

The Delight of the Heart Psalm 37:4

There are words that are abused like *love* and *friend* and *great*. Then, there are Bible verses that are abused. One abused verse is Psalm 37:4.

“Delight thyself also in the LORD...”

Delight- great and high degree of pleasure, gratification, joy. Where does God rank in your life? We have so many gadgets. I wonder if God makes the top-10.

Thyself- I do not receive from God in my daily walk based on my wife's walk with God. She has her account with God and I have my account with God. Our *delight* must be individual-based. I fear some do not have any interest in God thinking they are OK because their spouse loves the Lord. Your spouse, your children, your parent cannot love God for you. Salvation is individual-based, and so is our walk with the Lord individual and personal. I cannot skip praying to the heavenly father simply based on the fact my wife prays to him. A Christian life is not a coat-tail religion. Are you in love with the LORD or is your love for him hinged on your spouse's love for him?

I hid behind my father and mother's Christian walk at times in my life. Dad was a preacher of the Gospel and mom was a precious saint. Both loved God immensely. Both delighted in the LORD. Yes, Job prayed for his children, but he could not *delight* in the LORD on their behalf.

In some baseball games, there is a position called a pinch-hitter. When it is time for the pitcher to hit, usually a pinch-hitter comes to the plate and bats in the pitcher's place. We are involved in a Christian walk- not the sport of baseball. I have been in some predicaments before God when I wish my all-star, hell-fire and brimstone father could go to the plate for me. Go ahead and live as you wish, and treat the work of God like a redheaded stepchild.

Then, try getting a pinch-hitter to step in for you on judgment day. There will be no pitch-hitters at the judgement.

Delight Thyself. You must personally make God the number-one pleasure in your life if you wish to receive the benefit of God's promise in this verse of Scripture.

Delight thyself also in the LORD. We have 4-wheelers. Nothing wrong with that unless the 4-wheeler delights you more than the LORD. Grandchildren are amazing and lovely and they sit in our lap and they continually con us to go get ice cream and go to the splash-pad. If you love your grandchildren more than you love the LORD, this verse will not function for you. I know folk that talk about how much they despise the company they work for, and they despise the type work they do. You are making yourself look bad. You filled out the application to work there. You filled out and signed the documents in the HR office to become an employee. You ought to act like you like your job. We despise our job, but if the boss asked you to jump off the Watts Bar Dam bridge you would do it. Your job is your delight. It is your greatest.

If the LORD is the greatest joy in our life, we have a connection. We have "pull" with God. It is in writing in Psalm 37:4 that he will honor our hearts desires. What does a man or woman who delights in the Lord desire? Let us look in the Word of God at some who delighted in the LORD.

* Hannah delighted in the LORD. She wanted a baby. I Samuel chapter 1.

* Rachel desire a baby.

Gen 30:1 *And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die.*

Gen 30:22-24 *And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb. 23 And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach: 24 And she*

called his name Joseph; and said, The LORD shall add to me another son.

* Caleb wanted a mountain.

He served God. He was one spy who said God was to give the land to the people.

Jos 14:12-13 Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the LORD spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the LORD will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the LORD said. 13 And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance.

* Nehemiah wanted to restore his home town, Jerusalem, torn down by the enemy.

Nehemiah chapter 1 and 2.

* Abraham looked for a city which hath foundations whose ruler and maker is God.

Hebrews 11:10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

* Paul wanted to see his people saved

Rom 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

It is recorded in the Scripture that he was willing to forfeit his own salvation to see his Jewish brethren saved.

* Mary Magdalene wanted to see the risen savior

Where have they laid him?

LORD versus Lord

We see, for example, this contrast in words found in the Psalms. Psalm 8 reads, "O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth." What the Jew was saying was, "O Jahweh, our Adonai, how excellent is thy name in all the earth." Or we could render it, "O God, our Sovereign one, how excellent..." Again, we read in Psalm 110: "The LORD, said unto my Lord,

Sit thou at my right hand.” Here the Psalmist is saying, “God said to my sovereign, sit thou at my right hand.”

LORD is the name of God; Lord is His title. We speak of President Ronald Reagan. Ronald is his name; President is his title. If the highest office in our land is the office of president, so the highest office and title in Israel was the office of Sovereign. The title adonai was reserved for God. It was the title that was given to Jesus in the New Testament. When Christ is called “Lord,” he is invested with the New Testament equivalent of the Old Testament adonai. Jesus is called the Lord of the lords, the King of the kings, gaining a title that beforehand was reserved only for God, the supreme Sovereign of heaven and earth.