

Longings of the Soul Psalm 107:8, 9

Psalm 107:8-9 "Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men! 9 For He satisfies the longing soul, And fills the hungry soul with goodness."

The Psalmist declares to us that the Lord is the one who **Satisfies the Longing Soul.**

A)But here is what I find that is interesting – I look around me – I see a lot of **discontented people.**

B)I see a lot of people who don't seem satisfied at all.

Even in the Church.

C)All around us – hearts that are filled with longings

There is a longing in their hearts for **something more /something better / something else**

A)Example: I have an iPhone 5s – Really like it – way better than the iPhone 4/ Size – Sleek – features

B)Really happy with my phone: Heard about the 6 and wasn't interested – **Happy with the 5s**

C)Until – Some of the people I work with got the iPhone 6's - (Something in me – You need one of those!

1)**ANOTHER YEAR CONTRACT – 7'S** will be out

It can happen for no apparent reason

A)I have had times in my life where everything is going great – nothing to complain about

B)Suddenly I feel this restlessness in my soul!

1)No reason – I am suddenly dealing with feelings of Discontentment

C)Have you ever found yourself saying something like

1)**My Job would be better if.....**

D)My marriage would be better if

1) **My kids are great but**

There are so many things in our lives where we have this sense of **wanting something more/ else/better.**

A)Now the point of this message today is not to point out that we are **an ungrateful people.**

B)NOT AT ALL – but I want to help us better understand how the discontentment that we deal with is **somewhat normal.**

C)) Because as believers we have a **built in longing** for **three distinct things** – placed there by the Lord.

1)This built in longing is there because of God's Spirit

D)This **built in longing** is there because God's spirit has been placed in our hearts

1)It is His presence in our lives that is creating this longing for **three distinct things.**

E)What are those things:

#1 Intimacy with God.

#2 Heaven

#3 An Eternal Purpose.

Now If we understand what it is we are really longing for and how that is satisfied

A)It will help us to better understand and **navigate** through the feelings of discontentment we feel in this life.

B)So that is what I want to break down for us today/ but before we go there

C)I want to start by looking at **3 common enemies** of contentment that we can struggle with.

Enemy# 1 Unfair Comparisons:

A)My wife and I have been married 28 yrs

B) Youth Pastor – Broke – \$700 Mo/\$450 rent!

1) Somewhere nice - Honey moon { Sizzler

C) We still like Sizzler – great!

D) But then we went to Ruth's Chris { **Now I have tendency to Judge a Steak by RC**

Ever have this Happen? You go to a friends house - nicer stuff -

A) I wish my Kitchen looked liked that - my backyard had that pool.

B) Problem is - that couple is in a whole different economic class

C) **Mistake many young couples make.** compare with couples - married 20 yrs - charge card to furnish house - **Major debt - STRESS**

D) Numbers 34 Moses – assigning areas to Children of Israel – Borders –

1) **Cross that – Stretched beyond measure**

E) **God has an allotment for you – area for you designed by Him –**

1) Job where he has planted you / Neighborhood **Bloom where you are planted!**

#1 Unfair Comparisons

Enemy #2 Unnoticed Blessings

A) Easy to take for granted what we have ! – **Amy (curly hair)**

B) **Easy to have that happen – walks become routine**

1) Devotions going thru the motions – **Worship lacks passion**

C) **Completely lost sight of how blessed we are!**

1) Easy to take for granted our Blessings

D) We have so many reasons to praise the Lord

1) Salvation – **Heaven not Hell**

E) **We are Rich** - “Not Rich – Christmas bill”

1) **Recent study:** If your family income is \$10,000 a year, you are wealthier than 84 percent of the world.

2) If you earn \$50,000 or more a year, you make more than 99 percent of the rest of the world.

But it is so easy to get focused on what is wrong we don't see what is right

A) **John the Baptist** – Look at what is happening See what I am doing

B) Enemy #1 Unfair comparisons
Enemy #2 Unnoticed Blessings

C) Enemy #3 An unrealistic Ideal

Enemy #3 An unrealistic Ideal

A) American Christian myths -

B) Here is one - Often times in our Christian world – we are led to believe that God's blessings means – **no problems – life free from difficulty**

C) Health is good, family is good, wealth - How is it going? – I am blessed.

C) But is that really the definition of God's blessing – a **life that is free of difficulty?** (**American Myth**)

Myth- “God will not give me more than I can handle.”

A) God is always giving us more than we can handle

B) That is often how He moves us from being **self dependent to God dependent.**

Bb) Can anyone say – Red Sea – Jericho – Goliath – Gideon – 300 men up against 185,000

C) So many of **God's most blessed saints** – went through incredible times of suffering.

❖ David – 15 yrs fugitive

❖ Joseph – 13 yrs Slavery – prison

❖ Paul the apostle – shipwrecks, beatings, prison, Martyred

D) Everything these men went through was more than they could handle on their own.

1)Through the struggles they learned to depend upon God and the sufficiency of His Grace.

E)So those are three common enemies of contentment we battle with

Now let's consider – these three built in longings – Believer!

#1 We are longing for Intimacy with God!

Turn to Gal 4:6

A) Here in Galatians Ch.4 – Paul is building a case for how we have been brought out of Slaves to sin

B) To become Children of God - Read v.6

“**And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"**”

C) Now this is amazing to me – God has placed His Spirit in our hearts – { **Residence in us – WOW!**

1) What is He doing there? Crying out Abba Father

Now most of you Know – Abba means Daddy

A) Most intimate of expressions in Hebrew culture at the time – Reserved for privacy of the home

B) God has placed the Spirit of His son in our hearts and what is He doing – Crying out to Daddy

C) In other words – **He is longing for intimacy and closeness with God**

This is the first thing – I need to realize when I start to feel discontent with this life { Longing soul

A)It is the reason why when I wake up in the morning – **feel this sense – Get into the word**

B)Spend sometime with the Lord before **running into my day!**

1)Not simply because I have heard my Pastors say I should do that.

C)**Bigger than that** – greater than that – God's spirit in my heart is tugging me in that direction.

D)Reminding me: My heavenly Father is waiting for me!

1)Wants to talk – wants to share – wants to impart life into my day

The First thing I need to understand my soul is longing for is for intimacy with God!

A)What I am longing **for is not** a new car / Bigger house / better paying Job –

B) Those are not the things that are going to **satisfy my longing soul –**

1) What I am longing for **is more of Jesus**

C)**Intimacy is what He desires with me! – Key thing to realize –**

1)Mark 3:14 **He chose 12 to be with Him –** Called them to Himself –

D)More than what you can do for God – He just wants you to be with Him!

E)Every single day the Holy Spirit in your heart is seeking to pull you in that direction.

So first built in Longing is for intimacy w/ God

Longing #2 - Heaven - 2 Corinthians 5

A)Here Paul keys in on the fact this life is temporal

B)Feel it in our bodies! – Wake up aches and pains

1)Bodies Grown.

C)Need a new Body! – This one is Falling apart

D)God has given us this promise – we are going to receive a habitation from Heaven –

1)Mortal will put on immortality.

E)Promise is Sure: Holy Spirit as a Guarantee

1)DOWN PAYMENT

ALSO Engagement ring – For a woman – represents a longing – IN HER HEART- Distance

A)One day me and my Guy!

B)Holy Spirit in our hearts is always seeking to remind us – THIS WORLD NOT YOUR HOME

1)Pilgrims & SOUJOURNERS

- Vagabond – Doesn't have a home
- Pilgrim - Someone who has left their home
- Sojourner - Someone who is going home!

D) Hebrews 3:1 Partakers of a heavenly Calling

1) Holy spirit reminds us – Heaven is calling

E) We are passing thru - Live like it

**The World around us lives for temporal Pleasure
God wants us to live with eternity in view**

A) Eternal over the temporal

B) Eternity is what Matters

1) Ecclesiastes 3:11 – **God has put eternity in our hearts** {Sense there is something beyond this life!}

C) If you are **not a believer** today – Life cycle – running from one thing to the next - VOID

1) **Made to live in Relationship with God** – Void – only Jesus can fill – {Good as it gets / Bad...}

Those who are believers – we need to understand

A) **Stewards here: Rewarded there**

1) Use what I have been given for His glory

B) Legacy in eternity – Lives we have impacted

C) Last Generation {Consider we could be that

Longing #3 An Eternal Purpose!

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

**WORKMANSHIP = POEMA – POEM
ANY WORK OF ART – MASTERPIECE**

Here is what is really interesting – When God says of you that you are His workmanship.

A) What makes us His workmanship **is not** the fact that He made our bodies and fashioned us physically

B) In other words God is not talking **Human Anatomy** – when he calls us his Masterpiece.

C) You are His workmanship – because of **redemption** – **Created IN CHRIST**

1) **IN CHRIST** is the key phrase there.

A Christian is God's greatest Creation! We ALONE are called his MASTERPIECE!

A) Spoke the World into existence – 6 days
HEAVENS DECLARE..... TRUE

B) **This world is not called His masterpiece!**

1) But we are! – WHY?

C) What did it take to make a Christian?

1) Jesus left heaven – Cross – Resurrection

SO PAUL DECLARES – WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP –

MASTERPIECE...making!

A) Think of a work of Art – Painting, Song, Poem

B) Art is often times the Expression of the Artist

1) Sad = Sad song – Achy Breaky
Sad – Poem – Dark Painting

C) Happy – Happy Song

D) **The Art is the expression of the Artist!**

E) God is an Artist – WE GET TO BE AN EXPRESSION OF WHO – HE IS – HOW?

Created for Good Works which He prepared before hand that we should walk in them.

A) **Our fulfillment** comes from being engaged in that good work that He has prepared for us.

B) Paul the apostle – put it this way in Phil 3 – “ **discovering the reason that I have been apprehended by the Lord**” –

1) **ON GOING REVELATION**

C) We are His workmanship – We have an eternal purpose – **we exist to be part of His mission**

Once again we see the Holy Spirit's connection to this in the Book of Acts –

A) Jesus told his disciples – Go wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come upon them.

B) Purpose? Empower you to be my witnesses

1) Not go witnessing – but Empowered to BE WITNESSES

C) Daily lives lived for Jesus –

1) Holy Spirit living in us – wants to empower us for the same reason – BE HIS WITNESSES

WE ALL HAVE A SPHERE OF INFLUENCE!

A) Homes and our kids! Our neighborhoods
PLACES WHERE WE WORK

God the Artist is constantly wanting to express **His heart** – through our lives

A) I believe the Holy Spirit is seeking to create within us **a burden for lost souls.**

B) To not simply be happy that I am going to heaven but to be concerned about those who are not!

Luke 10:2-3 "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

C) Then Jesus sent them out – in other words He was saying – **You are a part of the answer to that prayer.**

When I realize that is something that the Spirit is doing in my heart – I view everything differently

A) My neighborhood becomes **a mission field**

B) My job – becomes an opportunity to shine
Building relationships for His kingdom

1) Job becomes my mission field.

2) My School

C) The softball team I play on becomes a place to build relationships with people – **purpose of getting a chance to share Jesus with them.**

D) **Pray each day** – Lord help me be open to your spirit see the world with your eyes and heart

1) Watch out what He does! –

Imagine for a moment what would happen if everyone in this church was used by the Jesus to lead one person to the Christ in 2015

A) Impact one life for all of eternity!

B) Imagine what this church would be like if it was infused with 100's of brand new believers during this coming year.

C) I believe that is a possibility if we truly began to **understand and respond** to these three built in longings of the Holy Spirit in our hearts

Everyday: He is Prompting us toward

Intimacy with God { **Get into the word – One-Year-Bible or some other method – Spend time with Abba**

EVERYDAY: REMINDER: GOING TO HEAVEN

Heaven is calling

LIVE FOR THE ETERNAL OVER THE TEMPORAL

EVERYDAY – STARTED WITH REMINDER

We were saved to have An eternal Purpose.

2015 – BEST YEAR EVER

- **Growth in our relationship**
- **Clarity in our Priorities**
- **Direction in our daily pursuits**

Made a Reminder Card: Car – Bathroom mirror
Office desk – Bible – take a few

Communion: Jesus in the garden – NOT MY WILL BUT YOURS – 2015

YOUR WILL YOUR WAY!

Not a believer ? STARTS with asking Jesus to fill the Void today!

PRODIGAL – COME HOME – FATHER IS WAITING - OPEN ARMS