

- This Year— His Presence, House of Prayer
- Firestorm — Reflections
- Wesley — Bible & Tabernacle of David

Absolute Joy in His Presence

I. The Pursuit of His Presence

A. An Issue of Priorities

Matt 6:31 NKJV “Therefore do not worry, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or ‘What shall we wear?’³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But **seek first** the **kingdom** of God and His **righteousness**, and **all these things** shall be added to you.

— Business, Research, Sales, Medicine, Transportation, Construction
all experience the benefit of *seeking* (Latin — perceive by scent)

B. The Benefits of His Presence

Psa 16:11 NET You lead me in the path of life;
I experience **absolute joy** in your presence;
you **always** give me **sheer delight**.

II. The Joyful House of Prayer

Isa 56:3 NIV Let no **foreigner** ... And let not any **eunuch complain**...
7 these I will bring to my holy mountain and **give them joy** in my **house of prayer**. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for **my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.**”

Matt 21:13 NKJ And He said to them, “It is written, “**My house shall be called a house of prayer,**’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’ ”

III. God's Pleasure in Our "Seeking"

Heb 11:6 NKJV But without **faith** *it is* impossible to **please Him**, for he who **comes to God** must believe that **He is**, and *that* **He is a rewarder** of those who diligently **seek** Him.

God has pleasure in our faith, which is the pursuit of His person and the rewards of that pursuit.

IV. The Reward... Joy Filling the Earth

Worship... is the **fuel** and **goal** in missions. ... In missions **we simply aim to bring the nations into the white-hot enjoyment of God's glory**. The goal ... is the gladness of the peoples in the greatness of God.

Ps 67:1 NIV May God be **gracious** to us and **bless** us and make his **face shine** upon us, *Selah*

2 that your **ways** may be **known** on earth, your **salvation** among all nations.

3 May the peoples **praise** you, O God; may all the peoples **praise** you.

4 May the nations **be glad** and **sing for joy**, for you **rule** the peoples justly and **guide** the nations of the earth. *Selah*

5 May the peoples **praise** you, O God; may all the peoples **praise** you.

6 Then the land will **yield** its harvest, and God, our God, will **bless** us.

7 God will **bless** us, and **all the ends of the earth** will **fear** him.

The **impossibility** of the assignment drives us to **pursue** Him. Without Him, we can do nothing.

The Cup of His Love “for You”

In **communion**, Jesus overcomes the distance between Jerusalem and our town, He cuts across the years from his own time to ours. He clears away all the debris and clutter of secondary themes and says, “**For you.**”

Luke 22:19 NKJ And He took bread, gave thanks and broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, saying, “This is My body which is **given for you**; do this in remembrance of Me.”

20 Likewise He also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup *is* the new covenant in My blood, which is **shed for you**.

Gal 2:20 NKJ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who **loved me** and **gave Himself for me**.

Matt 25:34 NKJ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared **for you** from the foundation of the world:

1 Cor 10:16 NKJ The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the **communion** of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the **communion** of the body of Christ? **17** For we, *though* many, are one bread *and* one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

2 Cor 5:20 NKJ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.

21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the **righteousness of God** in Him.