

I. REVIEW – PEOPLE OF PRESENCE – PS. 27:4

One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek: 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. Ps. 27:4

- A. David set a value in his heart that he would never turn from the rest of his days. He recognized that God's presence in his life was more valuable than any earthly treasure. David elevated relationship with God and God's tangible presence above anything else to be pursued.
- B. David understood that the goal of prayer wasn't always that you got your prayers answered in the way you wanted them answered but that the goal of prayer was relationship with God – to touch God.
- C. It was God's presence above all else that drove David's mission (assignments), empowered his leadership and which he sought to give away to the next generation.
- D. David decided that he would let God define success and failure. David submitted the highs and lows of his life – the heartbeat of his human frailty to God for evaluation.
- E. As a people of presence I am calling us to the following heart standards. I am calling us to be: people of prayer, joyful-happy holiness, generosity of spirit, and Spirit led, Spirit filled life.

II. PEOPLE OF PRAYER – BEHOLDING THE BEAUTY OF GOD (INTIMACY)

One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek: 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. Ps. 27:4

- A. David wrote songs for his prayers so often singing his prayers. In this song, David gives us several keys to cultivating the presence of God in his life (we call this prayer).
 - 1. One thing I have ***desired*** of the ***Lord***...David understood that to be primarily focused on God's presence meant spending time with God as a person. This personal relationship changed David. David did this primarily by talking to God through songs.
 - a. Prayer that creates relationship is not an automatic thing when considering the sum of a lifetime. It's one thing to pursue a prayer life and the presence of God for a few days or weeks, but this relationship is meant for all my life.
 - b. David believed that prayer was a place you inhabited with God, not just something you did.
 - c. I must change my ***desires*** if this is going to be for life. My desires can only be changed by ***the Lord*** himself giving me grace.
 - 2. That will I ***seek***, ***...to dwell***, ***...all my life***. This will be my primary preoccupation all my days.

- B. To *behold the beauty of the Lord* – David sought to motivate his relationship with God and prayer life with revelation of God. He called this revelation, God’s beauty.
 - 1. Remember, the Scriptures available to David for reading and building his relationship with God would have been Genesis – Deut. and a few Psalms.

III. PEOPLE OF PRAYER – INQUIRING IN HIS TEMPLE (INTERCESSION)

- A. David was a powerful intercessor. His intercession was driven by the steadfast confidence he had in God’s mercy for people.
- B. Intimacy based intercession. This is intercession centered in the revelation of God’s love for us, that as we ask he listens and cares and is willing to act.
- C. Esther is tremendous story that reflects this intimacy based intercession we speak of.

IV. THE CONTEXT FOR THE PEOPLE OF PRAYER – IN THE TIME OF TROUBLE

- A. David’s context for this Psalm is often considered the pressures of his family home and the rejection he faced there because of his choices (1Sam. 16-18; Ps.27:10; Ps. 69:7-9). Every generation is pursued by God (offering true attachment and family) and by the Devil (offering another generation his orphan spirit). David decided not to accept the rejection and turned to God.
- B. Three common levels of trouble that impact our lives on a regular basis.
 - 1. Our own personal time of trouble. The challenges of daily life that fall upon us as we walk out our relationship with God.
 - 2. Regional or national trouble. Those community societal pressures that give rise to all manner of upheaval.
 - 3. Global pressures that impact my life including the future Great end-times “time of trouble” – Jacob’s trouble. Think of Ps. 27 being sung by believers in the city of Jerusalem as a great global army has surrounded it and there is no escape (Dan. 7, 9, 11-12; Hab. 3; Joel 3; Zech. 13-14;

V. TWO GREAT DESIRES OF GOD I AM CALLING CFG TO CARRY AS A PEOPLE

- A. Desire #1 – Revival – To produce a remnant of believers within each nation, tribe and tongue who testify to the beauty and majesty of God. God will produce believers within every people group, believers who are intercessors for their group before the throne of God, and prophets of God before the people testifying of the beauty of Jesus whether in blessing or suffering.
 - 1. What is your favorite bible verse that you carry regarding God’s desire to touch the nations?

- B. Desire #2 – Tabernacle of David – God’s desire for a 24/7 house of worship and prayer functioning day and night until he returns. The restoration of David’s fallen tent, a perpetual sanctuary of adoration before the throne of God. (Isa. 56: 6-8; 62:6-7; Joel 2: 15-17; Amos 9:11; Matt. 6: 9-15; Luke 18: 1-8; Acts 15:16-18; Rev. 4:8; 5:8-14; 7:15)
- C. Practical ways to shift your desires for prayer.
1. Look for periods of time during your day to ‘redeem the time’ and pray short prayers.
 2. Listen to Scripture reading on your commute.
 3. Join two prayer meetings per week.
 4. If you have a family, teach them to pray. Create opportunities for moments of prayer.