



As I look back on my life as a Christian I remember all too clearly the fact that I seemed to focus on trying to be like other Christians that I looked up to and I wasn't focused on looking like Jesus. For a good part of my early walk with Christ, I struggled to feel a peace about what being a "Christian" is supposed to look like. I think I had a bit of an inferiority complex going on and I didn't see myself the way Jesus saw me. Who was I created to be, what did God want me to do and what was my purpose filled a lot of my waking thoughts. Why could I not be like some of my other friends who were doing great things for God and then there was me! I needed a wake up call from God and I got it at a conference, surrounded by all these "Great Christians," at least in my mind they were. I was given a word from God by one of the conference speakers, who tapped me on my shoulder and said, "God asked me to tell you something." Shocked is an understatement to how I felt at that moment but she spoke about things that she could not have known about me and told me that God had planned for me to be His "David Person," who would shepherd people and go after the lost people in the world. That turned my world upside down and it was the start of a journey that led me to leaving a business behind and working in church settings for the next 30 plus years and counting. It has become clear to me over

the years that I hadn't really been "following" God or "walking with Him" but I was chasing things that I thought would bring me closer to Him. Around this time I read that; "When you are chasing the object of your affection, there is a keen sense of the possibility that you might not ever reach it. More than that, when you see yourself as the pursuer instead of the pursued, you live out of the desperation that comes from feeling that it's your effort that leads to relationship." The main problem that most of us face is, that many of us are chasing God without even realizing it, and today I want to challenge you to ask yourself the questions about what your view of God is and who are you in light of Him? Start exploring what your "responsibilities" as a Christian really are?

The bottom line is this: It is easy to spend our efforts pursuing things the Lord hasn't asked us to pursue. Check in with Him first, let Him show you who you are in Christ. If you happen to be like I was and you create these false expectations of what the Lord wants you to be or do, you will be so frustrated. If your mind says to you that you need to chase after God more because if you don't you will never catch up with Him? I have wonderful news for you. You were never meant to chase God. Why, because He pursues you relentlessly, He offers you everything and declares you to be His in every sense of the word. But, we say to ourselves, "How could a God so good come for me? How could He love me? There must be something I can do to make it feel more fair." But that isn't the way He designed it, and the more of our days we spend searching, the fewer we will have at the end of it all to say we genuinely walked with Him. Following someone indicates that you identify them as being ahead of you and you have committed to stay on the path being carved in front of you. On the other hand, chasing after someone leaves you out of breath, searching every chance you get for a sign that you're heading toward the goal. Following instead of chasing is simple, but not easy. So what do you say? Are you ready to stop chasing God?

