

ONE DESIRE
Psalm 27:1-6

Intro: Psalm 27:4 has to be one of the most wonderful statements ever penned by King David. It reveals to us what was in his heart. It explains why the Lord called David a man after His own heart. Cf. 1 Sam. 13:14 and Acts 13:22. See also 1 Sam. 16:7. This was the life-long, day by day, purpose that David had in his heart, and we could do no better if the same purpose were ours.

Most of us have many purposes in our lives, forgetting that James taught us that "a doubleminded man is unstable in all his ways" (Jas. 1:8). We need to have one goal, one objective, but we need to make sure that it is the right one. Our Lord said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33). The Lord, as the Psalmist said, daily loads us with His benefits, or blessings (Psa. 68:19). He supplies all of our needs. But he wants us to be concerned primarily with one thing--one desire that affects every other desire that we have. Let us see what David said.

Let us look at verse 4 to begin with, and then relate that to at least three other things in the first six verses which are determined by what David said in verse 4. Verse 4 is clearly the key to the whole Psalm as it was the key to the blessings that David experienced during his lifetime.

The first thing that we have in this verse is . . .

I. A PRAYER: "One thing have I desired of the Lord."

The verb that David used here (^{לְרַצֵּהוּ}) is a prayer word. It is to desire in prayer. David was asking the Lord for just one thing.

And it seems that David was saying that this was his prayer before he experienced the blessings which are mentioned in this Psalm. For him to have been a man after God's heart even before he had been anointed by Samuel meant that this desire filled his heart when he was a very young man, perhaps even as a child. In a sense it seems that this had been the only desire that David had ever had!

This ought to make this verse and this Psalm of special interest to all of you young people, and even to our children. This ought to be the desire of every parent, and it ought to be our chief prayer for our children even before they are old enough to pray for themselves. Even if you are the only Christian in your family, this ought to be your prayer.

We might feel guilty about praying for some of the desires that we have, but we do not need to be concerned in that way about this request.

So very early in his life David began to pray about this one thing.

Secondly,

II. A PURSUIT: "That will I seek after."

David followed his prayer in his daily life by seeking the very thing that he was praying about. His prayer was a daily prayer, and his pursuit of the answer was a daily pursuit.

Note how this is apparent in the two NT passages which closely parallel what David said here. One has to do with to do with Mary; the other has to do with the Apostle Paul. Both were pursuing what they desired from the Lord. See

- 1) Luke 10:38-42 for Mary.
- 2) Phil. 3:12-16 for Paul.

How did David seek it? See verse 8. This means that David sought the one thing that he was after by being obedient to the Word of God. You will see why in just a moment.

But let me say at this point that if a person is concerned about the answer to his prayers, he will be very careful to make sure that he is living in obedience to the Word of God. A person who prays, but who disregards the Word of God, is a person who is not really serious with God--and so he will not see his prayers answers. Cf. 1 John 3:22.

This is the second thing.

III. A PLACE: "That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life."

David loved the presence of the Lord, but he seems to have had more in mind than that--as wonderful and as necessary as that is for all of us.

What David seems to have had in mind here was that he wanted to enjoy the privilege of being a member of the family of God. See v. 10.

It also means that he wanted to be known as a member of the family of God. He was anticipating truth which did not really become prominent until NT times. But David wanted this. He seems to have been very devoted to his parents, but there came a time when he did not have them anymore.

As a member of the family of God you would enjoy an intimacy with the heavenly Father that others cannot enjoy-- and which even many of the children of God do not enjoy.

Note how the Apostle John was revelling in this even in his old age. Cf. 1 John 3:1, 2.

David wanted to be treated as a member of God's family. That was even a higher position than that of being the King of Israel!

But then we come to see why David said what we have considered thus far. At this point he expressed . . .

IV. A TWOFOLD PURPOSE: "To behold the beauty of the Lord,
"And to enquire in his temple."

A. "To behold the beauty of the Lord."

What is "the beauty of the Lord"?

Look at the words of Moses in Psa. 90:17.

"The beauty of the Lord" is the favor of the Lord. It means that David wanted to know that the Lord was looking upon him approvingly, that the Lord was pleased with what David was, and with what David was doing.

This was Paul's ambition. Cf. 2 Cor. 5:9.

And this was what Peter did not have at one time in his life. Cf. Luke 22:61, 62.

And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter.
And Peter remembered the word of the Lord,
how he had said unto him,
Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.
And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

Several times I have quoted those two verses which you will find framed on the wall of our dining room. Let me give them to you again tonight because this is what David wanted more than he wanted anything else. Listen to these words:

In the sweet fear of Jesus let me begin each day,
Fearful lest I should grieve Him,
Fearful lest I should stray,
Fearful lest earthly longings ever my heart
should share,
Taking the throne of Jesus, placing an idol there.
In the sweet fear of Jesus let me begin each day,
Serving or resting always, under His gentle sway;

All that I say directed,
All that I plan conceived
With the remembrance present,
Jesus must not be grieved.

David would say a hearty "Amen" to that! This was the first part of the main desire of his life. He wanted to live a life that was pleasing to the Lord.

One of the Puritans once said, "If God is your friend, you do not need to be concerned about who your enemies are."

What is the second part?

B. "And to enquire in his temple."

It was not an either-or request, but David wanted both. And the interesting thing is that he counted them as one. In effect he was saying that if the Lord gave him the first He would have to give him the second.

What does this expression mean?

Well, as you might expect, it is the counterpart of the first. David wanted the Lord to look upon him with favor and approval, but David also wanted to look upon the Lord adoring Him with pleasure and with admiration.

Here David was crying out for a greater knowledge of God, for a greater fellowship with God. This was the most important thing in life to him. This was the other part of his one desire.

When you take both of these requests you can see that it had to do with the way the Lord looked at David, and with the way that David looked at the Lord.

How do you look at Him? Note the order here. If you do not delight in hearing of the Lord, in learning of Him, in seeing Him in the Word, then it may be because you are not concerned first of all about how He looks at you. If you want Him to look favorably upon you, then you must let the Word of God determine the very course and character of your life.

Concl: What are the benefits of such a life?

There are many, but let me mention just three things which are mentioned in the first six verses.

- 1) Protection (v. 5).
- 2) Deliverance from fear (vv. 1-3). This is Peace.
- 3) Praise (v. 6).