

Relentless Pursuit: The God Who Never Gives Up

Relentless: without stopping or slackening; persistent or unremitting, eternal.

The Heart of a Relentless Shepherd (Luke 15:3-7)

Luke 15:3 -7

Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? 5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Other Biblical Examples of God's Relentless Pursuit:

1. Adam and Eve in the Garden (Genesis 3:8-9)

After the first sin, God didn't abandon humanity:
He came looking for Adam and Eve.
He called out, "Where are you?"
Even in judgment, He provided covering.
He promised a Redeemer would come.

2. Jonah in the Fish (Jonah 1-4)

Even when Jonah ran from God's call:
God pursued him with a storm.
Prepared a great fish to preserve his life.
Gave him a second chance.
Continued to work on his heart even after obedience.

3. Peter After His Denial (Luke 22:61-62; John 21:15-19)

When Peter betrayed Jesus three times:
Jesus looked at him with love, not condemnation.
After the resurrection, Jesus specifically sought him out.
Asked "Do you love me?" three times to restore him.
Commissioned him to "feed my sheep".

4. Paul on the Damascus Road (Acts 9:1-19)

While Paul was actively persecuting Christians:
Jesus personally appeared to him.
Called him by name: "Saul, Saul".
Blinded him to give him spiritual sight.
Transformed his greatest enemy into his greatest apostle.

The Character of Our Relentless God:

1. He Pursues the Unlikely

1 Corinthians 1:27-29

2. He Pursues Through Our Failures

Romans 5:8

"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

3. He Pursues Personally

Isaiah 43:1

"I have called you by name; you are mine."

4. He Pursues Persistently

Jeremiah 31:3

"I have loved you with an everlasting love."

5. He Pursues Sacrificially

John 3:16

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son."

How Should We Respond to God's Relentless Pursuit?

1. Stop Running

Psalms 139:7-8

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?"

2. Embrace Your Worth

3. Pursue Others the Same Way

Matthew 18:12-14

"Your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish"

2 Corinthians 5:18

All this is from God, who reconciled **us** to himself through Christ and **gave us the ministry** of reconciliation.

Luke 15:20

So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him, and kissed him.

The good news isn't that you've been relentless in pursuing God—the good news is that God has been relentless in pursuing you.

The question isn't whether God will pursue you—He already has. The question isn't whether God loves you—He already proved it. The question is: Will you stop running and let yourself be found?