



## [Amos 5:14-15](#)

(14) Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as you have spoken. (15) Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate. It may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious *to* the remnant of Joseph.

*A Faithful Version*

How can this calamity be averted? The solution is so simple and obvious that [God](#) seems to spend very little time on it within the [book of Amos](#). In reality, every word of the book screams what Israel needed to do then - and needs to do today.

"Seek good and not evil, that you may live; so the LORD God of hosts will be with you, as you have spoken. Hate evil, [love](#) good; establish justice in the gate." A person does not need to seek God if He has already revealed Himself to him. Thus, *seek* means "to turn" to Him in [repentance](#), not necessarily "to look for." This is a way of saying, "Set aside your time and life for God."

*Seek* in the Hebrew is imperative and has the force of a command. Seeking good, or [seeking God](#) (verse 4), is an act that we have to set ourselves to do; it is not a natural inclination ([Romans 8:7](#)). But it is worth the effort, for its product is life - not just physical existence, but life as God lives it ([John 17:3](#)). If we determine to seek good, and continue in it, the result - truly living! - will follow. Seeking the Lord produces godly life.

In living by every word of God, we should notice the order in which He lists these commands: "Seek good and not evil. . . . Hate evil, love good." The action of turning to good *precedes* the emotions of hating evil and loving good. [Holiness](#) involves action *and* emotion: seeking *and* shunning, loving good *and* hating evil. He wants us to turn to the good and make it a target in our daily life. If we wait for God to infuse us with the right kind of feeling before we try to do good, then we will wait a long time because it will never come. We have to take action first by [faith](#) and the corresponding right feeling will follow.

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Amos 5:14-15 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

If holiness does not involve both action and emotion, it becomes something that we can put on and take off. We could hypocritically live one kind of life during the week, and on the [Sabbath](#) put on our holy look and go to services. Action and emotion combine to make a whole way of life.

Holiness is not just a way of life or a rule to live by. It also *produces* the very best *quality* of life - the way God lives eternally. God's people have to think constantly of holiness, appreciating that He has chosen us out of [this world](#) and given us [grace](#) to be holy.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

**To learn more, see:**

**[Prepare to Meet Your God! \(The Book of Amos\) \(Part Two\)](#)**

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