Righteous Desires

*Proverbs 10:24*

***What the wicked fears shall come upon him; but the desire of the righteous shall be granted***

What an unbeliever dreads in his own mind will be his outcome, because sooner or later it will come upon him. What is an unbelievers most dreaded thing? That Christians are right, that there is a God, who is just and righteous and that they will be found out. So an unbeliever has fear of distresses, calamities and judgements in this life and the eternal life and the wrath that he will face.

The greatest atheists who spend their lives trying to disprove God have at times in their lives frights and fears about things and as their fear of God is so shall His wrath be.

For example the builders of the Tower of Babel were afraid of being scattered upon the face of the earth so that thing which they feared came upon them through and for building that tower and so it is that the very thing which men fear comes upon them by the means which they take to prevent it; the Jews were afraid that if their people believed in Jesus of Nazareth, the Romans would come and seize their city and their nation. So they persuaded the Jews to reject Him, and for that rejection of Him, the thing they feared came upon them.

Job 3:25 says “For the thing which I greatly feared has come upon me, and that which I was afraid of has come to me.”

But the desire of the righteous shall be granted. God shall give it, because He has it in the power of His hands to give it. What a righteous person desires from right principles and with right views and what is for his own good and the glory of God and then with submission to the divine will and is according to it, sooner or later and in God’s time and way it will be granted to them, particularly their desires after righteousness.

What are righteous desires? That we are made more like him, that we are found in Him, the bible says that we are hidden in God through Christ.

God is willing to provide for us, he forgives our sins, to save our souls, to befriend us in trials, to comfort us in death, to extend the Gospel through the world. Man can ask no higher things of God and these he may ask, assured that He is willing to grant them.

When we ask amiss that’s when we get frustrated because we ask not for Godly things but things to fulfil our lusts.

Desires of our heart

Our prayer should be make your desires, my desires. Psalm 37:4-5 says “Take delight in the Lord and He will give you your hearts desires. Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust Him and He will help you.

David here calls us to take delight in the Lord and commit everything we have and do for him, but how do we do this?

To delight in someone means to experience great pleasure and joy in his or her presence. This happens only when we know that person well. So to delight in the Lord we must know Him better. Knowledge of God’s great love for us will give us great delight. Tell yourself daily God loves me!

To commit ourselves to the Lord means entrusting everything – our lives, families, job, possessions to His control and guidance. To commit ourselves to the Lord means to trust in Him believing that He can care for us better than we can care for ourselves. We should be willing to wait patiently for Him to work into us what is best for us.

The Greek meaning of the word delight, means to be soft and pliable. So we need to be soft and pliable, bend, able to move when God speaks it also means to seek our happiness in God. Live in His glorious freedom, fully surrendered to Him.

The thing that gets in the way is our pride. Pride gets in the way of our relationship to God and if we have any pride in us that we think we can do better than God, then God can’t work in us. We have to be fully emptied of self (pride). Pride caused the fall of Lucifer from heaven and a third of the angels that followed him. Pride caused Eve to be tempted to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Pride (self) is mankind’s greatest enemy, because it robs us of our relationship with God and the abundant blessings that come from that relationship. It robs us of the desires of our hearts.

When in Psalm 37:4 it says “and He shall give you the desires of your heart” that literally means the “askings” or “requests”. In other words what you really desire will be granted of you.

If we seek happiness in the world (system). God won’t give us those desires which are borne of Him. Until we reach a point of complete emptiness of self and recognise that we only have our being and existence in and through God and that we can only do anything through His strength, when we acknowledge that His strength is perfected in our weakness, then will God really move and restore us to His glorious presence.

When we seek happiness in Him only, He will regulate your desires so that you will be disposed to ask for only those things which will be proper for Him to grant and the fact that you do find happiness in Him will be a reason why He will grant your desires.

As much as when our children do things which pleas us we are then more likely to grant them their desires. God will only give us what is best for us.

What does it mean to delight in the Lord then? It means to delight in God the Father, the Son and Spirit; in the perfectness of God; His power; goodness; faithfulness; wisdom; love; grace; mercy; in His works of creation, providence and redemption; in His word, His Gospel; the truths and ordinances of it; in His house; in His people; and each of these afford delight and pleasure and we can apply, contemplate and meditate upon these things.

Then He will give us our desires, because they are His desires and they are better than what we want.

Here are 2 examples of Righteous desire granted

1. Hannah 1 Samuel 1:11-20

And she vowed a vow and said, O, Lord of Hosts, if You will indeed look upon the affliction of Your handmaid and remember me, and not forget Your handmaid, but will give to Your handmaid a man-child, then I will give him to Jehovah all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head. And it happened as she continued praying before Jehovah, Eli noticed her mouth. Now Hannah spoke in her heart, only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. And Eli thought she had become drunk. And Eli said to her, How long will you be drunken? Put away your wine from you! And Hannah answered, No, my lord, I *am* a woman of a sorrowful spirit. I have neither drunk wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before Jehovah. Do not count your handmaid for a daughter of wickedness, for out of the abundance of my meditation and grief I have spoken until now. And Eli answered and said, Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant *to you* your petition that you have asked of Him. And she said, Let your handmaid find grace in your sight. So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer *sad*. And they rose up in the morning early, and worshiped before Jehovah, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and Jehovah remembered her. And it happened when the time had come around, Hannah conceived and bore a son and called his name Samuel, *saying*, Because I have asked him of Jehovah.

1. Simeon Luke 2:25-30

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name *was* Simeon. And this man *was* just and devout, waiting for *the* Consolation of Israel. And *the* Holy Spirit was on him. And it happened to him, being instructed by the Holy Spirit, he was not to see death before he would see *the* Christ of *the* Lord. And he came by the Spirit into the temple. And *as* the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do according to the custom of the Law concerning Him, even he received Him in his arms and blessed God, and said, Lord, now You will let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word. For my eyes have seen Your Salvation

What are God’s desires? LOVE

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Love | Him | Deut 6:5  | Matt 22:37 |
| Love | Neighbours (Good Samaritan) | Lev 19:18  | Matt 22:39 |
| Love | Strangers | Deut 10:19 |  |
| Love | Salvation | Psalm 40:16 |  |
| Love | God’s name | Psalm 119:132 |  |
| Love | God’s Word | Psalm 119:113 |  |
| Love | Wisdom | Prov 4:6 |  |
| Love | Good | Amos 5:15 |  |
| Love | Mercy | Micah 6:8 |  |
| Love | Truth | Zech 8:19 | 2 Thess 2:10 |
| Love | Peace | Zech 8:19 |  |
| Love | Enemies | Matt 5:44 | Luke 6:27 |
| Love | One another, brethren, saints | John 13: 34-35 |  |
| Love | Husbands | Titus 2:4 |  |
| Love | Wives | Eph 5:25 |  |
| Love | Children | Titus 2:4 |  |

How and how much to Love?

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| --- | --- | --- |
| As one loves oneself | Matt 22:39 |  |
| Exceedingly | Psalm 119:167 |  |
| As Christ loves us | John 15:12 |  |
| Enough to lay down our lives for others | John 15:13 |  |
| Without hypocrisy | Romans 12:9 |  |
| By the Holy Ghost | 2 Corinth 6:6 |  |
| In sincerity | 2 Corinth 8:8 |  |
| By service to one another | Galatians 5:13 |  |
| Forebearing one another | Ephesians 4:2 |  |
| With a pure heart fervently | 1 Peter 1:22 |  |
| As Brethren | Romans 12:9 | 1 Peter 3:8 |
| Not in word but in deed | 1 John 3:18 |  |
| Without fear | 1 John 4:18 |  |

Here are 14 things that constitute biblical Godly happiness

1. God will help us in all our problems
2. Hope in God
3. The backing of the power that created all things
4. God to be faithful to truth
5. God to execute justice for the oppressed
6. The continued providence of God
7. God to liberate from prison
8. God to heal blind eyes
9. God to raise up when one is bowed down and defeated
10. God’s unfailing love
11. God’s preservation
12. God’s relief of suffering of the fatherless and widows
13. God’s vengeance on the wicked
14. God is the eternal ruler of man

Fifteen Requests to make of God (desires)

1. Let me never be confused
2. Deliver me in righteousness
3. Cause me to escape
4. Incline your ear to me
5. Save me
6. Be my strong habitation
7. Deliver me from the wicked
8. Let my mouth be filled with praise and honour to you only
9. Cast me not off in my old age
10. Forsake me not when I have no strength left
11. Be not far from me
12. Make haste to help me
13. Let my adversaries that seek to harm me be confused
14. Let my adversaries suffer the reproach and dishonour they set for me
15. Forsake me not

Charles Spurgeon said “It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness”

Lets ask God for His desires to be our desires and be joyful in our hearts towards Him.

When at night you cannot sleep, talk to the Shepherd and stop counting sheep.