



## Press On

*So let us know, let us press on to know the Lord, His going forth is as certain as the dawn; and He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain watering the earth.*

*Hosea 6:3*

I think one of my most treasured Scriptural concepts is centered around knowing my Lord. That is not to say the truth of redemption, of Christ's work on the cross, is not treasured; please don't misunderstand. There are so many truths, so many promises contained in Scripture that it is impossible to have a "favorite." They are *all* my favorites. But to know the Lord is one that resonates deeply in my own heart.

In the feature verse above, the small phrase "press on" is what caught my attention. It is the English rendering of the Hebrew word *radaph*. The KJV translates it as "follow after." The sense of the word is to pursue, to hunt, to chase, to run after. When I think of these words, I get a sense of urgency, of hard work, of persistence and perseverance. Of refusing to give up, refusing to settle.

There is a blanket reality in us humans that what we truly want we will work for. We will put in the effort. Oh there's lots of things that we "want," but we want them handed to us. But what we work at, that's where our heart lies. When I take that concept and look at my life, I can determine what I *truly* want by my efforts and actions. What do I spend my time doing? Entertaining myself? Gossiping? Indulging myself? Rest and relaxation, sports and activities, jobs and friendships are not wrong, but if a life is spent in pursuit of them, and little effort expended to know God, it shows where our priorities are.

The reason the concept of knowing God is so treasured to me is because of His promise in connection with it. He promises in Jeremiah 29 that if I seek Him, if I follow after Him, chase Him, pursue Him, He *will be found*. He *wants* to be found by me. He *wants* me to know Him, to want Him, to pursue Him. He's not hiding from me, but sometimes He wants me to put in some effort, to dig and search and duck around obstacles, to catch the scent and follow it doggedly, refusing to give up and settle for less. To press on.

While Israel's words in the feature verse may have been little more than lip service, for me it is an activity worth doing and a truth worth knowing. He is as certain as the dawn, and when I pursue Him with my whole heart, He will come to me like the spring rain. As it is currently spring and yesterday was a massively rainy day, I have something concrete to look at with that analogy. When I pursue Him, He will give me as much of Himself as I can stand. I pray that He will enlarge my heart so that I can hold more of Him.

So let us press on.

*Father, we thank You that You, the Almighty, the Everlasting Creator, the complete and perfect One, actually wants us to know You. We thank You that You have given us Your Word to learn and discover You. Help us to press on, to do whatever it takes to follow after You.*