

The Desires of the Heart

Ps 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

Who among us is bold enough in Christ to stand before God and dare ask God to search our hearts? Yet I know I have dared and know of many other saints that faithfully pray this verse. Not because of their righteousness but because they have believed the Word of God and that they are His.

In the Bible we are taught our own heart is the most deceitful and to be guarded lest we be led down that proverbial pathway into sin against God. Yet there are those who are at peace with God and dare approach His throne of grace.¹

Ro 9:2 That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.

How can it be that a true saint of God can have such deep longings and sorrows? Yet I know many who from all outward appearances are such saints and who have what to man are legitimate desires that are not met in this life. Though we are as sure as mere mortals can be God is there and has a plan in His mercy just for us, the desires never abate and many go to their graves still praying without an apparent answer. How can these things be?

We readily acknowledge that the wisdom and ways of God are far above our own and past our understanding or finding out, it brings little solace in such places in life. Our faith is tried sorely every day as we continue to walk in the path of righteousness, yet seeking that blessing that is our heart's desire. The Words of the Psalmist become our own: Ps 143:4 *"Therefore is my spirit overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is desolate."*

Ec 1:13 And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith.

Such ways have been the ways of God among His people from the beginning. We could say consider faithful Job and note his end was better than his beginning. While this is a biblical truth, it is not a universal answer to hurting souls. In this verse we see the wisest man in the things of God searching for this very peace and understanding of God. Solomon will end this treatise as he began, searching yet finding not. He reaches the right conclusion even as many saints afterwards have, live for God and praise His holy name. Nonetheless, the soul deep hurt marches ever forward and from earth prayers appear to go unanswered.

Jer 8:18 When I would comfort myself against sorrow, my heart is faint in me.

A song, the words of a friend, a sermon, or our daily Bible readings may give strength and hope for a moment, but the hurt of the soul remains and our heart is faint within as we struggle to understand and to praise God from this place within a pit in life's road. Saint Francis said we do not know the

¹ Rom. 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

depth or breadth of our faith until it hits a pot hole in life. Truly we are warned by God in Scripture and daily see the trail of our faith as if by fire. Yet the desires of the heart are the only constant as we feel the troubled waters within and stumble forward in God's own light. Wisdom will not stay these desires of the heart and the lack of answers we understand from God only deepen the mire at the bottom of the pit.

Dan 7:28 Hitberto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.

Most often we cannot share these soul deep hurts and needs with others, the experience hurts too much. We pray and we ponder these things in our own heart. The prayers continually ascend into heaven, when oh when O' Lord is this season over? Friends and others ask, what is wrong? Our only answer is a smile and a quiet nothing.

How many are the triggers in life that bring these soul deep emotions to the surface and hidden tears falling around us like a summer storm? They are as the sands of the sea it seems, and we have no place to turn where we are not reminded, where Lord is there the promised peace?

Ecc 9:1 For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them.

We know full well the Word of God is sure and that He never leaves us. The words of Rom. 8:28 are constantly before us.² How well we know and understand this precious promise. The Lord has promised His grace is sufficient for us.³ Here is both the answer and hope to sustain us through this season, though it may be for a lifetime on earth. By faith and prayer we do have access to the mighty power and comfort of God.⁴ His grace is indeed sufficient for us, though for now we rest on a watery bed of tears.

Hold this verse close to your heart and faint not: *Ps 30:5 For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.* The Lord's timing is not ours and past finding out but we can take comfort that He always hears our prayers and has our good first in His heart. Our lack of understanding will not diminish this truth the least amount. God's Word stands forever. Truly: *Ps 92:2 To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.*

Take heart and as we are commanded, faint not for *the just shall live by faith.* Trusting God claim the desires of your heart and then patiently await the answer of the Lord whose promises are sure.

Dr. Chuck Baynard - April 2009

² 28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

³ 2Co 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

⁴ Ps 10:17 LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:

Ps 38:9 Lord, all my desire is before thee; and my groaning is not hid from thee.

Ps 145:19 He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.