

*"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*

We return this morning to our topic 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. This is as we said last time a breathing after God, that is, this is David's spiritual solicitation. 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 AND THAT WILL SEEK AFTER..." David desired and sought after one thing which all the saints of God should be desiring and seeking and that is, to dwell in the house of the LORD. How long David, ALL, mark it 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 we shared with you a couple weeks ago:

- I. DAVID'S DESIRE.**
- II. DAVID'S DWELLING.**
- III. DAVID'S DELIGHT.**
- IV. DAVID'S DISCOVERY.**

We shall concern ourselves with the second point this morning, "David's Dwelling" but 2 weeks ago we looked at the first point, "David's Desire." We saw where David had a singleness of purpose in his heart he had an affectionate desire. Above all things in this world David's heart burned and yearned after his God and his God's house. We also saw that this was not just lip service but a true sincerity of heart as we see David thirsting and longing to dwell in God's house. David sought one thing that would bring satisfaction to his heart and soul which is being in God's house.

Let us consider our second point:

- II. David's Dwelling:** *"...that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life..."*

Without question David desire is clearly seen in his dwelling. David's desire had an object and that is seen in his dwelling in God's house. Oh, to God that all God's people

had this desire and dedication of seeking to dwell in God's house. As pastor I'm always blown away at the various excuses people make in order not to come to God's house. It is always preface with these suppose spiritual words, "God will understand Pastor Joe that...\_\_\_\_\_ " fill in the blank. I go God does not understand, I mean God gave His all and all, His only begotten Son to die on that cruel cross and forgives us from all our sins, indwells us with His Holy Spirit and provides a church to go to and we make every excuse to miss church. Now, I'm not trying to be mean or ugly, there are providential hindrances that can keep us away, sickness, last minute emergency, being out of town, having to work on Sunday etc. My point is if what keeps you from church on Sunday does not keep you from going to work on Monday morning then there is something wrong. Do I need to read *Morbus Sabbaticus* again? (In my prior notes) If what keeps you from church does not have an effect regarding you doing all the other mundane things of live, then it is but an excuse that is empty!

You see David's desire was kindled from his love for God, thus, he says, "*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 clearly pours out his heart to God and even to us this morning, it is a glorious holy and spiritual desire! David's desire is not only to be in God's house but to also dwell in it, that is, to abide in it. Not just for a little while or a day here and there, no, but to dwell in it all the days of his life. This is communion with God seen in commitment. This desire is not seen in the singular but in the plural, in other words, David desire is mentioned quite often in the Scriptures, you find over and over David's love and desire for God's house and I believe this concept of what he desires is also mentioned in Psalm 84. Please turn there as we will look at a few verses of Psalm 84. There are five things I want to consider from Psalm 84:

- I. The Loveliness of God's House:** (Verse 1)
- II. The Longing for God's House:** (Verse 2)
- III. The Lesson from God's House:** (Verse 3)
- IV. The Lasting in God's House:** (Verse 4)
- V. The Loyalty to God's House:** (Verse 10)

Let's look at first: **I. The Loveliness of God's House:** (Verse 1)

David says, "*How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts!*" David is talking about the loveliness of God's house, that is, how lovely, how pleasant or how endearing is thy house. But we must ask, what is so lovely about God's house or the Tabernacle? You see to the naked eye, the Tabernacle was made of badger skins, rams skins dyed red, goat's hair, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, then there was the stittim wood overlaid with brass, silver and gold. This is what David would see with the outward eye. We ask David, what it is that makes it lovely and so amiable to you? I

mean as you walk into the Tabernacle through the gate of the court which is the only entrance which is a glorious type of Christ as being the only door of salvation. The first thing you see as you enter is the altar of burnt offering or the brazen altar for sacrifices. Then the second thing you would see is the brazen laver which was filled with water so the priests could wash when performing the services in the Tabernacle. Then you would finally see the Tabernacle tent where there was a curtain and inside would be the holy place. When the priest entered the holy place he would see the candlestick to his left and the table of showbread to his right. Then in the middle beyond these two things was the altar of incense. Then there would be another curtain or veil and on the other side of the veil was the holy of holies. Inside would be the ark. On the ark were two cherubim's facing each other as though looking over the mercy seat. This is basically the Tabernacle or house David is speaking about. This was the desire of David's dwelling. Again, to the naked eye we might ask, what is so desiring about this tabernacle? Not so much the vessels or contents of the tabernacle, though every single item is a type of our Lord Jesus Christ. I believe that which capture David's heart was not the building itself, but He who inhabited the building, THE MOST HIGH GOD! Every element of the tabernacle was needful and precious to the Hebrew people, but to the true Israel of God, the true saints, the most important aspect of the tabernacle was the indweller, God Himself! David was not concerned with the outward aspect of the tabernacle, but with the inward aspect of the tabernacle, God dwelt there. God's presence was there; His radiant Shekinah Glory would be manifested to them. The tabernacle was God's place of dwelling and if God dwelt there David wanted to dwell there also. The word Tabernacle basically means a tent, a place of dwelling or a sanctuary. It was the most sacred place where God Himself chose to meet with His people. This is what made the place amiable to David, that is why it was lovely to David, God was there, not that it look pretty or smelled pretty, or had some wonderful aroma to it, no, no, no, GOD WAS THERE!

Look at Ex.25:1-8. 15-22; 29:42-46; 30:6; 40:33-38. We see the same thing when the Temple is dedicated under King Solomon, look at 1 King7:51-8:11 and then also the same thing with the Church on the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2. God credentialize the Tabernacle, the Temple and the Church the exact same way, by His Holy Spirit filling the place and the people, so that they would know that, that special visible assembly place was God's special dwelling with His people. God would meet with His people in different places but the place of His choosing to meet with them was a secured and special place of blessing! Look at Deut.12:5 & 16:2, "**But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose** out of all your tribes **to put his name there,** even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come... Thou shalt therefore sacrifice the passover unto the LORD thy God, of the flock and the herd, **in the place which the LORD shall choose to place his name there.**" I just love what it says in Ps.87:2, "**The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.**" Zion is a type of the church and the dwellings of Jacob are the people of God, that is, God loves the gates of His Church/Zion more than dwellings or home of the people. Someone might

have asked David what I've been asked, David or Pastor Joe, "can God not meet with you in your home or some other place besides church?" The only reason they are asking is because they want an excuse for not to come to church, but the answer to the question is: Yes, God can meet with us in our homes, at a Bible study at work, at lunch while eating and reading the Bible, God can and does meet with us in those places. God is omnipresent, that is, He is everywhere, the Bible teaches where 2 or 3 are gather in His name, He promises to be in the midst of them, but God credentialed the Tabernacle, the Temple and the Church with a special blessing, a special meeting or visitation when the people assemble together at Church or if you wish God's HOUSE! God had promise them that He would manifest His presence there more than in all these other places. Why? Because, "*The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.*" Because God promised a special blessing of His presence, He assured a special presence when meeting in His prescribe PLACE of Worship, HIS HOUSE, HIS CHURCH!

Notice again, Exodus 25:22, " And ***there I will meet with thee***, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel." Exodus 29:42 & 43, "This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD: ***where I will meet you***, to speak there unto thee. 43 And ***there I will meet*** with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory." THERE is the place of God's presence; it was the special and particular presence of God to meet with His people than in all the other places. David knew that God had secured a special blessing in the Tabernacle. No, no my dear brethren, David was not some crazy Looney Toon, no, he was a man after God's own heart and therefore seeks the object of his heart desire, that is, to dwell where God dwells. Notice what David says in Psalm 80:1, "Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; ***thou that dwellest between the cherubims***, shine forth."

David knew where his God dwelled and therefore wanted to be there also, but, for how long David? Tell us how often and for how long? David is quick to answer, one day, some days, only when I feel good, only when people talk to me, only when they treat me nice, only when I can have the best seat, only when things are going well or fill in your own excuse, no says David, but all the days of my life. Yes, that's right, ***ALL, All, All the DAYS OF MY LIFE!*** (Exclamation point emphasizes emotion and passion) Can you better understand the essence of Psalm 84:1, how amiable, how lovely, how pleasant, how gracious oh how glorious are thy tabernacles OH LORD OF HOSTS! Again, this is not lip service to God, he follows up in verse 2 by saying, "My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God."

In verse two we have: **II. The Longing for God's House:**

Here David pours out his all and all, he longs for the house of God, for the courts of the Lord which is the Tabernacle, he even faints to be in that special place. Don't you just love the way it reads in the KJV version, it has a fixation and a passion a burning fervor in his heart, what lovely language, "MY SOUL LONGETH!" His heart longs for the courts of God's house, he zealously yearns to be in God's house. He says passionately "MY SOUL L-O-O-N-N-G-E-E-T-H! What passionate language in describing his innermost feelings. When I first met my wife, I wanted to talk to her every day on the phone, if I could every hour, I just wanted to be with her, I longed to be with her, my soul yearned to be with her, so much so that if I got but a glimpse of her it would satisfy my longing. I still enjoy being with her, if we are apart for a few hours the first thing we usually ask each is, did you miss me? Do you know what it means to LONG?

The word longeth in the Hebrew is, "**kasaf**," which means to yearn, to long after, to desire and thirst after. Spurgeon says this, "*My soul longeth, it pines, and faints to meet with the saints in the Lord's house. The desire was deep and insatiable—the very soul of the man was yearning for his God. Yea, even fainteth; as though it could not long hold out, but was exhausted with delay. He had a holy lovesickness upon him, and was wasted with an inward consumption because he was debarred the worship of the Lord in the appointed place. For the courts of the Lord. To stand once again in those areas which were dedicated to holy adoration was the soul longing of the psalmist.*" Mollerus says, "*My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth. The word hlk (fainteth) signifies to be consumed with longing, as the Latins say, deperire aliquem amore (he is dying of love), that is, he so vehemently loves, and is enflamed with so great a desire to obtain the loved object, that he wastes and pines away unless his wish is gratified. Therefore, an ardent longing is meant, which so torments and burns the mind, that flesh and marrow waste away, so long as it is not permitted to enjoy the thing desired.*" The word fainteth signifies to be consumed with longing, in the sense that he is dying of love. Reminds me of the words of Solomon in SOS 3:1, "...I sought him whom my soul loveth..." In SOS 2:5, "...I am sick of love." David is consumed, David is sick of love; David is longing and fainting for God and for God's house. He is so inflamed with great ambition and yearning to obtain that which his heart desires so much so that, he feels consumed and grieves unless his desire is attained.

David again says, "*My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth...*" for what David? "... for the courts of the LORD..." that is, the house of the living and true God. Why David? Because God is there and I want to be there also, I want to be where God is! David continues, "...my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God." In other words, both body and soul cry out for the Living God. The word crieth in the Hebrew is "**r`anan**." This means to cry out with a loud voice, to shrill, to cry out as soldiers do at the beginning of a battle they cry out loud as they engage in battle. David's victory is in the house of God and therefore he cries out for it with his heart and with his flesh, that is, with his all and all, all of him seeks out this glorious attainment in seeking to be with God and seeking to be in God's house. David is pouring out his heart before God and David is also pouring out his heart to us this morning to teach us something regarding a love for God's house.

The Bible teaches us and shows us that God loves His Church, in Eph.5:25, Paul uses the example of the important of husbands loving their wives unconditionally, how? As Christ loved the church! Ephesians 5:25, "*Husbands, love your wives, **even as Christ also loved the church**, and gave himself for it.*" My point is real simple, if we are to emulate our Lord Jesus Christ and if Christ Himself loved church, should not we who name the name of Christ LOVE THE CHURCH ALSO? Was this not David love and desire? "*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...***" Not only are we to love the church and seek to be in the house of God but we are also to give glory to God in the Church, "*Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*" Eph.3:21.

Again, we ask this morning, what is a New Testament Church? The Church is a God-ordained institution existing for the purpose of glorifying God. It is manifested and formulated in a local visible assembly of baptized believers, which are gathered and united by the Word of God for the propagation and proclamation of the gospel and for the edification of its membership. We are to take the gospel out and seek to evangelist the lost. This then is the purpose and existence of the New Testament Church. Notice also what Paul told Timothy regarding the church, 1 Tim.3:15, "*But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, **the pillar and ground of the truth.***"

Let us then have the conviction and commitment of David regarding 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, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.*" Ps.27:4

Do you have a desire for the house of God? Do you seek to be in the house of God? Do long after God's house? Do you faint for God's house if you are not able to attend? Do you seek to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of your life? Do you LOVE God's house? I'll make it simple for you, if you do not love the house of God, don't tell you love God. I'm telling you that you cannot love God if you do not have a love for God's house! I'm not talking about this building, but the fact that God dwells with His people which is the Church and I want to be there where God is! And by no means are we saying that this is the only church of God, no, there are many other churches that are God's house and His Spirit is there, but the question is do you want to assemble where God meets with His people? Whether it is this church or another church, do you love being in church? David wanted to dwell where God was, how about you this morning, can you say with David, "***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.***"