



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen- June 20, 2023

The Lord be with you.

Delight and desire. That's right, I wanna talk with you for a few moments about delight and desire. Something we don't talk much about in sermons and in Christian circles, but something we really should talk about, and that is how important it is for our lives to be marked by delight and desire. That is to have the fire, the passion of delight and desire in us.

I'm looking at what has been one of the most important verses of my life, a verse that many times has helped me, give my bearings, that has helped give me a new direction. I'm looking at Psalm 37, a Psalm of David. Psalm 37:4, I read, "take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." Later in the psalm, David says, I have been young and now I'm old. So recognize this as the voice of experience that David has seen in his life, take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Now, I'm not going to twist this verse to mean something, it doesn't mean... This verse is not saying that God gives us anything we want. You desire a mansion, God gives you a mansion, you desire a yacht, who God gives you a yacht. That is not what this verse is saying. This first has a command and a promise. The command is, take the delight in the Lord. I don't think we hear enough of that today, take delight in the Lord. Take delight has the idea of taking pleasure of enjoying something. God wants more from you and me than obedience, He wants more than just the greeting of our teeth duty, God really does want you with me to enjoy Him, to delight in him, to delight in His goodness His love, His wisdom. God wants us to enjoy Him as we spent time with him, as we think about him as we center our lives on him. So to take delight in God is as much a privilege as it is a duty then our verse says that as you take positive delight in the Lord, that's the command, as you take delight in the Lord, he promises that He will give you the desires of your heart.

Now, you might know what I'm gonna say next is this, that as we take delight in God, we then find God giving us new desires. As we take delight in God, God transforms our desires so that a lot of the things we used to desire, we just don't desire anymore. And so God leads us in the direction he wants us to go as we desire what He desires. That is the dynamic of the life of faith, that as we delight in God, as we just take positive share enjoyment in Him, we find ourselves being changed... Desiring what God desires. And I wanna read you something. We do not know the source of it, but we do know that it was found on the dead body of a soldier during the American Civil War. And it goes like this, "I asked for strength that I might achieve. I was made



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weak that I might learn humbly to obey. I asked for health, that I might do greater things. I was given infirmity that I might do better things. I asked for riches that I might be happy. I was given poverty that I might be wise. I asked for power that I might have the praise of men. I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God. I asked for all things that I might enjoy life. I was given life that I might enjoy all things. I got nothing that I ask for, but everything that I had hoped for. Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered. I am, among all men, most richly blessed."

As we delight in God, and as we make it our purpose to enjoy Him, God truly gives us everything that deep down we could have ever hoped for. God does give us the desires of our heart.

Oh Lord, there is nothing more wonderful in all the world and delighting and enjoying you. Thank you for giving yourself to us that we might taste and see that you are good. Now, Lord, you know our desires, transform them. Line them up with your perfect will for us. May your generous and loving heart guide our prayers, our words, our actions, our desires. This we pray for your glory and for our eternal good.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thanks for listening until next time.