

## PURSUING THE GOD WHO PURSUES (PURSUIT, 2)

Ezekiel 14:1-5; Matthew 6:5-21

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REVIEW: Our pursuit of God begins with... God's pursuit of us

Harsh truth: we don't pursue God

Because... we're idolaters (Ezekiel 14:1-5; Romans 1:21-26)

Because... incapable of doing so (Romans 3:10-18)

God provides... "pathways" to lead us back to Himself

"Spiritual disciplines" are NOT... us getting ourselves right with God (us fixing us)

"Spiritual disciplines" ARE... ways that God works in us

"Spiritual discipline" IS... everyday obedience for everyday people, realizing the joy of God in this life

When we pray, we declare our reliance on God (Matthew 6:5-13)

In prayer, God transforms us.

How do I pray like this? We learn to pray by... simply speaking to & listening for God

When we fast... we declare our hunger for God (Matthew 6:16-18)

In fasting, God becomes our feast

We learn to fast by... simply giving up a normal activity to focus on God

Bottom line: as we pursue God, He changes our heart & becomes our unending treasure (Matthew 6:19-21)

There's this really warped view [that spiritual disciplines are] about 'us fixing us.' 'I'm going to read my Bible and study so I can get better. I'm going to pray so I can do that.... I'm going to fast so that this...' In the end the spiritual disciplines are not about you reaching into you, but rather you getting out of you... '[I] pray not so that I might fix myself, but as an external confession that I can't, so I need the help of God... I study the Scriptures because my mind is broken and...there's a way that seems right to me, and in the end leads to death. So I need my mind repaired. But I can't do it, so I study the Scriptures to go outside of myself and get help. I fast not to go inside myself, but to go outside of myself.' So over and over and over again we do the disciplines because we can't, not because we can." – Matt Chandler

"God intends the Disciplines of the spiritual life to be for ordinary human beings: people who have jobs, who care for children, who wash dishes and mow lawns... [They are not] some dull drudgery aimed at exterminating laughter from the face of the earth. Joy is the keynote of all the Disciplines... In one important sense, the spiritual Disciplines are not hard... the primary requirement is a longing for God (Psalm 42:1-2)" – Richard Foster