

## **One Thing Have I Desired**

*“One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek*

*after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.*

*For in the time of trouble he shall hide me.....”*

*Psalms 27:4,5a*

*“When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.”*

*Psalms 27:8*

*When I first read these scriptures over 30 years ago, a cry arose from deep within me. I had read how David was a man after God's own heart and I yearned to be a man like that. I knew that God was his chief delight, that out in the fields as a boy, it was God Himself who David worshipped and it was who he was, a lover of God. It wasn't what he did for God it was who God was to him and from that place of intimacy he served Him.*

*To have a passionate burning love for God Himself, that was the cry of his heart. He was stunned by God. He was in awe of God. He was enthralled by God. He was more aware of God than anything else. You can only truly worship God when He is worth more than life itself to your heart.*

*In the Hebrew translation for Psalms 27:4, it doesn't say*

*“One thing have I desiree”*

*It says **“One have I desired”** The desire was for the person, the ONE. To encounter God, to see the face of*

*God. That was his quest. That was the reason for life and out of that, all else found it's true meaning.*

I remember reading this so many years ago and realized that no one could make this choice for me. I needed to desire, I needed to seek after, I needed to respond from my heart and say;

*“.....Thy face, LORD, will I seek”*

*The word “desired” means to ask for oneself, to beg, to ask or demand. The word “seek after” means to search out by any method, specifically in worship or prayer. It involves the intensity of the heart, it is to focus. I love the phrase I heard from a minister once, 'leaning into God'. To lean into, I like that. Sometimes we preach forms, ways to go about it, activities we must do in order to get, rules and formulas, the how to stuff.*

I am reminded of a child who had the choice of candies in the fathers hand. “Do you want this one?” the father asked. “No, said the child, I want that one.” “Oh, you mean this one over here”, the father asked. “No, I want the one I wanted”, said the child. As much as the father tried to convince the child to choose another kind of candy, the child insisted, “I know the one I want”.

*So it is here in this passage. David knew what he wanted. He wanted to dwell in the house of the LORD to behold the beauty of the LORD and to enquire in His temple. One position, one place, in order to do 2 things in life. Back then, I interpreted that verse about dwelling in the house of the LORD as my position in Jesus Christ, in Him, as the Bible says over and over in the epistles. In*

*other words, Jesus was and is the house of the Lord and I am in Him, so I just believed that. Still do.*

*I am in Him to “to behold the beauty of the LORD”*

### *The Beauty of the LORD*

*That means that David saw God as beautiful. To behold is to see, to see even as the seers did in an ecstatic state. To behold is gaze upon longingly, to be transfixed at the sight of something. To behold is to perceive with the intelligence as well as to see by experience. And what was David longing to experience in his understanding and in his experience? The Beauty of the LORD.*

*WOW! Now that really impacted me. My concept of God was not that at all. God being beautiful. God being known for His beauty. The word beauty means , kindness, pleasantness, delightfulness, favour, and brightness. It comes from a word meaning, sweet, pleasant, and delight.*

*The blood of Jesus purchased intimacy with God. The Holy Spirit ushers us into the very presence of His love and embrace and we experience the sheer delight of face to face communion with God Himself producing within ourselves the sweetness and kindness and overwhelming satisfaction of being in love with Him. Into-me-see, God says to me. Into-me-see, I say to God. Relationship. Not in some church service, not in some special meetings, not a place, not an event, but a life everyday where I enjoy God and God enjoys me.*

*Not a relationship with the rules and regulations. Not finding life in the externals of religion, the activities of the ministry, but the abundant life Jesus promised that was given as a gift from the Father.*

*There is this great verse in Isaiah 33:17 which many*

think refers to when you die but in reality the Holy Spirit makes it real to us now through childlike faith.

***“Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty:  
they shall behold the land that is far off”***

The king in his beauty. When we behold the beauty of God and our mind is renewed to truly understand that He is beautiful, we become what we behold. We become like Him as we see Him as He is. The very kindness, compassion, sweetness and delight of God that His face radiates, His Spirit mirrors to our innermost heart cause us to reflect the same to everyone all around us. His goodness and the brightness of His love for mankind begins to be seen in us. We become as we gaze and accept into our understanding and heart that indeed He is beautiful. The Holy Spirit literally ushers us into the land that is afar off while we are on earth daily. We actually begin to live in the hunger for more of the awareness of this overwhelming pleasantness of His delight. The life Jesus said he came to give and that life more abundantly becomes our experience not a theory or for another day.

But David also wanted something else. He wanted to,

***“inquire in his temple”***

The meaning of the word “inquire” is fascinating. It does not mean to ask or seek but rather it means;

*“to plough, to break forth”*

*it also means to “inspect, to admire, to care for,*

*and to consider”*

This is speaking of the work of the ministry, the outflow of the life, the plowing, breaking forth into the world

around us reflecting the Lord's love. It is the caring and considering of others, the love of God being demonstrated, the kindness of God being seen. Once you taste of your value before God, you begin to value other human beings as never before. His kindness radiating through you leads those around you to repentance, to change the way they think about God which can create a willingness to turn away from that which hinders the kind of relationship with God being offered. The cry of the heart for God Himself is awakened by the display of His goodness, the display of His power and presence seen in your life.

Your life is lived from the inside out. You are in love with God and that one master passion in your breast, like Aaron's rod swallows up all the rest. You don't want to sin or grieve Him but when you do, you run to Him and confess it and experience the power of the blood of Jesus cleansing and restoring you to His felt smile. You are in love with the brethren. You admire God in them, you seek and inspect to see the good, the valuable within them and draw it out in affirmation. You care for them, you carry them in your heart.

The greater the revelation of His face and Beauty to your own heart, the greater the desire to reflect God to others.

The inquiring David talks about is in his temple and this is not just speaking of a physical building then or now. The idea is one of spaciousness. There is just so much room. Many commentators say that the word temple speaks of the heavenly temple, the heavenly realm, not a building, the eternal dwelling of God. It is incredible when you keep on studying this word in the Hebrew. The root word has the idea of

“prevailing, overcoming, having the power  
*and ability to be victorious*”

So David is talking about a lifestyle of victory that is experienced and demonstrated and this is the theme of all ministry. The realm of the kingdom of God that is entered into by dwelling in Christ, walking in the revelation of the beauty of the King, on earth as it is in Heaven, flowing out of intimacy with God into the world around you demonstrating His care and love.

There is a place in God talked about in Psalms 27:5;  
“For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his  
*pavilion, in the secret of his tabernacle shall he  
hide  
me; he shall set me up upon a rock*”

This is not some mystical, ethereal spiritual place. This is a quality of life enjoyed, one of safety, confidence and protection. And how does that happen? By beholding the beauty of the Lord and inquiring in His temple. By making God your chief enjoyment and delighting in Him and living in His heart to do good and show the kindness of God to those around you. This lifestyle can be lived no matter what is going on around you as you live in purpose and the simplicity of knowing God and making Him known. That never changes, that is not affected by trials, tribulations and

the difficulties of life. Living to desire ONE and from the heart drawing near to Him daily bringing transformation within and deeds of kingdom love to those without establishes a place of strength in your life;

“There I will be when troubles come”

*(Rotherham translation)*

*“There is a path which no fowl knoweth and where the vultures eye hath not seen”*

***Job 28:7***

This is a place in God where the enemy is not able to touch the inner life of relationship with God and the hindering of God fulfilling of His purpose for your life.

*Jesus Christ walked on that path and made it available to all of us through His death, burial and resurrection. He received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father and bestowed the Holy Spirit upon all those that would believe on Him which would open up that same path of beholding the beauty of the Lord, serving mankind out of the passionate compassion of His heart and live in internal strength and awareness of triumph over the enemy*