

# Isaiah 55:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him  
while he is near:

## Analysis

**Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:** This urgent exhortation employs temporal qualifiers—"while he may be found" and "while he is near"—suggesting limited opportunity. The verbs "seek" (dirshu, דִּרְשׁוּ) and "call" (qir'uhu, קִרְאוּהוּ) are plural imperatives commanding active pursuit of God. Darash (דִּרַשׁ) means to search diligently, inquire earnestly; qara (קָרָא) means to call out, cry, invoke.

The phrase "while he may be found" (behimmatso, בְּהִמָּצְאוֹ) uses niphal infinitive suggesting both God's accessibility and limited window. "While he is near" (bihyoto qarov, בְּהִיּוֹתוֹ קָרוֹב) indicates proximity, both spatial and relational. The urgency implies that seasons of divine accessibility exist—times when God draws near in special invitation that may not always be available.

From a Reformed perspective, this verse balances divine sovereignty and human responsibility. God sovereignly determines seasons of grace, yet humans must respond when called. Hebrews 3:7-8 warns, "To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts." The doctrine of effectual calling explains this: God makes Himself findable to His elect at His appointed time, and they respond. This verse warns against presuming on grace—"now is the accepted time" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

## Historical Context

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Israel's history showed seasons of divine accessibility (Exodus deliverance, Davidic era) and seasons of apparent distance (exile, silent periods). Isaiah's invitation addressed the exile-to-return transition—a kairos moment of special opportunity. The return from Babylon represented a season when God drew near; failure to respond would mean missing the opportunity.

Church history demonstrates similar patterns: revivals, awakenings, missionary movements represent seasons when God is specially near and findable. The Reformation, Great Awakenings, modern missions movements—all involved heightened sense of divine accessibility. Yet the principle applies individually: conviction of sin, circumstances drawing one to Christ, seasons of spiritual hunger—these are times to seek while He may be found, not presuming tomorrow's opportunity.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. Are you actively seeking and calling upon God, or passively waiting?
2. What evidence suggests this is a season when God is specially near to you?
3. What prevents you from urgently responding to God's present nearness?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּהִיּוֹת אֶל קוֹלָא הוּא בְּהִמְצָא אֶל יְהוָה הֵן דְּרָשׁ אֶל  
Seek ye the LORD while he may be found call H1961  
H1875 H3068 H4672 H7121

קָרוֹב:  
ye upon him while he is near  
H7138

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 145:18** (References Lord): The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

**Isaiah 45:19** (References Lord): I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

**Psalms 32:6** (Parallel theme): For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.

**Psalms 14:2** (References Lord): The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.

**Isaiah 65:24** (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

**Amos 5:6** (References Lord): Seek the LORD, and ye shall live; lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, and there be none to quench it in Beth-el.

**Hebrews 2:3** (References Lord): How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

**1 Chronicles 28:9** (References Lord): And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the

thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

**Psalms 27:8** (References Lord): When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.

**Job 8:5** (Parallel theme): If thou wouldest seek unto God betimes, and make thy supplication to the Almighty;

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