

One Thing

By Steve Pruitt

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.

Psalm 27:4 NKJV

Anyone who has or has had small children knows what a trip to the grocery store or any shopping spree can be like. With so many items on the shelves the little ones are constantly badgering the parents with, “I want this one, and I want this one.” And “this one” is the one they want until they get to the next aisle. That’s when the “I wants” start all over again.

There is a story of one set of parents who worked diligently to teach their children the difference between wanting something and actually needing something. Only to have the kids, on the next trip to the store, say, “I need this one, I need this one.”

King David said that there was one, only one, thing that he wanted; to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of his life. The Hebrew word used for desired in this verse means to inquire, to request, to demand, to ask, or to beg. Imagine David saying to the Lord, “I really want it; I really, really want it. Can I have it please, please can I? The Hebrew word used for seek means to search out by any method especially by worship and prayer. It also means to strive after, to beg, to make inquisition, or to procure. In other words David was going to do whatever it took to find God’s favor that would allow him to dwell in God’s house all the days of his life. David’s one desire was to be where God was.

David wanted to be where God was for two specific purposes; to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in its temple.

When you explore the meaning of beauty in the Hebrew you find it means agreeableness, i.e. delight, suitability, splendor or grace: beauty, or pleasantness. Agreeable means pleasant, pleasing, to one’s liking. Suitable means appropriate to a given purpose or occasion. Splendor means great light or luster; brilliance. So the beauty of the Lord is much deeper than outward appearance or something pleasant to the eye. It also means that God is pleasant to me, he is to my liking. He is suitable or appropriate for every occasion. He fills every longing of my heart and he’s the only one who can. He is the delight of my heart and soul and his grace is sufficient for all things. The beauty of the Lord is that he makes all things beautiful in its time.

David wanted to inquire of the Lord; which means to plough, to break forth, to inspect, to care for, to admire, to seek and search. He wanted to make diligent search for the things of God.

What is your one desire; the thing you seek the most? Do you want more than anything to be where God is? Ask, no beg, God to give you a heart that wants him more than anything else.

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Scriptures for meditation:

Ecclesiastes 3:11

Psalm 42:1-2

Psalm 63:1