

"One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; 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 enquire in his temple." Ps.27:4

We return this morning to our topic of, "DESIRING ONE THING!" Here we have again a glorious craving and longing by King David. David is making a blessed request before his God that manifest his affections towards God and God's house. Oh to God that our affections were as fervent and devoted as King David. David says "ONE THING HAVE I DESIRED OF THE LORD AND THAT WILL SEEK AFTER..." David desired and sought after that one particular thing which all the saints of God should be desiring and seeking and that is, to dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of their lives. We have set forth 4 things from our chief text in Psalm 27:4:

- I. DAVID'S DESIRE.**
- II. DAVID'S DWELLING.**
- III. DAVID'S DELIGHT.**
- IV. DAVID'S DISCOVERY.**

We have seen clearly David's Desire and we will look again this morning at the second point, "David's Dwelling." We have seen that David had a singleness of purpose in his heart he had an affectionate desire. Above all things in this world David's heart burned and yearned after his God and his God's house. We also saw that this was not just lip service but a true sincerity of heart as we see David thirsting and longing to dwell in God's house. David sought one thing that would bring satisfaction to his heart and soul which is being in God's house.

Let us continue in our second point:

- II. David's Dwelling:** *"...that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life..."*

Without question David desire is clearly seen in his dwelling. David's desire had a purpose and that particular purpose in is seen in his wanting to dwell in God's house. David's desire was not only to be in God's house but to dwell in God's house. In considering our second point we are looking at another Psalm to get a better prospective at the heart of David regarding his seeking to dwell in God's house. Let us turn to Psalm 84 as we continue to speak on David's Dwelling: We opened verse 1 last

week in Psalm 84 to consider, **I. The Loveliness of God's House**, David again says, "How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts!" David says, how amiable, such beautiful language, how lovely, how pleasant, how delightful is the house of God. But we ask again what is so lovely about the Tabernacle especially when seen with the naked eye you see badger skins, rams skins dyed red, goat's hair, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen... This is what David would see with the outward eye. We ask David, what it is that makes it lovely and so amiable to you? I believe that which capture David's heart was not the building itself, but He who inhabited the building, THE MOST HIGH GOD! Again every element of the tabernacle was needful and precious to the Hebrew people, but to the true Israel of God, the true saints, the most important aspect of the tabernacle was the indweller, God Himself! David was not concerned with the outward aspect of the tabernacle, but with the inward aspect of the tabernacle, God dwelt there. God's presence was there; His radiant Shekinah Glory would be manifested to them. The tabernacle was God's place of dwelling and if God dwelt there David wanted to dwell there also. The word Tabernacle basically means a tent, a place of dwelling or a sanctuary. It was the most sacred place where God Himself chose to meet with His people. This is what made the place amiable to David, that is why it was lovely to David, God was there!

Notice again, Exodus 25:22, "And **there I will meet with thee**, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel." Exodus 29:42 & 43, "This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD: **where I will meet you**, to speak there unto thee. 43 And **there I will meet** with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory." 'THERE' is the place of God's presence; it was the special and particular presence of God to meet with His people than in all the other places. David knew that God had secured and had promised with a special blessing in the Tabernacle. This was a man after God's own heart and therefore seeks the object of his heart desire, that is, to dwell where God dwells. Notice what David says in Psalm 80:1, "Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; **thou that dwellest between the cherubims**, shine forth."

Then we also opened up verse 2, "My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God." **II. The Longing for God's House:** Here we see David's heart poured out before God, he longs for God's house, and he puts his desire into practice. Don't you just love that phrase, **"MY SOUL LONGETH!"** What passionate language as David describes his innermost feelings! What burning language from his heart! David says with such a fiery consuming zeal, "My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God." David cries out with his soul and flesh, that is, with his all and all, longing and fainting to be in God's house! What a love for God's house and what a

longing for God's house! What about you, do you have a love for God's house and do you have a longing for God's house? This brings us to our third point in Psalm 84:3.

III. The Lesson from God's House: *"Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God."* Charles Spurgeon says, *"David envied the sparrows which lived around the house of God which picked up the strayed crumbs in the courts thereof; he only wish that he, too, could frequent the solemn assemblies and bear away a little of the heavenly food."* No question that David envied the sparrow who have found a true home, a peaceful home, an house to build their nest and raise their young birds. David himself longs to be nestling as it were, in the dwelling place of God. Spurgeon continues, *"He envied also the swallows whose nests were built under the eaves of the priest's houses, who there found a place for their young as well as for themselves. We rejoice not only in our personal religious opportunities, but in the great blessing of taking our children with us to the sanctuary. The church of God is a house for us and a nest for our little ones."* Again David tells us I this text, *"Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young..."* What a beautiful illustration on the importance of raising our children in the church of the living God. If only the young understood the importance and blessing of this action by the parents. This goes along with what is said in Proverbs 22:6, *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* The phrase "when he is old," does not mean teenage years. Many parents are discouraged when their children do not seek the Lord before they leave the nest. But be assured that, that which has been planted in their hearts will one day I believe bring them back home to God's house. They may rebel, fight and renounce the things of God, but one day when troubles arise in their adult lives, guess who they will call for advice and help? And they will still hear the same answer you have been giving them their whole lives, God is the answer to all of our problems! What you need is the LORD son or daughter, regardless of your circumstances, Jesus Christ is your primary need. You'll be surprise how God's providence can break anybody's strong willed heart! All I can say to you parents is I hope you are doing what you should do as parents in raising your children, that is, as it says in Eph.6:4, *"...bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."* Look quickly at Deut.6:4-9, *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, **shall be in thine heart:** 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."* The key to this text is verse 6 that is, that these things be first in thine heart! Its real simple parents, if you don't teach your children the word of God, the world will teach your children the ways of the world, if you don't pray over you children, the devil will prey over your children. Don't expect them to come back home to God's house if you never spent time with them in God's house yourself, don't expect them to come back home to God's house if you did not

teach them from God's words. If the only time you open your Bibles with your family is at church you are asking for trouble and if the promise of Proverbs don't come true, then you can't blame God for your lack of responsibilities. Let me just say this as we move on, now more than ever, in this 21st century, more than anytime before, parents have to hone up to their responsibilities as we see society getting worse and worse and worse. My heart fears for my children and more for my children's children, God help us. Don't want to be too gloomy, but I don't want to stick my head in the sand either, there are many signs pointing to this anti-God and anti-Bible, yea, antichrist society in which we live in.

David continues by saying that the sparrow and swallow have found a house and a nest where they could lay their young and continues by saying, "...*even thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God.*" Even to the very altars did these birds draw near and there was none who could restrain them or shoo them away! David's heart and soul and flesh wished that he could also freely come and go as these sparrows did. I love this next quote, "*There were two altars; the brazen altar and the golden altar, to those, no doubt does the Psalmist refers. Both were made of shittim wood which sets forth the holy humanity and perfect manhood of Christ. Incarnation lies at the foundation of all his works for us and all our blessing in him. The one altar was overlaid with brass and the other with pure gold. The overlaying shadows forth his Godhead, but in distinct aspects. We have the same Jesus in both, but shadowed forth in different circumstances. In one the humiliation and suffering; in the other exaltation and glory.*" Then in the latter phrase, "O LORD of hosts, my King and my God," Spurgeon continues, "*Mark he repeats the blessed name of Jehovah of Hosts; he found in it a sweetness which helped him to bear his inward hunger...Here he utters his loyalty from afar. If he may not tread the courts, yet he loves the King. If an exile, he is not a rebel. When we cannot occupy a seat in God's house, he shall have a seat in our memories and a throne in our hearts. The double "my" is very precious; he lay hold upon his God with both his hands, as on resolved not to let him go till the favour requested be at length accorded.*"

Then the Psalmist says in verse 4, "*Blessed are they that dwell in God's house...*" which brings us to our 4th point here in Psalm 84:

IV. The Lasting in God's House.

To those who are visiting this assembly this morning, please don't take offense to my next statement: It does not read blessed are they that visit, but blessed are those that dwell in God's house, in other words, David is not speaking of visitors, but habitual dwellers in God's house. Not to come once in a while, but to always abide when the doors of God's house are opened! Not to come a day or two, but to be a dweller in God's house, again, to constantly abide, to be a dweller in God's house regardless of

the circumstances, trials, afflictions, hardships, persecutions, regardless of the situation, we must be dwellers at God's house. I'm not speaking primarily of this church only; I just mean that every Sunday you ought to be at a CHURCH! At the church of your choosing, but be at CHURCH, be a dweller at God's house somewhere if not at this one! Again, I understand that there are providential hindrances which can keep us away from God's house, but when it becomes a habitual thing, when it becomes a habit to miss church, you are on shaky ground, Paul in Hebrews deal with this issue for he says in Hebrews 10:23 -25, "*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)* 24 *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:* 25 *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, **as the manner of some is;** but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."* As the manner of some is, it had become a habit with many, let us not be of that group of believers, let us have some conviction in being willful and habitual dwellers at God's house! Look at the example of Christ in Luke 4:16, "*And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, **as his custom was,** he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read."* Look at the example of Paul in Acts 17:1 & 2, "*Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: 2 And Paul, **as his manner was, went in unto them,** and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures."*

Another blessed example is by the writer of Psalm 84, David himself. You know the story of David and Bathsheba, a sad story, but in spite of this we still see God working in David's life. When Bathsheba was going to have the baby, notice the actions of David in 2 Sam.15-22, please turn there with me. "*...and changed his apparel, and **came into the house of the LORD,** and worshipped..."* Do not misconstrue what I am saying, I'm not saying that if a love one dies that it is wrong to miss church, but it is wrong if it becomes a habitual thing. My point is that even in the severest trial, in the midst of adversity we ought to dwell in the house of God. Whether times are good or whether times are difficult, let us find ourselves in the house of God, that is, being dwellers, that is, as David says in Psalm 27:4, "*...that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life..."* Notice the words of David one more time from Psalm 84:1-4, "*How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts! 2 My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. 3 Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God. 4 Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah.*" Remember this is written to, "To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm for the sons of Korah." How can we forget the sons of Korah? "*Note, that the sons, that is, the posterity of wicked and rebellious Korah, have an honourable place in God's sacred and solemn service: for to them sundry of David's psalms are commended. . . . Here see the verifying of God's word, for the comfort of all godly children, that the son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, Eze 18:14,17,20, if he see his father's sins and turn from them.*" Thomas Pierson (1570-1633). To

the Chief Musician upon Gittith, the Hebrew word 'gath,' mean winepress, this is a plural form of that word gath, thus, Gittith means winepresses, or sweeter than the blessed joy of the wine press. The idea or concept is that when applied here to this Psalm 84, it speaks of the glorious joy of those who assemble in God's house! Therefore, **"To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm for the sons of Korah."** Let us learn something of this, the joy of the Lord is also seen in the assemblies of the Lord's house, when God's people gather together to come from their homes and gather in God's house to worship and praise the Living and True God and I emphasize again, that I take the position that the highest form of worship is the PREACHED WORD! Let's pray. Let's sing Psalm 27:4