

# Psalms 27:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee,  
Thy face, LORD, will I seek.

## Analysis

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The dialogue 'When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek' depicts divine initiative and human response. God first commands 'Seek my face'; the heart responds in obedience. Reformed theology emphasizes that seeking God is both commanded and enabled—God's effectual call produces the desire and ability to seek Him. The repetition of 'face' emphasizes personal relationship, not just doctrinal knowledge. True seeking is responsive, not autonomous.

## Historical Context

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In Israel's worship, 'seeking God's face' meant coming into His presence at the tabernacle/temple. This required ritual preparation and obedient living. Spiritually, it meant whole-hearted devotion to knowing and obeying God.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's command to 'seek My face' empower your seeking?

2. What does 'seeking God's face' mean beyond formal religious activities?

## Interlinear Text

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אָמַר לִבִּי	אָבִקֶּשׁ:	פָּנֶי יְיָ	אֶת
<small>H0</small>	<small>H1245</small>	<small>H6440</small>	<small>H853</small>
said	When thou saidst Seek	unto thee Thy face	
<small>H559</small>		<small>H6440</small>	
פָּנֶי יְיָ	יְהוָה	אָבִקֶּשׁ:	
<small>H6440</small>	<small>H3068</small>	<small>H1245</small>	
unto thee Thy face	LORD	When thou saidst Seek	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 105:4** (References Lord): Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore.

**Psalms 119:58** (Parallel theme): I intreated thy favour with my whole heart: be merciful unto me according to thy word.

**Psalms 24:6** (Parallel theme): This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah.

**Hosea 5:15** (Parallel theme): I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.

**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.