

God Can Be Found by Those Who Seek Him

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God is to be found by those who seek Him
Proverbs 8:17; Matthew 7:8

God is not to be found by those who seek him
Proverbs 1:28

Because God is patient, merciful, and longsuffering, He puts up with rebellious people for a long time before He acts to punish them for their own good. Part of this correction involves allowing individuals enough time to learn that their sins will eventually cause serious problems for themselves, and others. If God intervenes immediately when sinners cry out for help, they will not truly learn the importance of obeying God's word. Instead, they may behave properly for a short time but inevitably they will return to their usual sinful conduct. Without this understanding, it is impossible to reconcile a number of scriptures including the only one used in this study to accuse God of contradicting Himself.

Then they will call on me, but I (Wisdom; cf. Pro. 1:20) will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but they will not find me (Pro. 1:28; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. note in parenthesis).

In this scripture God personifies "Wisdom" to show that going against His law and commandments is a very foolish thing to do because it will lead to heartache and eventually death (destruction) for all who follow this path (cf. Pro. 14:12; 16:25).

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction,

and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it (Mt. 7:13-14; emphasis added).

In Proverbs 8:17, God shows that He will respond to those who love Him, and this love is defined in the following scripture.

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome (1Jn. 5:3).

This means that if we claim to love God, the only way this position can be supported is based on whether or not we deeply desire to obey His law and commandments. To do so proves that we trust Him knowing that the outcome will always be for the betterment of ourselves and, just as importantly, other people who are affected by our decisions and actions. As God will not hear the requests of those who disobey Him, it should be no surprise that Proverbs 1:28 states He will not respond to those who cry to Him simply Page 2 because they want to be bailed out of some situation they have created as a result of their sinful life choices.

When you spread out your hands (pray), I (God) will hide My eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. (Because) Your hands are full of bloodshed (Isa. 1:15; Ed. notes in parenthesis).

I (God) spoke to you in your prosperity, but you said, 'I will not hear.' This has been your manner from your youth, that you did not obey My voice (Jer. 22:21; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

If I (King David) **regard iniquity** (sin; cf. 1Jn.3:4) in my heart, **the Lord will not hear** (Ps. 66:18; cf. Isa. 59:2; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

The good news is that God hears the requests of those who want to obey Him.

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous (cf. Ps. 119:172), and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil (1Pet. 3:12).

In conclusion, those who want to serve and obey God can find Him (cf. Dt. 4:29), while those who choose to disobey Him cannot expect to find Him (see study: Is God Calling Everyone Now?). This explains why many people seem to think that God contradicts Himself. In reality, they cannot find Him, due to their disobedience, and consequently will not come to a correct understand of the truth that God does not contradict Himself.

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