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In Pursuit of Us

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God patiently pursues us.

2 Chronicles 34.

The sanitized version of Josiah that we learn of in Sunday school doesn't account for the fact that who we understand as one of the most faithful of kings – one of the good kings – actually took 16 years to discover God's law for the guidance of his people. When seen from that perspective, we see God's incredible patience as he waits on Josiah every step of the way in making further steps in response to God's insatiable persistence to calling him – as he does us. "He will not crush the weakest reed or put out a flickering candle." – as is said in the book of Romans: "If God is for us, who can be against us."

Hebrews 1:1-2, "Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets." What we understand in this verse is God's intentional and ongoing effort to reveal himself to us. People didn't always get it – but God kept trying.

If we look at the sequence of events from the beginning, we see God creating a perfect world, calling it good (Gen 1). Then, humans exercising free will to turn against God (Gen 2-3). After the fall, God's beautiful world being marred by repeated outbreaks of sin and tragedy (Gen 4, 6-8, 9, 11, Josh 24:2). God making a fresh start through Abraham to reveal himself to humankind with a group of people who know very little about God's original plan. And then of course the coming of Jesus as we read in Hebrews in verse 2.

God just kept at it!... giving us new opportunities so that we could connect with Him. He worked - and *works* tirelessly at bridging and connecting with us right where we are!

Thinking about God's persistence toward us, read the story of the blind man in **Mark 8**. Jesus takes him by the hand and spits on the man's eyes! Jesus says, "Can you see anything now?" The blind man responds that he doesn't yet have a clear view. It is only partial! So again, Jesus places his hands on the blindman's eyes and asks what he sees. This second time, his sight is completely restored! – maybe it is significant that God stayed with him until fuller revelation came.

1 Corinthians 2:12

"And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us."

How can what we see and know in Jesus and His hope join in with God's redeeming work in the world? If God is calling us to see everything in light of His work through Jesus, what does that look like in our family, in our homes, in our places of work in our schools, in our communities, in our country....