

Are You Losing Your Desire?

- Patricia Dailey -

Founding Pastor, Bethel Revival Center

Psalm 27:1-4

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. 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 inquire in His temple.

The Psalmist desired one thing of the Lord and that's what he sought after. He wanted to: "dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple."

This was certainly a good desire. It's sad, but many of God's people have lost that desire. They have lost their desire to be in the house of the Lord when the doors are open.

Hebrews 10:25

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.

We are living in the end time, the last days. And we realize that there are a lot of evil things that go on in the church world of our day. And if we don't desire spiritual things, we can get caught up in these ungodly practices.

We've got to be very careful about our spiritual state so that we're not living carelessly. I'm afraid that many of God's people are living very carelessly. Other things are much more important to them than attending the house of God, than getting their soul prepared to meet the Lord at His coming.

What a great desire David had to be in the house of the Lord:

THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

Psalm 122:1

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.

We ought to be happy about coming to the house of the Lord.

Because God's people have become careless in their experience with the Lord, their joy and gladness in entering the house of the Lord is not there like it ought to be.

Who caused this? They cannot lay blame on the pastor. God's people have caused this by desiring other things more than attending the house of the Lord. They go whoring after other things. Other things are so much more important to them than attending the house of God regularly.

In this day and hour we need to be in the house of God getting all we can, so that we will be strengthened in the dark days to come. Drawing all that we can will enable us to stand, to walk with the Lord when others are falling by the way side.

The devil has his way for God's people to worship. You don't have to worship Satan to worship his way. He has hold of those who once had a love for God, causing them to compromise.

Sometimes we think that we are so spiritual that we can go to church hit or miss, and yet be able to stand and make it on our own. Listen, none of us will make it in our own strength. We draw strength as we draw near to God when we gather together with believers. We draw strength and encouragement from one another.

Coming to church where the pure Word of God is preached is an encouragement to our soul. We receive something fresh from God's Word that encourages us and strengthens us.

When we need to be corrected the Word is there to correct us. It's there to show us the error of our way.

KEEP THE LOVE ALIVE

Hebrews 12:6

For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.

It's God's love that chastens us if we're going the wrong way, not doing the right thing according to His Word. It is His love to correct us of the error of our way.

Thank God when we can come to the house of God and gather around His table to receive from Him. Anybody that has a desire for God will be strengthened when they attend church: hearing the Word of God, singing the praises of God, worshipping God, hearing testimonies of what God has done for others.

I would to God that all of God's people would have hearts that are happy and glad when it's time to go to church. Our hearts ought to begin to sing and dance with joy because it's time to go to the house of God. What better place could one be in? Church is a good place to go when the Word of God is preached and there is freedom for the Holy Spirit to move.

Imagine people having such a beautiful opportunity and not taking advantage of it!

David said, "One thing have I desired of the Lord, and that will I seek after."

Some people go to church, and then it may be a month before you see them again. That desire is not there. Other things have crowded out the desire to go to church. Other things have crept in and become so much more important.

GET ROOTED

Psalm 26:8

LORD, I have loved the habitation of Thy house, and the place where Thine honour dwelleth.

God's presence was in the tabernacle in the days of the Old Testament. And today, His presence is in His house. Yes, His presence is everywhere, but we find His presence close when we come to church.

He said He would ever be with us. He would never leave us, nor forsake us. When we're alone, we're not really alone because He is with us. I like those times when I can get alone with Jesus to seek His face, and to intercede for God's people. Those are blessed times. I want to be faithful to drop everything that I might step aside to seek His face. I want to do this all the days of my life.

But He also wants us to meet with other believers in church, and to sit and listen to His Word. He said that if two or three are gathered together in His name, there would He be in the midst.

Now, there are those whom you could call church hoppers: they hop from one church to another church to another church. They don't stay in one place long enough to get rooted and settled down.

I guess they're looking for what you would call the perfect church. At each church they go to, they soon find fault with something that doesn't suit their fancy: so they continue to church hop. They might attend for six weeks or so, and then they're off to another church.

We ought to get rooted and grounded in a church: a church that preaches the pure Word of God just as it is, not a church that compromises the Word.

Now, David said there was one thing he desired of the Lord, and that was what he would seek after: to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of his life.

There are people who are in a nursing home and desire to attend the house of God, but are unable to. Would you rather be in a nursing home or in a hospital bed flat on your back, unable to attend the house of God?

It doesn't matter how young, one can still have that spiritual desire to attend church. A godly mother will bring her little ones from the time they're able to get out. And that little one gets used to going to church week after week. That is good. Children learn from their parent's example. When their parents are rooted and grounded in a church, their church, the children see that they should stay in their church until the Lord releases them, perhaps when they get married and move elsewhere.

And if marriage takes them away from the church they grew up in, they have the desire within them to find a good, spiritual church where they can get rooted and grounded to raise their family.

SPIRITUAL DESIRES

Psalm 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.

We will be blessed as we get ourselves rooted and grounded in the church. Now, Satan is always working to try to take us away from the truth, away from where the truths of God's Word are being preached service after service. He will work to try and get us to run from the church where God desires us to be.

He works hard, and doesn't let up on it. But I'm going to give you a word of advice: when the enemy comes by to suggest these things, do not entertain his suggestions. When you do, you start to become restless until you take off on a run and never come back.

One of our spiritual desires should be to love to come to the house of God. It doesn't matter who else is there, whether few or many. If there are just a few, that shouldn't stop our having a desire to be in the house of God; a desire to come and sing praises unto the Lord, to hear the Word of God preached, and to have a move of the Holy Spirit where He will come and take control. But, because God's people have lost spiritual desires, it has hindered greatly.

"Why go to church tonight I can find other things to do. Let's go visiting tonight. Let's go shopping. Let's play games on the computer (a robber if there ever was one, robbing you of your time: and some of this time is not your time, it's God's time)."

STIR YOURSELF UP

John 10:10a

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy . . .

Yes, the enemy came to steal and he certainly does steal by making one believe that they can stay home from church and play computer games, or watch the electronic church on TV instead of getting into a solid church, getting rooted and grounded in the Word of God, desiring to dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

This should be our spiritual desire. When we first got saved we couldn't stay out of church. We wanted to be there every time the doors were open. We could not get enough of church.

That is the experience of believers when they first get saved. And that same desire should remain all through their spiritual life. It should be the same today as it was when they gave their heart to the Lord

Jesus Christ. That desire should never depart. I can't wait to get into the service. I can't wait to see what God is going to do.

If God's people had that godly desire of wanting to be in the house of the Lord, and were excited about God, there would be a Holy Ghost movement. But God's people have to get stirred up. They've got to have the desire to be in the house of the Lord. That desire has to be burning within.

God's people need to wake up. They need to stir themselves, rising up to fight back the adversary.

Anyone can get in the place of not feeling like going to church: "I don't feel like going tonight. I think I'll wait until Sunday morning. That's enough for me."

Sunday morning is not enough church. God, I only want You on Sunday morning, and that's all. We need to get stirred up. We need to have this godly desire to be in the house of the Lord.

There ought to be a desire to be in prayer meeting, and to take part. Some may come to prayer meeting, only to sit looking around, bored. They don't come to pray, but just to show face.

"I don't like to go to prayer meeting: it's too boring." Does that sound like you? Why don't you bring some life into the prayer meeting, instead of criticizing it? Why don't you lift up your voice and pray?

Some may not be able to make it to every service because they have to work, but that's not always the case.

Now, it's not enough just to go to the house of God. It's how you live after you leave. Just coming to the house of God won't do the work in your life. Yes, the Lord can touch you while you're in His house. He can do something for you to help you.

Psalms 42:1,2

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

The hart is a deer. When they get thirsty they look for the water brooks, a place where they can find water. When the cows want something to drink, they begin to moo loudly. They'll moo, bellow it right out, because they're thirsty.

Losing Your Desire

HUNGER AND THIRST

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

There's a hungering and there's a thirsting after God, a good spiritual desire. If you do not have that hungering and thirsting after God you need that desire. You need to seek after God, to really desire Him in your life.

Psalm 42:1

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God.

That is so beautiful! My soul thirsts for God, for the living God! He thirsted after the living God—not the god of pleasures, not the god of materialism, not the god of self: but God.

It is necessary to seek God. It's necessary to hear His Word preached.

Luke 10:38-42

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost Thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Here we have a story of Jesus visiting the home of Mary and Martha. Martha was careful and troubled about many things, but one thing was needful; and Mary had chosen that good part.

Mary was sitting at the feet of Jesus, and hearing His words. Our souls should be crying out for the living God. There should be a desire for God and for His Word. It is so needful to hear His Words.

AT THE FEET OF JESUS

Matthew 7:26,27

And every one that heareth these sayings of Mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

If we don't hear the words of Jesus, we will be like this foolish man that built his house upon the sand.

Those who are wise will build their house upon the Rock, hearing Jesus' sayings and doing them.

We get strengthened in the house of the Lord. We get strengthened as we come together to sit at His feet to worship Him and to hear what saith the Lord.

One thing to notice here is that Martha was troubled about many things. She had so much on her; she was cumbered down with so many things.

This is how Satan works. He distracts God's people, getting their attention by causing them to get all bogged down day after day with the cares of this life. They get troubled about many things, about things of this life, things that will not profit. They're troubled about their finances, troubled about their jobs. They're troubled about this and troubled about that.

There's so much on people's minds today when they don't have this spiritual desire. It's so easy for them to be cumbered down with all these other things; and all these things take the place of their going to church, take the place of their Bible reading and prayer time, take the place of their seeking God with all their heart, take the place of their being used of God.

THE CARES OF THIS LIFE

Mark 4:18,19

And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, and the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

We should see something here that should wake us up. We live in this world, but we need to be careful that we don't get caught up with worldly cares. They enter in, and become a part of us: and our desire is for these things, rather than for the Lord and His Word.

When worldly cares have first place in our lives we soon lose sight of what God has for us. We lose our desire for God when the cares of this world take over. We've got to be careful, and draw a line here.

There are certain things that we have to do, such as our daily work and caring for the family, but we don't have to go overboard with any of these things.

Martha was so bogged down with serving, trying to get the food ready. She didn't have time to sit down at the feet of Jesus and hear His Word. She was too busy, cumbered down.

And this is what happens to many of God's people today: they're all cumbered down with the cares of this life. It chokes out the Word, and they become unfruitful. And if we become unfruitful, and bear no fruit, what's going to happen to us?

Luke 21:34

And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

We're to take heed. When the desire for this world enters in and takes over it crowds out any godly desire that we had.

Jesus is coming: and when He comes He will come quickly. We need to be ready, found serving Him with

our desires on Him.

Luke 21:36

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Living carelessly and not having godly desires will bring you into the place of not being ready when He comes.

David was running from King Saul, literally in the wilderness. And many get into a spiritual wilderness, a place where it's very dry. Psalm 68:6 tell us that the rebellious dwell in a dry land.

We shouldn't dwell in a dry land, a land where the waters of the Lord are not watering our soul. We ought to have our soul watered every day. Every day these spiritual waters ought to be flowing in and out of our soul

RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

John 7:38

He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Out of our belly (out of our innermost being) rivers of living waters would flow. That doesn't sound like someone living in the wilderness. It doesn't sound like someone who lives in a dry land.

The Lord doesn't want us to be in a dry land, all dried up inside because we're taken over with the cares of this life, cumbered down with other things that take the place of Him.

God wants our love. He is a jealous God. What He's done for us because of His great love! How wonderful His love is for us, sending His Son to give His life that we might be free.

Anyone who has been born again and has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ knows the love of God, and what His love has done for them.

There's nothing like the love of God. Human love is not like the love of God. Human love can cease. You do something against someone who has loved you, and their love can cease for you.

Yet God's love is always there, even when we sin. His love is there to correct us and bring us back into the place He desires for us to be in. His love is so different than human love.

God's love is longsuffering. People can't always suffer long with others. Some have a way about them that repels other people, and they don't have any love for that person. But God's love is there for them.

His love is always there.

We were all lost and undone, lost in sin. Yet the love of God reached out to us. If anything, we ought to have a strong love, a strong desire for God.

We should desire to seek Him. We should desire to be in His house. We should desire His Word. We should desire spiritual things.

But many have no desire for spiritual things because the love of this world, the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and other things have entered in and taken the desire for God away.

It's sad but it's true. It's happened to so many. So many have just let themselves go, no longer seeking God.

There ought to be a spiritual desire there to seek God, such as David had: "Thou art my God, early will I seek Thee: my soul thirsteth for Thee; my flesh cries out for Thee."

We should be crying out to God, "Lord, send a fire within my soul. Burn a great desire in my soul, a desire to pray and be in the house of the Lord; a desire for Your Word."

Have you seen a picture of yourself in this message? Do you desire the Lord and His Word more and more? Or do you desire the things of this world, bogged down with the cares of this life?