angels, visions, and dreams! Daniel chronicles the stories of several pagan kings – Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius, and Cyrus. The Lord used angels, dreams and visions to move these men to believe and to act on what they believed. His love is stubborn that way. He will use whatever means he can in order to gain entrance into that starving spirit. He uses what and whom he chooses. Parking costs as much as the ticket, so I decided to take public transportation. How and when they make this transfer, and even what the process of transfer looks like is considerably above my pay grade. They might not take people all the way to where they need to go, but deposit them closer than they were when they began. The bus that goes in the diametrically opposite way of the right way might not help them make the transfer to The Jesus Bus. I can think of at least one exception to that rule. I wonder if there are buses certain religions that are so obviously treacherous and dangerous that they terrify their passengers into jumping off before it crashes! And what good thing would it be, if these passengers were then frightened all the way onto the right bus going the right way to the right place. To say otherwise is false tolerance and sloppy thinking. My point is that there might be enough similarities to indicate that some of their adherents are actually looking for God. God is not stingy with his seed!

5: GOD SEEKERS | Christian Community Church Arklow

God's Passionate Pursuit of People #4 (You can find this entire paper on www.enganchecubano.com) In the last post I wrote about the first 2 "fields" in which God plants seeds: creation and conscience.

Have you ever found worship frustrating? One particular Sunday when the sermon seemed to go on forever, many in the congregation fell asleep. After the service, to be sociable, she walked up to a very sleepy looking gentleman. We want the service to go one way, and it goes another. Sometimes even that pastor will get rather long-winded, and we wonder if he is ever going to stop talking. This year, our theme is: A Passionate Pursuit of God. We will speak about a variety of topics including praise, tithes and offerings, the proclamation of the Word, music, communion, baptism, and prayer. As a church body, the church in Corinth was guilty of faulty worship. Their services ended up exalting those who were exercising certain spiritual gifts. This focus was causing division, instead of unity. Let us be clear on this! Worship is not exclusively a church or service issue. Worship is a matter of the heart. And throughout the year, we will be giving consideration to worship issues as they apply to both our private and public lives. As a basic definition! 2. Worship is declaring to God His worth. When we discuss this in the context of our faith, we must remember that worship is not about ourselves. Worship is about God. We are doing worship correctly when we are declaring God as worthy of our attention and adoration. In every way! 3. Worship is worth our effort. When we have our relationship with God right, and we are truly honoring and glorifying Him, our life comes together " it finds fulfillment. So worship is worth doing. This is why! 4. Worship is about being right with God. It is knowing that our relationship with Him is all-important and must be pursued with everything we have and are. Our relationship with God is to be the priority that everything else must fall under. Everything! Whatever priorities you have, no matter how important they are, they pale in comparison to the absolute necessity of worship. So, how do we passionately pursue God? In our study of Psalm , we will find four ways that demonstrate how to pursue God. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! As we see here! We should worship with enthusiasm. The shout that is described here is not some indiscriminate noise. It is a shout of homage and appreciation. In other words, our worship is meant to be vocal, public, organized and expressive. You know, many of us that are sports fans are much more expressive about our favorite teams and players than we are about how great God is. I have never thought this to be a good thing. Something is backwards! But the truth is, what we ought to be expressing to God is heart-felt praise. Daily, we should be coming to God eagerly and adoringly. It is to be a whole-hearted participation. We have great reason to do so. We have good news for the world. We all are summoned to worship because the whole world belongs to God! In the second line, the NIV uses the verb worship which is, in my estimation, a rather curious translation that kind of jumps ahead the meaning of the sentence. The Hebrew word is to serve. It is a word that speaks of being humble. It is a word that speaks of responding to someone greater.

6: God's Relentless Pursuit of Us in Love by Jim Feiker | Impact Field Leader

Are You In Pursuit of God or the World? Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 16 For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions.

Those who seek me diligently will find me. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars. It is the proof of our love and the evidence of the value we place on our relationship with Him. As you are aware, everyone is in pursuit of something. This is human nature, it is God given and there is nothing wrong with pursuit but what would be wrong would be if our pursuit undermines God: Our pursuit with God gives us eternal status in the overall scheme of things. Making God our top priority and spending time with Him is mainly to our advantage. Those that mind God will always matter. The above scriptures tell us how God wants us to seek after Him, wholeheartedly. No distraction, no pre-occupation should be allowed. He is either Lord of all or not Lord at all. It is remarkable to note that after we give our whole heart to God, we become able to receive His whole heart and He also gives His own quality of life in addition. And by the way, He first gave us His all before we ever knew of Him. Not that we first loved Him, but rather, He first loved us 1 John 4: You cannot beat God at giving. You cannot give God your whole heart when some part of it still seeks revenge, or holds someone in unforgiveness. I am not trying to condemn you, but I am showing you some hindrances to total surrender. Remember the story of the rich your ruler in Matthew He told Jesus he has kept all the commandments since he was a youth and Jesus did not dispute it, therefore, I assume it was true. However, Jesus highlighted to him that his submission was selective and incomplete. This guy would do anything he was told until it came to giving away his money. God had the best place only after his wealth. To some, it is their career, to some, it their relationship, to others, it is pride and the list goes on. It is God that gives us power to get wealth, health, success, time etc. He gave us these things so that we could worship Him with them and not so that we could worship the things. This man was practically telling Jesus that there was a limit to what he could do or give to God. My question is, how much sacrifice can you make in order to give time to God and obey Him? It is a question that we all need to keep answering for the rest of our lives, but the answer will be easy to give if we cultivate the habit of putting God first. Always consider how your decisions and choices will impact your first priority God. This is the key to living in the fullness of the love and presence of God. You cannot enjoy the active presence of God in your situation if He is always an afterthought. Pursuit is the proof of desire. God responds to wholehearted surrender.

7: God's Passionate Pursuit of People #4 "barney wiget

One of the reasons why God preferred David to Saul in the bible was because David was a man that was in pursuit of God's heart (Acts). As you are aware, everyone is in pursuit of something. Everyone's desire and heart is set on one thing or another per time.

Sep 02, Preeti rated it really liked it Recommends it for: First of all, let me attempt to explain the rating. For the information and learning, I think this book deserves five stars. Everything was into I really enjoyed this book. Everything was interesting enough but I think I was salivating at the thought of the other books piled up in my room that were waiting to be read so this one almost started moving too slowly. But then I got back into it and it was fascinating. Overall, as I said, this book was extremely informative. I learned a lot! The book explores the history of, uh, natural history - essentially the adventurers, explorers, collectors, scientists, etc. You can apply this quote to the rest of the book: These are presented, for the most part, in the order of seeing them in the book, which mostly follows a chronological order. The distinction lies in spreading the information to the world, examining, classifying, etc. This stands out to me because he was a revered ornithologist and has a big organization named after him. But I guess if only the inherently good people were to become famous and have important things named after them, nothing would ever have a name! It was the times they lived in. Which does not necessarily excuse their behavior, conduct, actions, etc. In the s, a British magazine recommended that shell collecting was "particularly suited to ladies" because "there is no cruelty in the pursuit" and the shells are "so brightly clean, so ornamental to a boudoir. No cruelty there, not in forcing animals out of their homes or in some cases, their bodies, and killing them! He called out "covetousness and pomp" among collectors. Said objects have could have special power only of found by oneself or as a gift but not when "bought with money. Even more strangely, the error occurred in the only commercially successful book Poe published in his lifetime. H died an unpublished author, though his works gained traction afterwards. They required not only the rejection of some of the fondest beliefs of mankind but also the development of fundamentally new ways of thinking and of an apparatus for scientific interpretation. For the United States, the "mammoth" had set loose the characteristic nineteenth-century America delight in things boisterous and big, helping to create a national sense of identity and self-confidence. The social atmosphere was Old Disharmony. A local schoolteacher directed the full blast of snout-faced early American anti-intellectualism at the naturalists and their specimens: Their knowledge is not only useless because there is no application to it but hurtful; it carries the mind astray, in fact it is false knowledge. The notion of innate white superiority predominated even in the most progressive intellectual circles. Thomas Jefferson regarded blacks as irredeemably debased. At times, however, the consequences of such thinking came all too visibly to the surface. Robert Schomburgk was a German naturalist best known for discovering Victoria regia, a waterlily with great round leaves like serving platters. He happened to be at Anegada, the northernmost of the Virgin Islands, in , when a passing Spanish slaver, the Restauradora, hit a reef and sank in shallow water. But clearly interracial relationships in humans were producing fertile offspring. So this one dude, Samuel G. Morton, tried to prove that this happens in the animal world as well, between different species. No conflict of interest there! But a clergyman "provided the most rigorous argument against the Morton camp, defending scientific truth and for once religion" - John Bachman. He avoided making religious arguments but implemented scientific methods used to distinguish species: He also talked about domestic cattle which had a large variety of skull types yet were considered one species, so why was that used as a way to distinguish different races as different species? This is what he faced: Why have I not read more about him yet? I should as soon expect to see them flourish within the purlieu of Newgate" the notorious London prison. All that work gone because of a huge ship fire. In his own words: How many places, which no European foot but my own had trodden, would have been recalled to my memory by the rare birds and insects they had furnishes to my collection! How many weary days and weeks had I passed, upheld only by the fond hope of bringing home many new and beautiful forms from those wild region And now everything was gone. And poor Wallace did get the short end of the stick. How many remember his name? No, when you think of evolution you think of Darwin. But then again,

you do have to caveat that with the fact that Darwin had been working on this theory for years, had the manuscript, and had done tons of research to back the idea: Reading the copy Darwin sent to him in New Guinea, Wallace was plainly thrilled: Darwin had given the world a new science, and his name should, in my opinion, stand above that of every philosopher of ancient or modern times. Nor for that matter, did fame bring the reclusive Darwin much joy. It happened in late or early , just as the natural selection story was unfolding back home. I question whether the former be not the loftier thought. It is a social enterprise, and whether we like it or not, thoroughly hierarchical. Ideas pile up in the air, the cumulative product of illiterate native hunters, virtuous and vainglorious field naturalists, and inglorious taxonomists, almost all of them soon forgotten. For example, Armand David was an explorer and missionary in China in the mid-nineteenth century, and he came upon a species of deer that had been hunted out from the wild but a small population of animals survived in a hunting park. After some attempts he was able to get hold of two skins. In , a breeding population was shipped back to Beijing and now the species numbers almost 1, animals in their native habitat. It is the subtext to those endless drawers of carefully arranged specimens in the end around the world: Someone had collected each specimen; killed it; skinned it; stuffed it, set it, or put it in preservative; pencilâ€”scratched a label for it; carried it crossâ€”country; shipped it home; studied it; and classified it â€” and then repeated this ritual over over, countless millions of times. For each specimen, someone had gone hungry and sleepless. Someone alone in a remote and hostile territory had wept. Someone had perhaps drowned, been murdered, suffered malaria, yellow fever, dysentery, or typhus. Someone had certainly cursed and complained, though not so much as we might expect. Someone had said, "Hunh! Thank you, Richard Conniff! Indeed, social convention required sparing them even the near occasion for such alarm. As expected this chapter pissed me off! But happy it was included, though it was quite too short.

8: The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth by Richard Conniff

God wants us to worship him passionately. But what does that look like? Do you ever look around your church during a worship service and think, Is this God working, or is this just a show?

A Broader Vision - 1 day ago Passion: If we are connected to Him we will bear much fruit. Everything is dependent on Him. They know the importance of this trait, and they are bringing it to bear in almost every field imaginable. Whether they work in business or the arts, education or the social sector, media or the church world, they are tying their love for Jesus to the work they do. They want their faith to be central to their lives, not an afterthought. This generation of leaders desires for a passion for Jesus and a heart to serve Him to be fully and holistically connected to everything we do and everything we are. The great reformer Martin Luther was once asked by a man how he should serve the Lord. Being a change maker means realizing that commitment to God and passion for following Jesus cannot be compartmentalized. It cannot be restricted to Sundays and sacred spaces. For the catalyst leader, Mondays through Fridays are holy days. Boardrooms are sacred spaces, and so are Hollywood studio lots, high-rise offices, and neighborhood coffee shops. Accounting can be a spiritual act; practicing medicine can be a spiritual act; working on an assembly line can be a spiritual act; teaching can be a spiritual act. No matter where you work, your job can be an act of worship and service to God. We want artists and politicians and teachers and entrepreneurs and corporate leaders to join our community. They, too, have a divine purpose for their lives. The apostle Paul knew this essential well. In his letter to the Colossians, he says, Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters. Like Paul, the catalyst leader strives to connect passion for God to personal calling. The way we live out our personal callings says a lot about how we see ourselves. It reveals whether we view ourselves as worshippers or ones who desire to be worshipped. If the latter, your life and work will be me-centered. If the former, it will orient vertically. A catalyst leader understands that the foundation of life and the source of true influence must be a deep love for God and desire to glorify Him. Consider Lecrae, who continues to gain influence in the hip-hop world and broader music industry. So much of his credibility with his peers is due to the passion he has for both his craft and his Creator. I want to be around people with passion. You can tell when someone truly loves what they do and their heart and soul is in their work or the project they are leading. It becomes something freeing and beautiful. What are you truly passionate about? What are some things you can do for days without tiring? I love to duck hunt. Equipping leaders, however, is something altogether different. Even though I may tire of my job from time to time, I never grow weary in this passion. A Lifetime of Leading Well: Bothered that a generation was coming of age who were not connecting with the Holy Scriptures, he composed this paraphrase translation in contemporary language. The result is a piece of art and literature that has sold more than 10 million copies worldwide. Now well in his eighties, his voice is soft but raspy. His body is frail yet full of energy. Even in his old age, Eugene Peterson shows signs of Spirit-empowered life. Every word he speaks is rich with the history of a life well lived and a God well served. We offered him the Catalyst Lifetime Achievement Award a few years ago and inscribed it with his mantra and title of one of his most popular books: A Long Obedience in the Same Direction. We live alert to the wonders all around us and within us that expand our desire to know God more. He is the author of The Catalyst Leader: Brad has a passion for leadership, and finds great joy in connecting leaders. When not gathering leaders at a Catalyst event, he might be found in a duck blind, on a ski slope in Colorado, or on the golf course.

9: A Passionate Pursuit Of God Sermon by Paul Decker, Psalms - www.enganchecubano.com

Passionate people become presence carriers: The presence of God filled Solomon's temple in the Old Testament. The Bible says that 'the cloud filled the house of the Lord the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord' (1K , 11).

It was local Kenyan wisdom to pay special attention to the last words of a wise and Godly man. Well, Jim Feiker fits both descriptors. Jim was in communication with his Lord until the very end and this article points to that growing edge. Thanks Bev for your work of love in completing the final edit. Read and be refreshed by this reality. Now I want to correct an imbalance I have found in my life and teaching that I believe is vitally important. For years I have gone back and forth on two sides of a truth in Scripture. One side is passion, pursuit, devotion and love for God as my initiative and responsibility in the Christian life. Both truths are very important, but I tended to default to my pursuit and love for God. I was pursuing God thinking that was biblical—and it was. What I was hearing from godly people speaking to me over the years were exhortations from Scripture to follow hard after Him Psalm But my love and pursuit needed to be my response to God because of His first loving me, His empowering that pursuit by His living His life in me. This presents a subtle identity issue. Our true identity is found not in what we do for Christ, how hard we pursue Him, or how others view us. Our identity stems from an authentic relationship with God that He initiated in love. God has been revealing this astounding balancing truth to me — that God is and has been pursuing me with His radical love all my life. Our pursuit of Him is important, but most important is our response to His first loving us 2 Corinthians 5: It is easy to believe that the Christian life is all up to us. Yet even godly men and women get tired of chasing after God. God is the heavyweight in the Christian life. It is about His strength, His ability, His love, His longing, His resolve to stay in relationship with us. God longs for an intimate relationship even more than we do. In any intimate relationship there must be mutual desire, values, love, delight and pursuit for the relationship to really grow. Building intimacy with God is greatly enhanced by realizing that He seeks and delights in it, and that He knows us through and through already. Not only does He know everything about us, but He is actively and personally engaged in our lives. He is calling us to a passionate love relationship with Himself. If the emphasis is on our seeking Him, we can subtly march as a soldier to the steps of obedience, endurance and duty alone. But that gets tiresome! We begin to lose our joy and delight in walking with God and focus on what we are to do in the Christian life rather than the joy of being a beloved child in whom Christ lives and works. With the focus on being an enduring soldier, we can miss the fact that He radically loves us and wants us to enjoy all things as His child 1 Timothy 6: However there is danger if we only bask in His love and enjoyment of us. We can easily focus on grace without discipline. Yet the grace of God does teach us to lived disciplined and godly lives Titus 2: With our emotions awakened to being loved by God, we are motivated by joy, and there is fizz and color in our walk with Christ. Being sought after and pursued by God What are some ways God has already sought us and is currently pursuing us? In Creation — His personally creating us for intimacy with Himself Psalm God is constantly thinking about us. He intimately knows us. By the way, He does not make junk! He will come again and take us to Heaven, where He is. We are royal jewels that He delights in and values as precious treasure 1 Peter 2: Valued by God Significantly What are some special ways God has proven and demonstrates that He is relentlessly initiating a close, loving relationship with us? He has chosen us and wants to be in and with us. The Creator of the Universe wants to be a companion of ours, to abide in us. A stark contrast between His holiness and our humanity created an awkward distance, but Jesus went to great lengths to create a relationship with us that would last for eternity. He has declared us not only forgiven, but innocent and righteous in His eyes. He can now look us directly in our eyes, not past us with detachment, disapproval, or disappointment. He is living in us, working in us, transforming us into His image or likeness, and em-powering us by His Spirit to desire to do His will. We are His personal workmanship, His masterpiece of art Ephesians 2: He left His place in Paradise to initiate relationship with us John He traded His oneness with the Trinity to be with human beings in the Incarnation. He thought of us personally by name when He died on the Cross and is continually thinking about us now. He knows our names and everything about us Psalm He is continually speaking to us now, not just through

Scripture, but also through His Spirit in our lives. We need to train our ears to listen and know His voice. He is committed to protect our relationship and to maintain intimacy Hosea 2: He reveals it when our relationship is going out of step. Even when we are led away by distractions and desires, He pursues us gently, tapping us on the shoulder with another invitation for intimacy. He will personally present us to the Father with joy Jude He wants us to join Him in His work of wooing the world to Himself and discipling the nations. He graciously chose us to be on His team, at His side when He works in people. He is not only the coach, calling the plays from the sidelinesâ€”He is the quarterback, calling the play on the field. He wept over Jerusalem. Jesus proves His love every time He initiates discipline in our life to mature us Hebrews We are in His active training program. Being radically pursued by a loving God has major implications in our intimacy with God. It brings new desire and excitement. The Scriptures are clearâ€”He rejoices over us, likes us, and we radically please Him because of what Christ has accomplished by justification. It does not mean seeking to gain or earn His approval, His acceptance or favor. It does not mean trying to prove our devotion, commitment, worthiness, or value to Him. Justification has changed all that. We already radically please God in that sense. Pleasing God as a believer means bringing Him joy, pleasure, glory and credit. It means bringing glory to Him in all we do. Our passion and desire for God is an emotion as well as a will issue. He wants us to yield our emotions to Him and realize they are a gift from God. We need to be alert to respond to His wooing Ezekiel As has been said, our desire for Him is created by the Holy Spirit in us. Ask God to give you a growing passion for Him. He will do that. He is actively and personally involved in our life dailyâ€”not passive or just showing up occasionally, but active and ready to speak to us now. Radically pursuedâ€”with youâ€”by our Divine Lover, Jim.

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