



For Further Study

Read and meditate on the passage below:

²⁹ But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul. ³⁰ When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the Lord your God and obey him. ³¹ For the Lord your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your ancestors, which he confirmed to them by oath.
(Deuteronomy 4:29-31)

This passage comes from Deuteronomy, the second giving of the Law, when Moses gathers the people before his final departure. He retells the essence of the Law and encourages the people to follow it as they enter into the land promised to their forefathers. He warns that there will come a time (in reality, it is many times) when they will no longer seek God and worship him. As a result of their abandonment of God, they will be scattered into foreign lands.

Yet, even in their betrayal, God will not abandon his people. Instead, as they return to him, seeking him with their entire being, they will experience the mercy of God. Notice that they are to seek him with all of their heart (lev) and all of their soul (nepesh). Hence, they (and we) are to desire God both in the depth of their being (emotional, intellectual, and decisional) and in their own, essence (personality, giftedness, and unique perspectives).

God does not abandon his covenant with us, just as he did not forsake the Israelites. Instead, he extends mercy, kindness, and committed devotion. His love is unconditional; his faithfulness is dependable.

Spend time this week reflecting on loyalty. What does it look like for God to be loyal to you? How might you demonstrate your loyal devotion to him this week? How can you celebrate God's goodness in your life?

PRACTICE:
Reflect on the loyalty
of God to the Hebrews
and to you.

