

## Scripture Reading: Luke 4:21-30

*Trying to be happy without a sense of God's presence is like trying to have a bright day without the sun. —A.W. Tozer*

---

One of my favorite Bible verses is Jeremiah 29:13-14. Actually it's two verses. I like it so much, that it is my "Bible Verse for 2019." "When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the LORD."

These verses teach us that even before we seek God, God is seeking us. And as we search for God, God seeks us and wants us to find him. "If you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me."

Last summer, two of our grandchildren visited us with their parents. The girls, ages 5 and 3, loved to play "hide-and-seek." So, I would count to 10 while they ran and hid behind bushes or trees.

Then I opened my eyes and shouted "Ready or not, here I come!" And I began to look for the girls.

The trouble with 3 and 5 year olds who play hide-and-seek is that they can't stay hidden. Only moments into the search, I saw heads bob up above a bush or from behind a tree.

Quickly, the girls popped into plain view: "I'm here, I'm here!" They wanted to be found! God's like that. God cannot stay hidden. When we seek God with all our hearts, God says, "I will let you find me" (Jeremiah 29:14). Isn't that awesome?

It's like God is jumping up and down trying to get our attention, "I'm here! I'm here!"

This year, you can know beyond any shadow of a doubt that God is seeking you even as you seek him. According to his marvelous grace, God will be jumping all around us shouting, "I'm here, I'm here!"

—Timothy Merrill

**Prayer:** *God of grace and mercy, thank you for seeking me. With my whole heart I will search for you, and you will find me. Thank you for your daily presence and guidance. In Jesus' name. Amen.*