

SOMETHING MORE
Satisfaction in an Undivided Heart
Jeremiah 32:38-41

INTRODUCTION:

Anything done half-heartedly may as well be left undone for all the good that it does! Much of what passes for prayer neither engages our minds nor impacts our hearts...words are formed and sentences are spoken but the mind and heart are free to do something else because they are not needed for what we have unfortunately called prayer.

But we were created for something more...we have a desire embedded in us, a desire that only the Lord can satisfy!

I. WHAT CAN SATISFY OUR LONGINGS?

Psa. 38:9 *All my longings lie open before you, O Lord; my sighing is not hidden from you.*

A. A PURSUIT OF UNDERSTANDING

--For many, little time is ever given to understanding what it is that they really desire, so they spend their lives in the pursuit of something they have not identified or given much thought to whether it would satisfy them even if they got it!

--People long for the same kinds of things, they just look for them in different places.

- *Love/Intimacy*
 - *Respect/Value*
 - *Peace/Contentment*
- OR
- *Significance/Meaning*
 - *Success/Accomplishment*
 - *Survival/Overcoming*

B. A PROCESS OF ELIMINATION

--So off they go, trying one thing after another to see if there might be something out there which will bring the satisfaction they desire...but not sure they will know it even if they find it.

--Jobs... relationships... hobbies... possessions... positions... knowledge... recognition... etc.

--Thinking that the next thing will satisfy, people keep moving on, trying to find something that fulfills that empty place inside...looking on the outside for something to satisfy the inner longings of the heart.

--Because they cannot identify the nature of the "longings and sighings, the desires and dreams" they fail to discover an adequate answer...they leave God out and miss the only Source of perfect sufficiency!

C. A PROMISE OF FULFILLMENT

--With the long list of promising prospects for fulfillment which proved to be nothing more than empty promises, we are not sure we can trust promises anymore.

--However, promises are only as good as the one who makes them.

--God makes some radical promises about His ability to satisfy our deepest longings and fulfill our greatest desires.

Psa. 36:8-9 *They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. ⁹ For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.*

Psa. 65:4 *How blessed is the one whom Thou dost choose, and bring near to Thee, To dwell in Thy courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Thy house, Thy holy temple.*

Psa. 73:25-26 *Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

--Praying for an answer does not enter their consideration because they have not understood that God alone can satisfy and fill every legitimate longing and desire.

John 10:10 *"The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.*

--Prayer begins when we realize that only God holds the answers to a life filled with abundance and satisfied with godly desires fulfilled.

II. WHAT CAN SHAPE OUR DESIRES?

--Something gives shape and substance to what we desire, and if we belong to Christ, He has the right to mold those desires and make them as He sees fit.

A. KNOWING GOD'S PERSISTENT PURSUIT

--When we discover that God has set His heart on a relentless course of pursuit and targets us to become His own, that will either drive us away or draw us toward Him.

--Does knowing that God is pursuing you make prayer more appealing or less so to you?

1. He Initiates an Incomprehensible Pursuit of Us

--Although we cannot understand why, we do recognize that God is seeking us, calling us to come to Him.

a. Wholeheartedly Pursued by God

Jer. 32:38-41 *"And they shall be My people, and I will be their God; ³⁹ and I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me always, for their own good, and for the good of their children after them. ⁴⁰ "And I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me. ⁴¹ "And I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will faithfully plant them in this land with all My heart and with all My soul.*

--God cannot pursue us but one way... wholeheartedly!

--He is hardly indifferent to our response to the offer of His love and a place in His family!

--it is entirely fair to say that He wants you more than you will ever want Him, and that alone should encourage your heart when you come to Him to pray!

b. Graciously Pardoned by God

Rom. 5:1, 8 *Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ ... ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

--Even though our sin separated us from Him, God did not let that stop Him in His passionate pursuit of our hearts.

--The full extent of His love is evident in the sending of His Son to die to purchase our pardon.

c. Gloriously Possessed by God

--We who ran from God and tried unsuccessfully to run our own lives have been bought back and are now owned in full by the Lord.

1Corinthians 6:19-20 *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.*

Titus 2:14 *who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

1Pet. 2:9-10 *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy .*

--From nobodies to joint heirs with Jesus Christ, God has pursued us and taken the initiative to draw us to Himself.

2. He Implants an Undivided Heart in Us

--A heart that has been bought by Christ belongs to Him alone—no divided loyalties, no divided affections, no divided agendas.

Jer. 24:7 *'And I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the LORD; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart.*

• One Undivided, Unqualified, Focused Pursuit of the Lord

--*With your whole heart...*

a. **Return to Him** – **Jer. 24:7** (above)

b. **Find Him**

Deut. 4:29 *"But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul.*

c. **Know Him** – **Jer 24:7** (above)

Jer. 33:3 *'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'*

d. **Love Him**

Deut. 6:5 *"And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*

--If I can allow the astounding truth of God's relentless pursuit of me to have the impact it should on my heart and mind, my prayer life cannot help but be stirred to new heights!

B. KNOWING GOD'S SURPASSING VALUE

--Not only does His pursuit of me astound me, but His surpassing value overwhelms me.

--Nothing and no one has greater value in all of creation, and God has offered Himself to me in a life-long relationship in which I get to know Him—personally, intimately, transparently!

Phil. 3:8 *More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ,*

--Of all the places I might be tempted to search for the desires of my heart, God alone holds that unique place of highest value.

1. No Other God

Deut. 4:35, 39 *"To you it was shown that you might know that the LORD, He is God; there is no other besides Him ...³⁹ "Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.*

2. No One Compares

Psa. 73:25-26 *Whom have I in heaven but Thee? And besides Thee, I desire nothing on earth.²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

3. No One Higher

Psa. 61:1-2 *Hear my cry, O God; Give heed to my prayer.² From the end of the earth I call to Thee, when my heart is faint; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.*

--If I can know Him as He truly is, nothing else could satisfy my heart's deepest desires and in knowing Him I will know the greatest delight!

Psalms 37:4 *Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart.*

C. KNOWING GOD'S PERSONAL PASSIONS

--If we find Him to be all we desire, and what He desires captures our own hearts, what can reflect God's personal passions in us?

• PRAYER!!

Gardiner Spring – 'Prayer is the language of desire; it is the offering up of our desires to God. It is the devotional thoughts and affections of the soul expressed in words. No spiritual emotions enter more intimately into the experience of the Christian, or more truly form the character of his piety, than those who are felt and expressed in his habitual intercourse with God.' (*The Mercy Seat*, p. 2)

1. PASSION FOR A GROWING KNOWLEDGE OF AND LOVE FOR THE LORD

a. THE GLORY OF GOD: "Show me your glory!"

Ex. 33:18 *Then Moses said, "I pray Thee, show me Thy glory!"*

Psa. 63:1-2 *O God, Thou art my God; I shall seek Thee earnestly; my soul thirsts for Thee, my flesh yearns for Thee, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.² Thus I have beheld Thee in the sanctuary, to see Thy power and Thy glory.*

--After all the amazing encounters with the Lord, Moses still longs for something more...not more miracles, not more power, not more people to lead...simply a plea that he might be given the high privilege of seeing God in all His glory.

--Frankly, we have only a vague idea of what that even means and yet every heart touched by Jesus Christ longs for a glimpse of His glory.

--We run out of words to describe what we really want to see and what our growing passion longs to gaze upon:

◆ *Splendor—Majesty—Radiance—Brilliance—Grandeur—Beauty—Awesome*—and still none captures the fullness of His glory!

--For those who have never desired to see the glory of God, may the Lord give you a “foretaste of glory divine” and watch what it does to the way you approach Him in prayer!

--“Oh God, show me your glory...show my kids your glory...show my church your glory...for when you do allow them to see, they will never have to be pushed, prodded, pulled or pounded with exhortations to pursue more of you...they will not be satisfied with anything less!”

b. THE NEARNESS OF GOD: “Draw me into your presence!”

Psa. 73:25, 28 *Whom have I in heaven but Thee? And besides Thee, I desire nothing on earth...
²⁸But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, That I may tell of all Thy works.*

--If we have a proper appreciation and passion for the glory of God and that desire shapes our praying, we will then cry out to Him and seek to be in His presence.

--Too much praying never gets anywhere because we never take the time to draw near.

--We are too impatient to get on with our formulas and lists and our agendas in prayer that we lose the passion for His presence that must be present for prayer to be personal.

Hebrews 4:16 *Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.*

ILLUS. Someone once said that the Lord is not given to shouting His affections across crowded rooms, but loves to draw us close and speak to us when we have come near to Him. Make sure you have entered His presence on His terms (pure and holy) and intend to cultivate the personal communion of abiding with Him by speaking to Him, not at Him.

c. THE DESIRES OF GOD: “Take me into your confidence!”

Psa. 25:14 *The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.*

--One of the things we will find when we draw near to Him in reverent adoration is that He will then open His heart to us, just as He promises.

ILLUS. Who do you confide in? Normally, we reserve that for those we trust the most, those we know have a deep respect for us and care deeply enough about the integrity of our name not to treat the confidences lightly or in a trivial manner. God will only share the intricacies of His covenant purposes with those who long to know and love Him, who fear Him and who seek Him with all their hearts!

Eph. 5:10 *trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.*

--Our prayer life takes on new meaning and significance when it is fired by a growing passion to know what brings delight to the heart of God!

d. THE LOVE OF GOD: “Fill me with your love!”

Rom. 5:5 *and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

“...we can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!” **The Message**

--There are two distinct manifestations of this love of God:

1) As it is poured out on us

--Although we know categorically that God does love us simply because He tells us, when we have a growing passion to experience the fullness of that love, we will pray toward that end...to experience the overflowing power of His love washing over us, drenching us with a flood that flows from the river of living water in Christ.

2) *As it is poured out through us*

--But there is no intent on His part for the fullness of His love to flow in one direction only.

- **Back to Him**—We love Him because He first loved us, but we will want to find ways to express our love for Him as an appropriate response.
- **Out to others**—There is too much of His love to hoard it for ourselves, so we must actively pursue others with His love and pray fervently that He will show us how to make His love known.

--So we do pray that the love of God would be very real, very personal, very intimate and intense so that we do not speak and sing of that which we do not really know by experience.

e. THE HOLINESS OF GOD: “Make me holy as you are holy!”

1Peter 1:15-16 *but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; ¹⁶ because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”*

--When we understand that God calls us to holiness and provides for us a way to holiness, how can we be nonchalant about it?

--If our prayer life does not include some expression of desire for growth in personal holiness, does that not reflect a heart that is content in an unholy condition?

Robert Murray M’Cheyne (1813-1843, Minister of St. Peter’s Church, Dundee, Scotland) – “Lord make me as holy as a pardoned sinner can be.”

2. PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF AND LOVE FOR THE LORD

--When God’s passions become personal to us, our conversations become more personal with Him.

--For us to grasp the fact that God is a personal being, not just a cosmic force or unknowable entity, we must begin to see and understand and share His passions.

--As His passions can be known, so God Himself is a person who can and should be known by those He created for that purpose.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 *Thus says the LORD, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD.*

--If we allow our prayer lives to degenerate into impersonal ramblings or loosely connected thoughts and ideas, instead of being personal conversations with a Living God, we sacrifice the essence of prayer for that which is a pitiful substitute.

--Introduction to the gift of eternal life by the power of the Spirit and by faith in the name of Jesus Christ opens the way for a personal knowledge of and relationship to the Lord God.

John 17:3 *“And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.*

--The very fact that we can know Him in a personal way, and that the ultimate revelation of God to mankind is in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, makes it possible for us to come to prayer with the

reasonable expectation that we will be met there by a living, eternally glorious, intimately knowable and accessible Person.

1John 5:20 *And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding, in order that we might know Him who is true, and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.*

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