

Pursuing Our Redeemer—December 2018

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” ~ (James 4:8)

How can we pursue our Redeemer? Sometimes it requires us to remove layers of ‘stuff’ that separates us from intimacy with him. Too often we put God in a box—subjugating Him to the scrutiny of our limited intellect. However, when we truly ***pursue our Redeemer***, we learn to surrender to Him, leaving our decisions with Him; seeking His face and doing His will become second nature when we fully surrender our lives to the will of God.

Pursuing our Redeemer requires us to trust God enough to remove ourselves from our future. That’s not always easy, because most of us want to be in control of what happens. However, there are moments in life when our faith may be shaken or becomes weak. It’s in those moments when we find ourselves in situations that we cannot fix or do not understand that we must not lean unto our own understanding, but ***pursue our Redeemer***—for answers, comfort or peace.

It’s unfortunate that some people are living in a shell of existence because of broken promises that have overwhelmed them to the point that they can’t really see who God is or the power that He has. They refuse to unleash their faith—opting to be safe rather than sorry. When we pursue our Redeemer, He gives us the confidence, boldness and faith to fight, endure or survive anything life throws our way.

One of the best ways to pursue our Redeemer is by getting to know Him intimately. We can do that by studying His Word and through prayer. We should not be intimidated by prayer; it’s simply talking to God in an authentic manner. True intimacy with God requires us to come into His presence just as we are. We can pretend with friends and family and put on our ‘masks’ on Sundays, but nothing we do or say surprises God. He created us; we are His, so talking to God is the one place we should feel free. Pursuing our Redeemer enables us to turn our pain into petitions of prayer and praise.

As we prepare to welcome in a new year, I encourage you to ***pursue our Redeemer***. No matter what you’ve done in the past, no matter what got you sidetracked, our focus for 2019 is to **RESET**—pause, pray and reset.

God bless you and your family during this season of celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Remember that I love and God loves you too!

Peace and power,

Pastor Marriner