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For God **loved** the world so much that He gave His only Son so that anyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. -John 3:16



From Pastor Randy...

⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find;
knock, and it will be opened to you. (Matt. 7:7 ESV)



Off and on in my life I have been good at finding things even though I was not seeking them. I have also been disappointed with not finding things even though I was seeking them. Have you had this problem too?

For example let's consider arrowheads. There have been many times, especially in my younger years, I purposely went in search of arrowheads. Most often when I was seeking, I was not finding them. There could be many reasons for this; my lack of concentration, working in an area that has been worked over many many times, worrying more about where I was going (looking up instead of down), or even that I didn't recognize them when I did see them. Yet I have found a few beauties in my time. Most of the few that I have are nice but won't win any prizes at the National Arrowhead Showoff and Swap Meet; if there is such a thing. Once I even found a perfect one honed from dark black flint. It's my pride and joy as far as arrowheads go. And maybe that is what kept my searches going; finding one once in a while can be quite the incentive to look some more.

Now when I say that I found these things the truth is that they more or less appeared and not that I was seeking them. In truth I have stumbled upon most of my small collection. Sadly I think that I have only found one when on the great hunt for them. I am convinced that there were plenty of them that I just did not see. Again it could have been from not looking hard enough or well enough or in the right place. And maybe that is a good thing that I don't find them all because then there may not be anyone else at the Swap Meet. And maybe that also leaves many out there for future generations to find.

I think that many of us, through some thoughtful reflection, would say that our relationship with God often happens in the same way; that when we seek we often do not find, but often when we are not seeking suddenly we find God in our lives. And yet per the scripture above, we are told that if we seek we will find. What gives? The answer is most often found in what we are seeking. Are we truly looking for God, or our own image of God? Seeking God means seeking God for who God is rather than whom we want God to be. Seeking God takes some concentration and even planning in how we go about it. Seeking God means looking for God in areas that you may not think God will be as well as those that you know He will be. Seeking God means being focused on God and not always allowing the world to distract us. And if you have ever found God while not seeking Him notice then that He is always seeking you.

So if you want to find God, seek Him. If you are just satisfied with finding God in your life every once in a while, then don't seek Him. Sadly you don't know what you are missing. Maybe the best thing to do is remember those times when you stumbled upon God. Didn't you want to share your find with others? And that's something you can have all the time if you seek.

Pastor Randy

⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. (Matt. 7:8 ESV)

