



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
FAIR OAKS RANCH

Day 27: One Thing I Ask

Psalm 27:4 *One thing have I asked 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 gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple. (ESV)*

DEVOTIONAL

Of all the things that David could have asked God — victory over enemies, security for his throne, relief from his many troubles - he narrows all his desires down to a single, burning request: “One thing have I asked of the Lord.” Everything in his heart stems from one true longing; to dwell in God’s presence and to gaze upon His beauty. This is what a soul looks like when abiding has become its deepest desire. Two things he wants once he comes into the presence of the Lord: to “gaze upon the beauty of the Lord” and to “inquire in his temple.” The Hebrew for “gaze” is *chazah* — to behold, to look upon with delight and attention, the way you would contemplate something breathtaking and couldn’t pull your eyes away. “Beauty” is *noam* — the pleasantness, the delightfulness, the loveliness of God. David isn’t in God’s presence out of sheer duty; he’s there because God Himself is beautiful, and David can’t get enough of observing Him. A.W. Tozer wrote memorably about the “gaze of the soul”. That the essence of the walk with God is a continual, inward looking toward Him, the heart’s eyes fixed on God through all the activity of the day.

This reframes what abiding is really for. We can reduce our walk with God to seeking things from Him such as answers, help, blessings, health or His favor. Those aren’t wrong to seek. But David shows us something higher: the goal is the presence of God Himself. The greatest gift of time with the Lord is not what we get from Him, but the time we spend with Him.

This is quietly transforming for the pursuit of purity. We become like what we spend time with, what we appreciate and what we hold in high esteem. The soul that gazes at the beauty of the Lord is slowly reshaped by that beauty, drawn upward and outward from the ugliness of sin. The reason worldly pleasures lose their luster is not that we have talked ourselves out of them, but that we have seen

something incomparably more beautiful. Fix the gaze of your soul on the loveliness of God today, and the worldly attractions that once pulled us begin, on their own, to lose their shine.

TAKE AWAY

You become like what enamors you. Fix the gaze of your soul on the beauty of the Lord today, and the cheap attractions of sin start to lose their shine next to Him.

PRAYER PROMPT

Ask the Lord to make Him your “one thing” — to give you a heart that longs above all to dwell with Him and gaze on His beauty.