

Psalm 27

The One Thing

I think we all, even though being in different stages of life, are **always** looking **for REST!** Life goes so fast, and is tough on us and we say

- just give me a break
- Sickness, relational problems or Finances do sooner or later give us a hard time and we look for REST.

REST was even in Paradise a theme! And became even more important after paradise, when simple survival became a hard.

REST is a theme that goes from the **Sabbath** in Eden through the story of the people of Israel, that was **given rest in the land of Caana**, through all prophesy into the **days of the church - obtaining rest in Jesus**, till the very end of the Bible, **when we are again in Paradise**, entering in the **ultimate REST** in GLORY with our God forever!

But how do you get rest... rest that goes beyond a Weekend or a vacation. The peace of mind, that rest we can find in HIM only!
How can we get there?

As a family, we came for **our sabbatical** here to Buies Creek. And we thought it would be restful. – less responsibility from the camp back home, training and studies –

→ not quite but the Lord is teaching us the very lesson of **pray through** your **challenges** till you come to the peaceful conclusion of the Lords

PRAYER:

For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the Glory forever. Mt 6:13

So let us go together to Psalm 27 that helps us to see how King David handled the challenge to finding REST

Let us read the Psalm: **Ps 27:1-14**

- 1. What was David's struggle?**
- 2. What was David's desire?**
- 3. How did David put it in practice?**
- 4. Why could David be so confident?**

1. What was David's struggle?

What is David facing? Well we just read **evildoers** v2, **adversaries** v3, **armies** that camp around him, **war** against him

He is a King and we might not have this problems, like being overthrown, **killed for our position** or have an army on our doorstep, but listen: v10+12

David goes all the way to the other end of the spectrum of the emotional trials and sufferings that might swipe away your peace: v10 **father or mother** that forsake you, also **false accusation** and even **fiscal threats**

It seems like not all of them happened to David, but **they do happen** in this fallen world!

That's **reality of life!** In the sweetest harmony, the greatest ease and joy we might experience, there is **always a rumbling of panic underneath**, a sickness, danger and terror, that threatens to ruin it all!

None of us in life is **untouched by trials of many kinds**, that will not let you rest in peace, that will put pressure, sufferings, burdens on you, and increase the necessity of relax and true REST! We all are **groaning** with creation to be set free from the consequences of evil, from **precariousness, the reality of bad!**

this fallen world, this **cursed planet is not paradise anymore!**

But David says: I **have something that fixes it!** I have something that helps me so that the restlessness, the evil will not overcome me!

That's why the Psalm starts and ends with that confidence... **But what is it?** Point nr. 2:

2. What was David's desire?

Well let me show you first What he **is not talking about!**

He is **not** going into God's presence asking God to fight the army for him, to change the circumstances, to defeat his adversaries or turn them away or...

that doesn't show up in his prayer

This does not mean that it is wrong to pray like that, the Lord's prayer itself says we may pray **give us** our daily bread, **deliver** us from evil...

But even in the Lord's prayer, we don't get to daily bread and deliverance from evil, until we have spent a lot of time looking at God!

He is **Father**, he is a **heavenly Father**, He's got a name, He is personal, but it is holy, He's got a kingdom, ... in other words you spend all this time looking **at God** before you ever come to look on your circumstances!

That's actually what we learn as we grow in our relationship with our Lord: it is fine to pray about circumstances, it is fine to say: Lord keep me from financial crisis, keep me from sickness, keep me from this or that...

nothing wrong with that, **But it is not our main issue, main problem!** Realistically: bad circumstances are going to happen to us! That's life on this planet!

But what is it that we really need? **HERE is what David says:**

First have of v4: **One thing I ask from the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life**
What is he talking about when he says?

I want to dwell in your house, I want to see YOU, your beauty, I want to seek your face! and that's **the ONE thing** David wants!!

When he says: to dwell in your House... he is talking about the **tabernacle**. further down he calls it the Temple, His sacred tent, His dwelling– this is **David** talking not Solomon, so the **Temple was not built yet!**

But almost certainly David does **not really wants to live** there, he is the **king**, Levites and Priest live there.

What does he mean than, and why does he emphasize it so much: **One thing I ask ... this only do I seek...one..one..one**(singleness of purpose)

Here is what he says: **I don't care what it takes, I don't care how long it takes, I don't care what it costs:**

I WANT UNBROKEN FELLOWSHIP WITH YOU o LORD!

I don't just want know about you – I want to KOW YOU!

I want to experience you being REAL, I want to see your face!

David **set his mind**, his Heart on **ONE THING!**

This **single mindedness** is a normal **Human** behavior / in fact already **Saint Agustin** comments the Greek philosophers who taught:

That if you set your heart too much on anything, you are going to be held hostage emotionally by that thing and you will become enslaved to it!

So if you live for your **career**, buisnes or you live for your **family** or **home** or live for your **children**.. if here is **anything** you really **set your heart on**, it will **emotionally whipsaw** you all the time

Because if things go well **you are up** – if anything goes wrong with **it** you are scared, **down** or angry, you are **up** and **down**..... -> driven by it...

→ so the philosophers **solution was: detachment** or let's say **do not get too much involved**, attached to anything or anybody - very similar to Buddhism!

They might be good things, but **don't get too much attached** to them because they are passing away, and leave you behind suffering
Don't really invest in anything. Or know, that if you invest in something, you will be disappointed, you will get **up's and down's** and you will be terrible,
→ **so detach...!**

Agustin said: **That's is so Wrong, and yet so right!**

It is **so right**, because **anything in this world you live for** - you are **slave to it**. It will be the thing you got to have to **be happy**, you will strive for it **and it will give you satisfaction** or **delusion**. yes you are slave to it

but if you think the solution is **to detach**... is that a solution?

Agustin sais this is **incredibly selfish**, you would actually love less to protect yourself?

Would you **close** yourself, saying: well let's not get to attached and involved....,

remaining a bit **cynical** and distant **toward our loved ones**... so we'll not suffer? NO!! but listen:

this is the Answer: you should not **love** your child **less**, or **love** your spouse **less**. You should not **invest less** in your plans and carrier, but ...

YOU should LOVE GOD MORE.

not just know more about God, **KNOW HIS LOVE by EXPERIENCE**

This incredible, unchanging **LOVE of GOD** that is not based on your **performance!**

That's why David basically says: I want this relationship with God **where I don't just ask things from God**, so again my **heart is attached to them** and I get whipsawed again... happy if HE hears me...disappointed...if not

NO I don't go into prayer to get **things from God**, also if I might ask things, I **want To dwell in your house o God,**
I want to live with GOD, I want God, not things

That's the **one thing** I got to have! **UNBROKEN FELLOWSHIP – LIVING ALL MY DAYS**(from morning till evening) **IN HIS PRESENCE!**

I need that kind of prayer-life - that kind of relationship – if I have that... I can face the challenges – Armies against me - so

1. What is David facing... like us - precariousness, threat of bad
2. What was his **ONE** desire? **Unbroken fellowship** – God himself!
- 3. What does David do to love God more?**

David desired to **dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of his life**, in the second half of v4 he tells us **what HE does** there:

- 1. to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and**
- 2. to inquire in his temple**

what does it mean **to gaze?**

It is more than just look, it means to stare to drink it in,

it means to look and look and look and **burn it into your mind** so it will always be there for **recall and replication**

David doesn't mean a literal gazing with his fiscal eyes on a vision or brightness of any kind!

To gaze upon yhe **Beauty of the Lord**, speaks of the **difference** between your **knowledge** and the actual **heart experience** of God!

There is a difference between **knowing** that honey is sweet because you read a **scientific report** or to **tasting** with **your tongue** the sweetness of honey.

- You don't just believe in the doctrine of **God's omniscient** / wisdom,
- but it becomes so real to you, you finally just relax **-HE KNOWS!!!**
- You don't just believe in the doctrine of **God's love**, you feel the **LOVE!**
- Ro 5:5 sais: **God's love has been poured out into our hearts**
- You **feel deeply loved, totally accepted by God, not based on your performance, but based on HIS decision**, So you **delight!!!**
- You don't just know **God is holy**, but the sense of it is:
- that it really **purifies** you, you can't not live anymore the way you were living?

2 things that happen when we **Gaze** on the beauty of the Lord!

A. **You can't help but must praise HIM** – gazing on HIM you must praise HIM, you are seeing what's great about him, you just appreciate...it's like lovers: live all the time... they constantly are telling each other what's wonderful about the other one! So just do that to God, praise HIM

B. It means **being satisfied! NOT asking: God HELP ->** That's seeing God's **Usefulness** – anybody will find him useful, but only a regenerated Heart will ever find HIM **Beautiful!!**

→ **To gaze at HIS Beauty causes you to not being** interested in getting your agenda done, having **HIM** just as a big, powerful help!

But seeing the **BEAUTY** of **HIS goodness, HIS steadfast LOVE...** you are so **satisfied** and start to say:

thine is the Kingdome, the power and the Glory it's not about my PLAN, my POWER or my GLORY, but it's about YOU
In you **I've got the Power, I've got the glory , I have all I need!**

So we said to get that unbroken Fellowship **to Love God more**, David does 2 practical things he:

1. **to gaze** on the beauty of the Lord and

2. to inquire in his temple

this sounds like David desires to **think and meditate** by what he is **inspired** as he is walking around in the temple.

However the Temple was not built until Salomon, David-s son. But we remember that David had all the blueprints how the temple had to be set up and decorated and everything pointed to how God deals with SIN, pointed to God-s way ultimate to Jesus, right?

So David's desire to inquire is like **v11 Teach me your way o Lord so he says:**

- 1 **I want to gaze on your BEUATY and**
- 2 **I want to learn your WAY!!**

So the question is **where can we gaze on HIM, see HIS BEAUTY, learn HIS way,** how HE deals with SINNERS?

Well the Answer is easy: IN HIS WORD!!!

In fact, we cannot know God unless he reveals himself to us and he has revealed himself in his Word.

As you meditate on what the Bible says, you easily come to the conclusion: **if somebody as GREAT as God, loves me like this and saves me at the infinite cost to himself, says:**

that HE never lets me go, HE will raise me at the end of time, will make me perfect... than what is my need of

- **training to still justifying my wrong behavior,** instead of admit
- **or being still worried things I don't have ... why???**

Do you realize? You move **from** learning from HIS Words, seeking HIM, learning His Way... **to enjoying His Beauty** and **being transformed** by it!

THAT'S the ONE THING!!!

We got to find time for it, we have to make time for it, it shouldn't matter how long it takes and what it takes..

Because if you have it...you are save, you are at REST!!!!

→ **In the year 1850 a group of 6 Englishmen** left on a boat to try to go to Patagonia in South America to start an Anglican mission. On the way, they were shipwrecked on an island close by, and within 1 year, they all died 1 at the time, because of exposure, thirst, hunger and sickness

The Leader, **Allen Francis Gardiner**, was the last to die, but they found later his journal.

His **last note**, while he was dying, losing everything: his life, his wife, his children, his plans... stripped of everything he writes his last words:

I am by HIS abundant GRACE, kept in perfect peace, refreshed with the sense of my Savior's love, and with an assurance, that all this is wisely and mercifully appointed.

Incredible. How could he say that his dying and losing all was wisely and mercifully planned in his savior's Love??

Stripped of everything he is overwhelmed with the goodness of God! How is that possible?

Because he had The ONE thing! He came to the point:

→ **thine is the Kingdom, the power and the Glory forever**

Gardiner said:

I've got it all in you! If I have you I have everything!

So quickly:

1. David faced the **evil of this fallen world** - but he had something
2. The **ONE-THING** : **Unbroken fellowship** with GOD
3. **How?** Gazing at the **BEAUTY**, teach me your **WAY**

4. Why was he so confident?

The Lord is my light, my stronghold, my life, I remain confident...

How dare he says: **HE will conceal me under the cover of His tent???** tabernacle- only high-priest could go in there once a year... on Yom Kippur - David is happy, confident, his Head is exalted..

Most everybody that saw God or better HIS **Shekinah Glory** remains like dead or at least deeply shaken. When:

- **Job** saw God - he repented in dust and ashes
- **Moses** came close to the Glory of God - stay away, it will kill you
- **Isiah**, went into the temple: I'm a man of unclean lips
- **Peter** came close to God: he said: please depart from me I'm a sinful man

Why is David so confident? Look what he says in v10 **Though my father and my mother forsake me, but the Lord will take me in!**

In David's time, where the Family was all and above all you would never shame your family

To be forsaken by **your mum or dad** means you really did something very, very very bad and shameful!

So David all confident says: even if I did something incredibly bad...

the Lord will take me in, HE will hide me under the cover of HIS tent...

how could David know that God would not forsake him but would take him in..

I don't know **exactly from why David** was so confident and so sure ... but I know **why we can be confident** and know that

GOD WILL ALWAYS RECEIVE US, ALWAYS TAKE US IN:

John 1:14 says: **Jesus Christ, the Word became flesh and dwelt - tabernacled - among us, and we have seen his glory, as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.**

John uses a strange Word, not simply HE **dwelt** but **tabernacled** among us that's John's way to say:

Jesus is the Tabernacle, where you can **See God's BEAUTY, HIS GLORY, HIS GRACE!**

HE is the **bridge between** Heaven and Earth... and listen: **HERE is why** we really can know that God **will not forsake** us even if we had done very bad and shameful things, that everybody else might forsake us,

**When Jesus was on the Cross, he said:
My God, my God why have you forsaken ME?**

HE was standing in YOUR place! **He was taking the forsakenness you and I deserve!**

So you, if you believe in God through Jesus Christ, you can know, no matter what you have done, HE will never forsake you,

rather will **RECEIVE** you!!! Always!

So while you struggle and seek REST from the rumbling threat and actual evil of this fallen WORLD, remember David:

One thing I ask from the Lord, this only I seek after:
that I may **dwell** in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to **gaze** upon the beauty of the Lord and
to inquire in his temple

Let us make time to dwell, to gaze, to seek HIS BEAUTY, to engage UNBROKEN FELLOWSHIP with the ONE that will ALWAYS take us in because JESUS was forsaken in our Place!

AMEN!