

DESIRING ONE THING

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"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 my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple." Ps.27:4

I would like to speak this morning of the subject of, "DESIRING ONE THING!" What a glorious craving and longing by King David. There is no question as to what affections were in the heart of King David. Oh to God that our affections were as fervent and devoted as King David. David makes a blessed request that all, who name the name of Christ, should also be requesting! David says "ONE THING HAVE I DESIRED OF THE LORD." Last week we spoke to those outside Christ regarding the rich young ruler, to which Christ said, thou lackest one thing. This morning we want to address the saints of the Most High God, on One Thing Have I Desired! The lost have one thing lacking whereas the saints of God should have one desired thing and that is, to dwell in the house of the LORD. How long David? ALL, mark that down, ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE! What a desire, what dedication, what devotion, what commitment, what conviction, yea what affection and loyalty to God and to God's house. There are 4 things I would like to share with you from this verse:

I. DAVID'S DESIRE.

II. DAVID'S DWELLING.

III. DAVID'S DELIGHT.

IV. DAVID'S DISCOVERY.

We shall look at the first 2 points this morning: **I. David's Desire.**

"One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after..." David has a sincere and dedicated desire; these are not just empty vain words without application. No, these are words full of dedication and commitment cemented in conviction. How often do we make requests that are but pure sentiments without conviction or commitment, they are just empty words, and many times we used words without substance. Oh, they sound good; they might make us seem spiritual, but empty sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal. Not with David, for these words are sincere and dutiful not empty. How do we know this? Because, he does not just say these words without action, no he says, *"One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after..."* They were not half-hearted words, no, words dedicated with singleness of purpose in his heart, *"One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after..."* In other words, he is not just saying these words to sound good, no he going to put it into action because nothing

was going to keep him from God's house. You see he has a desire and that desire is to dwell in God's house. Think about that for a moment, here we have a king, a very famous king, a very powerful king, a very influential king, a very spiritual king and the one million dollar question is, of all the things in world that you desire as ruling king, what would you want King David? Notice the exact words he uses; *"One thing have I desired of the LORD..."* David, are you crazy, you can one thing in this world and you want to be in God's house! Not, just one thing have I desired, but, one thing have I desired of the LORD! This is not some fleshly request, this not some fly by night request, this not a whimsical request, this is not some fickle request for the moment and when winds of live change directions he becomes cold, no my dear brethren, this is a genuine and earnest request by a godly king! *"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 my life..."* Talk about dedication and devotion with singleness of heart, here it is! Here is complete loyalty to his God, his LORD and his Savior! He has the heart of Joshua for he says the same thing but he takes it a deep further, *"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**"* Joshua 24:15. This is true servitude, this is true submission, and this is true subjection to the God of his salvation! Whether no one else serves the LORD, I WILL serve the LORD, whether no one else desires this one thing, but one thing have I desired and that will I seek after! Notice how that both desire and will are in the same sentence, yea, same phrase!

What we have here is a spiritual solicitation by David or as master Richard Sibbes has called, "A Breathing after God." Remember a few months ago I brought a series of messages of having a heart after God; well here we see again why God said what He did about David, that he was "...a man after mine own heart..." Acts.13:22. Yes, the sweet psalmist of Israel was a man after the heart of God and he sets forth a testimony that we should emulate. Here again, we have King David who can have whatever his heart desires and without hesitation, without hypocrisy and without shame, but in a true sincere heart manifests what should be in all the hearts of those who name the name of Christ. A desire for God and a desire for God's house! We must understand that David had everything a person would want, royalty, riches, power, prestige, servants, big fancy chariots, a lavish home etc., but when you ask him what is the one thing you want King David, he answers quickly and assertively, *"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 my life..."*

The word desire in the Hebrews basically means delight, acceptable, favor and good pleasure and in modern dictionaries it means to long for, to crave, to express a wish in order to obtain, satisfaction, to covet and to yearn. King David had a longing, a craving an earnest yearning for something very specific for he says "ONE THING," one thing

alone do I desire of the LORD! David sought that one thing, this was not lip service it was heart dedication, "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after..." Yes, this was a breathing after God. You see this was a longing saturated with a seeking. You see David is applying the principle of James 2:22, he was going to be a doer not just a hearer, "But be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." In simple terms my dear brethren, David was not speaking from his lips but from his heart, he is not speaking many things, but only one thing! Which is again, the singleness of purpose in his heart and thus here we see David's spiritual solicitation towards his God. He is seeking a deeper communion and fellowship with God, yea, he is breathing hard after the God of his salvation. He is panting after God, his heart is inditing a good matter, his heart is bubbling over or as he says in Psalm 23, "...my cup runneth over." Oh to God that David's desire would be our desire, that David's request would become our request! David understood this one issue very clearly and that is, if he had that one thing he would not need anything else. He would be satisfied, yea, satisfied with God and satisfied with God's house. That is the problem with most professing Christians, they are not satisfied with God's house and therefore need something else to satisfy, but not David, if he had this one thing he would be satisfied! Most professing Christians on Sunday mornings need to be entertained by drama, a rock show, some dance (interpreted dance) show, some need to be stirred up in the flesh, you see, mere preaching is boring, we need something new and something exciting, we just need something else is the cry of 21st century Christianity but God satisfied David's soul and the house of God satisfied his heart so that he did not have to go looking for other things to satisfy his heart. Notice the phraseology of the next two passages: Ps.36:7 & 8, and that phrase in particular, "...**abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house**..." Ps.65:4, "Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: **we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house**, even of thy holy temple." This basically leads us to our second point because; David's Desire becomes David's Dwelling!

II. David's Dwelling.

"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 my life**..." David had a desire and he sought after that desire, which was to dwell in the house of God. What a desire, to seek to dwell in the house of God, that is, the church or the living and true God! This might be foolishness to the lost, but to the blood bought child of God, this should be the desire of your soul, if not, then there is something wanting. To us who are saved this should be a most precious and earnest thing to desire. Do you desire what David desires? Do you seek what David was seeking? Do you seek to dwell in God's house or do you find excuses why not to be at God's house? Do you desire the beauty of the LORD? Do you desire to enquire in His temple? Does all this sound strange to you? All

I know it that from the moment God saved my soul all I wanted to be at was God's house. Long before God called me to the ministry I wanted to be in God's house. For many years I drove all the way to Community Baptist Church in Elmendorf, twice on Sundays, three times on Wednesday because my daughter Traci was enrolled in their school. Before I was a pastor I had a love for God's house and wanted to be there when the doors opened. How much more when God opened mine eyes to the truth of His Sovereign Grace! I say this because, just in case someone is thinking, you're just saying this because you are a pastor and you have to be here. No I don't have to be here, I want to be here. How about you? Thank you Gilbert for what you said after last weeks service, "I felt that I had to here, but now I want to be here!" Let me ask you this, where is your treasure this morning? Matt.6:24, 19-21, "*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*" "19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasure s in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." May God give us the heart of Mephibosheth in 2 Samuel 19:24-30, "*And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king, and had neither dressed his feet, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came again in peace. 25 And it came to pass, **when he was come to Jerusalem to meet the king**, that the king said unto him, Wherefore wentest not thou with me, Mephibosheth? 26 And he answered, My lord, O king, my servant deceived me: for thy servant said, I will saddle me an ass, that I may ride thereon, and go to the king; because thy servant is lame. 27 And he hath slandered thy servant unto my lord the king; but my lord the king is as an angel of God: do therefore what is good in thine eyes. 28 For all of my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king: yet didst thou set thy servant among them that did eat at thine own table. What right therefore have I yet to cry any more unto the king? 29 And the king said unto him, Why speakest thou any more of thy matters? I have said, Thou and Ziba divide the land. 30 And Mephibosheth said unto the king, Yea, let him take all, forasmuch as my lord the king is come again in peace unto his own house.*" Our hearts need to be like Aaron rod, which swallowed up the other rods. In other words, our hearts need to put away the rods of this world. This is a heart issue, you see, this what David is communicating to our hearts this morning, "*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 my life...***"

Earlier in the year I was preaching on our Christian walk and or our Christian race, that is we are in a spiritual race a spiritual marathon wherein Paul would say in Phil.3:13 & 14, "*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: **but this one thing I do**, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*" As though David is saying, "But this one thing I do," and that is, I desire to dwell in house of the LORD all the days of my life! One thing we can say for sure regarding David, adversity didn't harden his heart towards God and prosperity did not ruin him, you see, David has been through a lot. There had been many things and changes in his life, much bereavement, many trials, many tribulations, sometimes he might have felt like an

empty vessel, but ONE THING for sure, God had never failed him. Many have failed him, many have disappointed him, many had deceived him, and many had backstabbed him. But God had never failed him ONCE! God had calmed his heart with joys and blessings, God had smoothed his sorrows, God had guided him many a times, God had strengthened him in his weaknesses and the presence of God would flood his heart and would be lovely to his soul. The faithfulness of God sustained him and it was a testimony to his soul. So David with all his adversities he never lost sight of what his heart truly desired and that is to be in God's house. You be surprise how many professing Christians stay away from God's house when going through difficulties and adversities. What they don't understand that that's the place they need to be not stay away. This is why David's desire should be our desire, in seasons of trials and in seasons of rest, regardless of our circumstances in life our desire should be to be in God's house. *"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 my life...**"*

David's desire had a purpose and that purpose had a three-fold request:

- To dwell in God's house.
- To delight in God house and to behold the beauty of the LORD.
- To discover in God's house God's will for his life.

David's desire in not only to be in God's house but also to dwell in it, that is, to abide in it. Not just when he felt like it, or for a little while, go one day and not the next time, no-no; he wanted to dwell in it ALL THE DAYS OF HIS LIFE! This is not just lip service, but heart action, you see its communion with commitment. David had a desire for God's house which is seasoned with a great love for God's house. This again, is NOT LIP SERVICE, but true heart commitment! Look at the consistency of this: Psalm 5:7; 23:6; 26:8; 27:4; 36:8; 42:4; 46:4 & 5; 61:4; 65:4; 66:13; 87:2; 92:13; 100:4; 122:1 and 132:1-18.

Now let's get to the text which I will share about dwelling in God's house: Psalm 84:1-12. Of course I will not get to finish this point until next time we gather but I will give you my outline to it:

1. The Loveliness of God's House: verse 1.
2. The Longing for God's House: verse 2.
3. The Lessons from God's House: verse 3.
4. The Lasting in God's House: verse 4.
5. The Loyalty to God's House: verse 10. This is the problem with Christians, no loyalty to God's HOUSE!

The reason I share all this is because many professing Christians make so many excuses to just stay home on Sunday morning and the reason for this is a sickness, a spiritual sickness called: Morbus Sabbaticus written by an unknown author.

Morbus Sabbaticus is a peculiar disease. The symptoms vary but never interfere with the appetite...It never lasts more than 24 hours...No physician is ever called...And it is very, very contagious. Husbands have been known to give to their wives and their children and sometimes to their relatives, friends and co-workers. This strange disease has proven to be much of an epidemic in many places, and is more dangerous than is commonly supposed.

The attack comes on suddenly on Sunday. No symptoms are ever felt on Saturday night; the patient sleeps well and wakes feeling well and eats a hearty breakfast. But about 9:00 AM the attack comes on and continues until services are over for the morning. Then the patient feels somewhat better and eats a nice lunch. In the afternoon the patient is much improved and feels much better, and is able to take a walk and read the Sunday papers, go for ride, visit friends, watch TV, spend time in the garden and even able to mow the lawn. The patient eats a hearty supper. But about church time he has another attack and lasts throughout the evening. The patient wakes up Monday morning and able to go to work as usual. This sickness known as morbus sabbaticus is usually fatal in the end to the soul.

I know that sometimes there are providential hindrances to church, sickness, situations that come up at the last moment, work, traveling out of town, etc. but we are talking when you are here in town and about every Sunday.

I think Paul knew something of this disease, Hebrews 10:25 he says, "*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, **as the manner of some is**; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*"

- Amplified version, "Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together [as believers], **as is the habit of some people**, but admonishing (warning, urging, and encouraging) one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching."
- NIV says, "*Let us not give up meeting together, **as some are in the habit of doing**, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*"

- NASB says, "Not forsaking our own assembling together, **as is the habit of some**, but encouraging {one another;} and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

Yes, I think Paul knew something of morbus sabbaticus in some the churches he had started. We must again have the mindset and conviction of Joshua 24:15, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**" David and Joshua make it very clear that they had a heart after God and if they had a heart after God they had a heart after God's HOUSE! How about you? Where would you rather be on Sunday mornings? Do you come because you have to or because you want to? Don't tell me that you love God, but you don't love the church. Let us look at 1 Chron.29:1-5. This again shows David's love for God's house.

Is there anyone this morning who says, I don't want to be a visitor anymore, I want to be a dweller in GOD'S HOUSE! "...who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD?" Who is willing to say this morning, Pastor Joe, "I'm tired of being a visitor, I WANT TO BE A DWELLER IN GOD'S HOUSE?"

Oh to God, that this morning He would stir up your heart to love His house and put it in your heart to be in God's House every Sunday morning!

If you are outside Christ this morning, I hope that He stirs up your heart to follow Christ in salvation, that is, repentance towards God and faith in the LORD Jesus Christ.

I love to read the story of that Gadarene man in Mark 5:18 - 20, "And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. 19. Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. 20 And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel." I can assure you that this Gadarene man was never the same and was always the first one church.

Let's pray! Sing Psalm 27:4! (add Ps.80 somewhere)