

## Chapter 34      ONE THING WILL I SEEK

Psalm 27:4

**“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 enquire in His temple”**

.....

David follows on with the words;

*“When you said, ‘Seek My face,’ my heart said to You,  
‘Your face, LORD, I will seek’.” (27:8)*

A paraphrased version of these verses from the Living Bible are rather special and are quoted below:

*“The one thing I want from God, the thing I seek most of all, is the privilege of meditating in His temple, living in His presence every day of my life, delighting in His incomparable perfections and glory.” (Psalm 27:4, LB)*

*“My heart has heard You say, ‘Come and talk with Me O my people.’ And my heart responds, ‘LORD, I am coming.’ Ps27:8*

These verses speak for themselves, revealing David’s single-minded desire to listen, hear, speak and walk with God every moment of his life, and so, he ‘beheld’.

We may be aware that sometimes we miss the richness of the words we read and the enormity of their content. We live in an ever-hurrying world and taking time to muse thoughtfully doesn’t always happen, does it? Reminds me of our food, which doesn’t do us much good if we rush our meals!

The rich treasure of the Word is nutritious food that, if ‘chewed on’ and properly ‘digested’ will bring lasting benefit to our spiritual health. Our reflecting allows the inseparable Word and the Spirit to do their valuable work in us in God’s purpose of maturing us into the image of Christ.

In David’s ‘beholding’, he learned humility, accepting rebukes from others with grace. On one occasion, a man called Shimei cursed David along the road. David’s men wanted to kill him but David did not agree, receiving the rebuke as from the Lord, saying “*Let him alone, and let him curse; for so the Lord has ordered him*” and David continued on the way, with Shimei still cursing him as he went and throwing stones at him. (2 Samuel 16:5-13)

On another occasion, on being made aware of his grievous sin in a rebuke from Nathan, David responded and acknowledged his sin. In his grief, the deeply moving Psalm 51 came into being, the cry of a truly repentant heart that knew a reverent awe of the holiness of God and was overcome by the realisation of the depth of his own sin. He acknowledged his transgressions and pleaded with God to “*Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a steadfast spirit within me ... Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation...*” He knew that God does not require any attempt to appease but desires and accepts a “*broken and contrite heart*” (Psalm 51:10, 12 & 17).

As well as learning true humility, David saw with a depth of realisation, the cost and the depth of God’s forgiveness to himself and to mankind. In ‘beholding’, he learned to forgive, forgiving his son, Absalom, who pursued his father to kill him (2 Samuel, chapters 13-18) In such betrayal by his own son, David did not cease loving him, and great was his grief at Absalom’s death. In being given such a vivid understanding of the cost to God of forgiveness, David penned the prophetic Psalm 22, looking ahead to the agony of our Saviour on the cross, paying the price of his and our redemption.

Trials and sufferings were many in David's life, and, at times in these situations he experienced anxiety, discouragement and depression, but how encouraging it is to us to see that David acknowledged these things to himself and to God and how he dealt with them. He came to a certainty of knowing that he was helped **only** by a deliberate choice of turning his focus from his problem and onto the mercy and faithfulness of God that he had unfailingly received in many times of need. He chose to 'remember' and to encourage himself, speaking out with faith declarations.

David's faith held firm through his trials; he encouraged Himself that God was his 'rock', his 'refuge' and would never leave him. David knew God as his Helper, Deliverer, Friend, in fact as the God who is the All-Sufficient One, the One who was his very life. We also see that, in spite of the trials, David knew fullness of joy from his 'beholding' of God, speaking of that joy in many of his Psalms.

Through the gloomy clouds of trials, he looked to the Light – the Light that kept him in the *“joy of His salvation!”*

David's faith grew as he 'beheld', as he gladly received the Word and the work of the Spirit into his heart, and so coming into a trust that declared, *“As for God, His way is perfect; the Word of the LORD is proven, He is a shield to all who trust in Him.”* (2 Samuel 22:31). David 'looked into' the face of the Lord and absorbed all that emanated from there in revelation of Himself.

God used David's 'beholding' in the most wonderful way, through the psalms that he wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, psalms that have blessed through the ages and will continue to bring encouragement, comfort and guidance in giving revelation of the *“beauty of the Lord”*. (Psalm 27:4)

We may desire to pray that our 'beholding' will be used in God's way in our lives, our declaration being:

*“But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord, I say ‘You are **my** God.’”*

(Psalm 31:14)

So this little book closes with the word:

**“BEHOLD”**

*“The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world”*

(John 1:29)

*“... who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our words, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”: (2 Timothy 1:9)*

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**

**Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,  
And whose hope is in the LORD;  
For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters,  
Which spreads out its roots by the river,  
And will not fear when heat comes;  
But her leaf will be green,  
And will not be anxious  
In the years of drought  
Nor will cease from yielding fruit.**

**Jeremiah 17:7-8**