



Our two year old grandchild's favorite game to play is "chase". The girl does not want to stop, and she isn't content for only one of us in the room to chase, she wants complete participation of everyone. We always tire way before she does, and as soon as we stop she comes to pull us up by our hand and ask, "chase?" I did mention she is two, and our granddaughter, right? She's very hard to resist, so we all get a great workout, but her joy is worth it.

I was reading a passage the other day and a word in the text caught my eye, it was the word "pursue". I wondered how many other places the word might be mentioned in scripture, and what are the things that God would have us pursue, so I began a search.

Apparently God likes us to play chase too, as there were many references to the word pursue. Sometimes it mentioned those in pursuit of an enemy, or sometimes the enemy was the one pursuing. Then there were those verses that spoke of characteristics that we as believers are to pursue, or descriptions of things we are to pursue in living life as a Christ follower.

When we look at the definition and it's synonyms we can see a clearer picture of just how God intended us to follow after Him. Let's take a look at the word -
pur•sue (verb)

1. follow (someone or something) in order to catch or attack them

synonyms: follow, run after, chase

seek to form a relationship with (someone) in a persistent way.

synonyms: chase, run after, go after

seek to attain or accomplish (a goal), especially over a long period.

synonyms: strive for, work toward, seek, search for, aim at/for, aspire to

Our pursuit in the Christian life must be a full on chase, earnestly running after Him, not getting sidetracked, not getting tired, nor stopping (although isn't it great that when we do find ourselves on the sideline, that in His grace and by His Spirit, He beckons us to come chase again?) And like our granddaughter, He likes everyone's participation, we run as a team (but that's another devotional in itself.)

Here's what He says about those who pursue –

"He who pursues righteousness and loyalty finds life, righteousness and honor."

(Proverbs 21:21 nasb)

"...They who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing."

(Psalms 34:10 nasb)

"So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another."

(Romans 14:19 nasb)

"... pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness."
(1 Timothy 6:11 nasb)

I Corinthians 14:1 tells us to ***"pursue love"***, Hebrews 12:14 tells us to ***"pursue peace"***, and on His word describes what we are to pursue.

What does our pursuit gain us? According to the above verses, we gain life, peace, honor, righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, gentleness – oddly, those are many of the things His Spirit provides. In fact, all of these things God willingly provides to us, even the energy to pursue them. Isn't God's grace incredible? He not only calls us to pursue, but provides the ability to do so.

So, what does our pursuit look like? Are we following hard after Him, or staying so far back that we will never really catch what He has for us? Are we persistently seeking to form a relationship with Him, or are we content to have a religious understanding that somewhere out there is a God but we can't, or shouldn't approach Him? And lastly, what goal do we seek to attain in following after Him?

He's relentlessly asking us to "chase." And He says, those who seek Him will not be in want of any good thing. So, CHASE! Run hard after God. Seek a relationship with Him, for the more you know Him, the more you'll love Him, and where love is involved it makes it hard to resist to chase. It's a workout, but the joy is worth it.

Father, thank You for the grace to chase. Thank You for the instruction to pursue, and the ability to stay persistently in the chase. Help us to allow Your Spirit to be our strength since we are so very weak. May He lead us on in a full out pursuit of the race You have set before each one of us today. We love You Lord. Amen.