

Introduction:

1. The devil has one thing in mind for faithful Christians: to keep us from heaven. He tries to do that by distracting our attention from the simplicity of loving God and obeying Him.
2. Our God has one thing in mind for faithful Christians: to draw us into heaven. He is working to do that by the grace and mercy of His Son the Christ. He wants us to be with Him in heaven forever.
3. The question is, what one thing do we have in our minds? What do most people have in theirs?
 - a. Some minds are centered on getting a raise, or just keeping their job; some are occupied with buying a new house or fixing up an old one; some focus on losing weight or exercising daily.
 - b. But what is in your mind? We know what the devil has in mind; we have seen the one thing God has in mind. What is the one thing you have in mind? What is most important to you? What is the primary ambition of your life?
4. To help us be sure that we have the right answer, Let us look at the words of King David in Psalm 27:4. The whole of this psalm is one of great confidence and faith in the Lord. But it is the particular language of verse four that is our concern.

The Lesson:

I. One thing—focus on the goal.

- A. Though there are many things we have to do in life, we should be people of “one thing.” That is, there is one overriding objective and goal that drives our lives.
 1. That’s how it was with King David. Maybe that’s why he is spoken of as a man after God’s heart, Acts 13:22. David was a man who sought to do the Lord’s will. He was not like his predecessor, King Saul—a man of stubborn disobedience.
 2. David understood that when a man has divided objectives in life, they are led to distraction, weakness and disappointment. That’s why David was a man of one thing.
- B. We must be a people of “one thing.” All of our affections must be bound up in one affection.
 1. Our one affection should be set on heavenly things, Colossians 3:1-4. Though there are many things we have to do in life, our true affection cannot be set on a dozen things.
 2. The case of Mary and Martha in Luke 10:41-42 well illustrates the problem and solution.
 3. The apostle Paul was a man of one thing, Philippians 3:13. Paul had an objective, a goal in life that he was determined to reach. He would let nothing distract him from that goal.
 - a. When the Super Bowl quarterback has the goal of getting a touchdown, does he give his time to counting the crowd, or to watching the Gatorade cups on the sidelines?
 - b. When aiming for the end zone, he is a man of one thing. Everything is about reaching the goal, winning the game. He allows nothing that deters him from the end zone!
- C. King David was a man of one thing. Let us be the same.

II. One thing have I desired—focus on the future.

- A. David had something he desired and so do we. Our hope is not yet realized. It is yet in the future. It is our passion and our destiny, but it is not something we have at the present moment.
 1. Our culture is into instant gratification. We must have everything now. Almost everybody says, “I can’t wait until…” And the truth is, we often don’t wait.
 2. As a result of not waiting for the greater, we settle for the lesser.
- B. Can you wait for heaven? Do you have such a desire for the ultimate, that you will give up the lesser things? How many lesser things do we allow to stand between us and heaven?
 1. If going to heaven means I give up ugly speech and ugly actions, do I have sufficient desire to do that? What about the things that are not sinful of themselves—things that just get in the way of worship and service—the Super Bowl, golfing, boating, gardening, etc.?
 2. Paul said we are saved by hope, Romans 8:24. Is our hope strong enough to drive us?

III. One thing have I desired of the Lord—focus on the source.

- A. David knew that the Lord was the right target for his desires. The Lord is the well to drink from that would satisfy his thirst. The Lord is the door to knock at and the bank to draw from.
 1. The *deepest* needs of your heart and mine cannot be satisfied by any human relationship!
 2. It is the Lord who is our provider. Do we need a reminder of that? See Philippians 4:19.

- B. David was wise. He knew the source. Are we as wise as he, or are we looking in the wrong places? See Ephesians 3:8b. The things we need most are found in Jesus, Ephesians 1:3.

IV. That will I seek—focus on action.

- A. Desire is not enough. David didn't stop at desire. Desire must lead to steadfast action!
1. Wishers and woulders are never doers. Wishing never got anyone to heaven. A lot of folks *wish* they will make it to heaven. They *would* rather be in heaven than hell. But wishing and woulding is as far as it goes. Wishing usually leads to failure and disappointment.
 2. For David—and for us—it must be desire followed by action. It is something we must seek. Jesus didn't just say "desire" in Matthew 6:33. He said "seek." Pursue it! Go after it! (If a young man wants a date with a girl, is wanting it enough? Or does he have to act?)
- B. Desire is like a seed that must be planted in the soil of action. David's desire was demonstrated in his actions. Is mine? Is yours?

V. That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life—focus on relationship.

- A. David isn't talking about staying in the temple or tabernacle. By "house of the Lord," he is talking about belonging to God, to be in His family, to enjoy the blessings of belonging to Him—both now and in eternity. This was David's desire—it was about communing and worshipping. But it wasn't limited to just the days of his life; it was forever, Psalms 23:6.
1. We might have thought David would desire a thousand other things—victory over his enemies, peace within his family, rest and safety, prosperity for his nation. All those are good and desirable things. But they were not the *one thing*!
 2. David's one thing was to be with God and to do whatever it required to be with Him.
- B. For us, this is the New Jerusalem, the golden city wherein righteousness dwells, Hebrews 12:22-23; 10:34b-36. Don't throw it all away! It must be the one and only goal of our hearts.

VI. To behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple—focus on devotion.

- A. David wanted to worship and commune with God in order that He could see the Lord's beauty. But what is the Lord's beauty?
1. It is not the physical appearance of God, for He has no appearance, 1 Timothy 1:17; 6:16.
 2. It is His goodness, mercy and compassion, majesty and might, justice and lovingkindness. We want to see all that God is. That is why David wanted to be in fellowship with Him. The character of God is attractive, and inspires us to love Him, and makes us run after Him.
- B. When we enter the assembly of the saints, what do we hope to see?
1. To merely see (behold) other people? Or to be seen by others? For some people, it may be both of those. They come to see and be seen, to compare themselves with others.
 2. Is it merely to behold the preacher and see what he will have to say? Will he have some clever thought, a funny story, or will he dazzle us with his illustrations and graphics?
 3. Is it to offer or hear some speculation or philosophy? History tells us that some of the Jews, who regularly came to the temple, came not to learn, but to speculate and to ask questions that were of no profit. Surely we do not come to this hallowed assembly for that.
- C. We enter the assembly of the saints to behold the beauty of the Lord and inquire of His word.
1. Only by the Bible do we learn more of the loving Father, more of the glorified Jesus, more of the Holy Spirit's will for our lives. We want to learn more in order that we may the more lovingly admire, and the more reverently worship and more adore our glorious God.
 2. What a statement: "the beauty of the Lord!" Those who see Him by faith now, will one day be in His very presence, and will literally see His Son in His great beauty, to be admired forever for all that He is. What a day it will be when every faithful follower of Jesus beholds "the King in His beauty!" See 2 Thessalonians 1:10; Revelation 5:12, 13.

Conclusion:

1. What is the one thing we desire above all else? Is it to be with the great King and see His beauty?
2. We can't let the devil distract us and draw our attention away from the simplicity of loving God.
3. Our great God has great things in store for us in eternity. To the degree that we believe that, we will be faithful to Him. Are we like David—seeking to find out the commands that have come from God's heart and then fully obey them? Let your heart be established in God, confident of His love for you, and secure in your love for Him.