

*One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; 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. (Psalm 27:4)*

Some make their desires known to the government, others to affluent friends, others to wealthy philanthropists, others to whatever promising-looking “Santa Claus” which might come along. This man makes his desire known to the Lord. He has only one; and he desires it of God.

Though it is one, yet it is made up of three parts. The person whose desire coincides with the psalmist’s, and who is granted this request, need never want for anything else. For this truly transcends all blessings.

First, he wants a fixed and permanent habitat in the “house of the Lord.” Although the Old Testament Temple is doubtlessly in view here, it has given way to its anti-type, the true household of faith, the church of the Living God. That is God’s temple. He now dwells among the people who believe on the name of Jesus Christ Who is their Redeemer. This ought to be the first and foremost concern of every soul that lives: that he could be made accepted in and among the people of God, and that he would be so converted to Christ as to never fall away.

Second, this wise man desires that in the house of God he will be privileged to behold the beauty of the Lord. It is not enough for him to be in the “church crowd.” He wants to worship the Lord. Religious clubs are available at fifty cents a thousand. They are no better than any other social club or fraternal lodge. Let us make no mistake about this. Those who are truly accepted in Christ, who have been saved from their sins are those who worship God in Spirit and in Truth. The most beautiful feature about the house of God is God Himself.

Third, this three-fold petition culminates in the privilege that is the gateway to all privileges: access to God Himself. He would “inquire” of the Lord. This is a word used to convey the thought of a man being granted audience with Almighty God. What favor! He who has the King’s ear needs nothing else, for who can give him what the King cannot? And who shall dare take away or prevent what the King bestows?

May we, too, make this one request, and make it of the Lord. It is in His power to give it.

-C.M.