

## Jeremiah 29:13

*And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.*

**Don't forget to Vote.**

Aren't you sick and tired of hearing this over and over on TV, social media, on signs, and doesn't it seem that everywhere you go it seems to be posted everywhere.

But let me ask you this, how many of us actually will vote because of all the TV commercials and social media telling us to vote, and if it wasn't for them we would not vote at all?

Or how many, during covid, washed our hands and wore our mask in public because we were hounded on TV and social media to do so? I think that in most cases the answer would be none of them persuaded us to vote or wash our hands or wear our mask in public.

So, then why will you vote, and why did you wash your hands and wear your mask in public? The answer would be simply because it's the right thing to do, and it was in your heart to do it for the protection of others.

What about reading your bible everyday, or praying everyday? How many times do you hear from the pulpit, or from me, or reading other devotionals and even people posting on social media to read your bible everyday and be in prayer? But how many do it? Or how many do it because they are tired of hearing others telling them to do it? How many are like my wife and I who simply do it because we love being in the word and praying, and we don't need others telling us to do it?

With all this in mind, read today's verse again:

✠ *And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.*

Notice that it doesn't say that "you will seek Me and find Me, when you are told over and over again to do it." No, because the bible does not teach us that we are to hound others and beg them to do things, like serving in the church, or reading their bible everyday, or being in prayer or give a portion of their income to the Lord (Tithing). So why doesn't the bible teach us to hound others to do things? Because it's a matter of the heart, and if it's not in your heart to do it, then you won't do it, it's that simple. "***when you search for Me with all your heart.***"

It's like you can tell me everyday to eat broccoli. Sure you can ask me once, and I'll try it, but it won't make me like it if you keep hounding me everyday to eat it, even though I have tried it and don't like it. My teenage kids were a perfect example of this. We would only ask them to try something they have never eaten once, and if they like it, great, and if not, at least they tried it and they know for sure that they don't like it. But we won't keep asking them everyday to try it, because they already did.

People also say to love your husband or wife. Really, do you have to tell someone to love their spouse? How would you feel if your spouse only told you that they loved you because they were

told to, even though they really didn't mean it? I love my wife, and I married her, because I do love her, not because someone told me to.

Now we can encourage others to do things that they are not doing, like reading their bible or praying and tithing, but encouragement and telling or hounding someone to do something are two different things, because no one really likes to be told what to do. But when you are encouraged out of love to do something, that makes a huge difference.

Maybe you have tried reading your bible and praying, but it's just not for you. For those who tried and say no way, that's a matter of your heart, and if you don't want to hear from the Lord or talk to Him every day, then where is your heart?

So let me encourage you to read your bible, because God has so much He want's to say to you, and don't we all want to hear the Lord speak to us!

✠ **2 Corinthians 13:11 (NLT2)** *Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.*