

## David's Vow – To Inquire in His Temple

**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 inquire in His temple.

David's desire expressed in Psalm 27:4 is that he's going to give his heart to developing friendship and love with God.

The friendship side of that is found in David's commitment 'to inquire in His temple.' In addition to a man of worship, David was a man of prayer. He had a deep revelation of God's heart, both generally and prophetically, and he would cry out to the Lord based on that revelation.

### I. The Need for Intercession

**John 17:20** “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. 24 “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. 26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

#### A. Prayer is about relationship

1. It is based on relationship with God – We can only talk to God because He desires relationship with us. We can only ask Him for things because of how He feels toward us.
2. It is the basis of our relationship with God – Like any relationship, communication drives our relationship with God. We will never connect with Him outside of talking to Him.
3. At it's most basic, we pray because God wants us to – because He wants us in His presence and in relationship with Him.

#### B. What our prayer life looks like, then, determines what our relationship looks like.

1. God has something in particular in mind for our relationship.
2. God designed prayer with that relationship in mind.
3. God delights in having any kind of relationship with us – He loves our adoration, He loves our small talk, He loves our trusting in Him when we have a need.
4. But God has something more in mind for our relationship – He wants partnership. He wants us with Him where He is. He wants us to walk with Him.

#### C. Intercession is prayer that comes from the heart of God.

1. It comes from our God-given dominion – we have not because we ask not.
2. It's about standing in the gap before God.
3. It's about connecting our hearts with His.
4. It's about connecting our world and our time with His eternal desires.

#### D. Intercession is more than just a ministry. It is a ministry, both to God and to men, but it's a ministry God assigns to us because it is absolutely necessary for us to tap into the kind of relationship He desires to have with us.

1. Intercession is necessary to maintain a genuine, two-way relationship with God.

- a. Two-sided in its direction – I talk and I also listen
  - b. Two-sided in its focus – we talk about what's on my heart, but also about what's on His
2. Without intercession, our prayer life becomes one-sided.
- E. Intercession is about tracking the movements of God's heart
- 1. It is our God-given means for running with Him, for being with Him where He is.
  - 2. God is alive and moving, intercession is how we move with Him.

## II. The Need for Inquiry

- A. Uniting with the desires of God. This life is less about attaining what we desire, and more about improving what we desire. In eternity, God has promised He will satisfy our heart's desires. What will that look like?
- B. Breakthrough in intercession comes from discovering God's will.  
God in His wisdom, ordained prayer such that it's power comes only as we search out His will and come into agreement with it  
**1 John 5:14** Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.
- C. Living according to God's desires  
**Romans 8:5** Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; 7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.  
**John 5:30** By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and My judgment is just, for **I seek not to please Myself but Him who sent Me.**
- D. Discovering God's heart (in the general sense) gives us a grid for knowing God's will (in the specific sense)  
**Romans 12:2** Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is— his good, pleasing and perfect will.
- E. Being transformed in our hearts is necessary to be instruments of God's power  
**Matthew 9:17** Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.  
**2 Chronicles 16:9** For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

## III. Keys to Inquiring

- A. Inquiring of His heart
- 1. What we're inquiring of is His heart, not so much His stance on the issues.
  - 2. A great deal of what we need to know in order to rightly understand God's heart on a particular issue is God's heart on some general issues.
    - a. God is a constant force – His heart, His nature never change no matter what the issues of the day may be.
    - b. While God will give specific revelation on His heart on a specific issue, mostly what we're after is for our hearts to become more like His to where we can discern how He would feel about a particular issue (Romans 12:2).
  - 3. Our primary source for finding revelation of God's heart is His Word.
    - a. It's everywhere – but we have to ask 'why?' What is God thinking and feeling as He says what He says and does what He does.

- b. Engaging with the Holy Spirit in dialog through prayer will bring out so much more of God's heart rather than just stories or commands.

B. Four things that we must understand about God:

1. He is a God of compassion

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

- a. Compassion is Jesus' major motivation in much of His ministry (Mt 9:35-38, 14:14, 15:32, 18:27, Mk 6:34). It's something we need to get a hold of if we are going to be able to minister alongside Him.
- b. God shows compassion to all, without warrant, and He wants our hearts to grow up into that heart.

**Matthew 5:43** “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

2. He is a God of love

**Ephesians 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

- a. God's love is distinct from His compassion. It is more than just a desire to save us. It is a desire to have us.
- b. God feels actual affection and longing

3. He is a God of justice

**Isaiah 42:1** “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. 2 He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. 3 A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth. 4 He will not fail nor be discouraged, Till He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands shall wait for His law.”

**Jeremiah 9:23** Thus says the LORD: “ Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; 24 But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD.

4. He is a God of purpose

**Isaiah 46:9** Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,’

- a. Something major shifts when we begin to believe not only that God acts on the earth, but that He acts with purpose – that this is all going somewhere.
- b. That single skewed perception of God – that He is purposeless (the scoffing spirit of 2 Pet 3) will absolutely destroy our prayer life, and our ability to rightly understand God.

- c. Our friendship with God is based on Him revealing to us His purposes.

**John 15:15** No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My

Father I have made known to you.

C. Four major prayer topics

1. The nations

**1 Timothy 2:1** I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

2. The church

**Ephesians 6:18** praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

a. The vast majority of the recorded prayers in the Bible are for the church (or Israel in the OT).

b. The status of the church is not only dear to God's heart as the ones He loves, it is directly connected to every other thing that is on God's heart. God wants the lost saved, but He wants them brought in to a dynamic, living church by a dynamic, living church acting in partnership with Him. He wants justice, but He wants it to come through us acting in partnership with Him.

3. Justice

**Luke 18:7** And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

4. The kingdom

**Matthew 6:9** In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

a. Perhaps the greatest example of this is the prayer meeting that launches the church.

**Acts 1:3** to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God... 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem... 13 ...they went up into the upper room where they were staying... 14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication... **2:1** When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place... 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...

D. Take it up in prayer

1. The simple revelation that God cares about something should be enough to kick us in to prayer mode.
2. Very rarely will God suddenly download a burden for something that we have not committed to carry in prayer.
3. Inquire (by common English definition) means to seek to find out by asking.
4. As we start taking the issue before the Lord in prayer, He will start to reveal more and more of what's on His heart. Take the time to actually ask Him for His heart on the issue, and then listen. But start praying and as your praying, keep listening – what resonates and what does not?

5. We have a great tendency, especially when something new is brought before our eyes, to shake our heads at the extent of the crisis without ever actually turning around and lifting it up in prayer and asking God what the solution is that He has prepared.
6. Apostolic prayers
  - a. Throughout the Bible, the Holy Spirit inspired that certain prayers (of Christ, His apostles, the OT saints) be recorded. These are God's provision by His Spirit to 'teach us how to pray'.
  - b. They are an absolute safe place to begin praying for any issue. These prayers are always on God's heart.
  - c. The apostolic prayers have such depth to them that they can keep us praying them forever, but a simplicity to them that lets us begin praying immediately. They come complete with a God-given focus, angle and language.

E. Be careful how you hear

**Luke 8:16** “No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light. 17 For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light. 18 Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.”

1. One of the alternate definitions for the Hebrew word used for inquire is to care for. It's the picture of a shepherd searching for his sheep – to care for them. It's used that way several times in Ezekiel.
2. God so wants us to hear His heart and respond that He set Himself up for heartache if we don't.

**Ezekiel 22:30** So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. 31 Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads,” says the Lord GOD.

3. With the privilege of knowing God's heart comes the responsibility of stewarding God's emotions.
4. Set your heart to become one that God can trust with His.

F. The journey of discovering God's heart

1. The literal meaning of the root word used for inquire is to plow. We are breaking up the ground of our hearts to make it possible for God's desires to flourish in us.
2. God wants to develop perseverance in us as we're seeking the burdens of His heart. Why? Because if we don't develop it during the seeking of the burden we won't have it when we get to the actual carrying of the burden.
3. Song of Songs is all about the transformation of the beloved to become one in heart with the Lover. At first she is content in her own home, as He looks in at her, beckoning her to follow Him where He's going (2:8-14). By the end, her desires are in line with His. She “dwells in the garden” (8:13) where He is found ministering (6:2). She shows her love for Him in the vineyards (7:12) which speaks of ministry and she is the one calling to Him – let us go (7:11).

**Song of Songs 2:7 (also 3:5,8:4)** Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.

4. Dwelling in the courts of the Lord is a journey.
 

**Psalms 84:4** Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; They will still be praising You.  
 5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, Whose heart is set on pilgrimage.