

JANUARY

- 1 Kathy Pearson
- 3 Frances Koger
- 4 Christian Jarvis
- 11 Ethan Jarrard
- 16 Bengovan McNeace
Raymond Battles
Ron Jones
- 17 Brian Gibson
- 18 Pat Stanfield
- 22 Jonathan Beaufort
- 24 Leon Bush
- 28 Roy Jones

• Happy •
Birthdays
to YOU!
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SEEKING GOD IN PRAYER

Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually. (1 Chron. 16:11, ESV)

Over the past week, my thoughts have been constantly tuned to God, seeking Him in prayer and asking for His presence, healing, mercy, and peace in the lives of three different families. I prayed as I washed dishes, when I drove the Nana bus, while doing chores, and even in the middle of the night when I was wide awake. I know God heard my prayers the very first time I uttered them, but I continued in relentless prayer on their behalf. My faith grew deeper and I was drawn closer to my Lord Jesus as I lifted up sincere words. He hears and He answers.

As I read the focus verse, I am reminded to continually seek the LORD, His presence, and His strength. In my mind, the words continually and relentlessly have nearly the same meaning. But I feel there is a tad more tenacity included in the intent of the word relentless. If my chocolate lab grand-dog continually chases a ball, I know she likes playing fetch. But if I say she is relentless in her pursuit of the ball, I know nothing will keep her from getting to that ball. Not a fence, a ditch of water, a neighboring goat or horse, or even the disappearance of the ball. She will seek that ball with her whole self, even up to her final breath. Her entire world revolves around her family and playing fetch. She is relentless.

When I read the rest of the story in 1 Chronicles 16, I was glad to be reminded of David's sacrifice, worship, prayer, and utter devotion to the LORD. What a celebration of God and his mercy, love, and care for us! David was completely and relentlessly in pursuit of serving God. He made sure the people were reminded of what God had done for them. He sang a song of thanksgiving and helped the people establish God-honoring worship and sacrifice. David remembered to seek the LORD and his presence.

What does all this mean for you and me? Stir up those memories and give thanks to the LORD for the wonderful things He has done. Worship the LORD with gladness. Continually seek His presence. Let's commit our hearts and minds to relentlessly seek God in prayer. He is ready to hear and answer.

Pray:

Father God, we give You praise and worship. We lift our hands in thanksgiving for all You have done for us. Please anchor our hearts and minds in You and lead our thoughts and prayers in relentless pursuit of Your strength and presence. We love You. In Your name. Amen.

By Angie Quantrell, WMU Blog

