



# Pastor's Comments

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## Northampton Assembly of God

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### When May God Be Found?

Isaiah 55:6 states, ***“Seek ye the LORD while he may be found...”*** indicating that there are **times when God cannot be found**. Psalm 32:6 says something very similar, ***“For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found...”*** The question that comes to mind is this: **What determines the times when God may be found and when He cannot be found?**

Isaiah 59:2 declares that the determining factor for the times when **God cannot be found** is sin in one's life, ***“Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”*** God, Who is perfectly holy, foretold this would be the case, ***“I will surely hide my face in that day for all the evils which they shall have wrought”*** (Deuteronomy 31:18).

The answer to the question **“When may God be found?”** is rather obvious. It is when we are willing to remove the obstacle between ourselves and God—sin! This is exactly what we see in the context of Psalm 32:6, ***“For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found...”*** In the previous verse David had said, ***“I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.”*** David is saying that **the time when God may be found is in a time of repentance from sin**. Those whose hearts are hardened in sin—who are intent on doing their own will instead of God's—can never find God! Proverbs 28:13 says, ***“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper (or go forward): but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”*** God can only be found when our hearts are softened by confession and repentance of our sin. We see this also in the context of Isaiah 55:6 which states, ***“Seek ye the LORD while he may be found...”*** The next verse makes it clear when that is, ***“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”***