

The Gift of Desire

Amazing Conference... GA.. Randy, Bill

- **Boldness and Simplicity (DJ Testimony)**

I. God is attracted to *desire*. Not *neediness*, but longing for destiny, connection.

[Matt 5.1 ESV](#) Seeing the crowds, ... [2](#) And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

[3](#) “Blessed are the ***poor in spirit***, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[6](#) “Blessed are those who ***hunger and thirst for righteousness***, for they shall be satisfied.

Jesus is God on stage for all the world to see. He is drawn to the sinner over the Pharisee

What He Reveals:

1. **God is the finder**, God is the searcher. We don't seek God, we don't find Jesus. God is always more present than we are. What we find is ourselves being found.
2. **Whatever is good, we will want more of.** Our longing for good is our longing for God.

God is always calling us to the MORE by the sensation of our incompleteness. There is always a longing, a void, an emptiness

3. Intimacy with God leads to intimacy with ourselves.

4. **DESIRE.** What we desire draws us to the Giver.

[Mark 10:46ff](#) Blind Bartimaeus

[Mark 10.51 ESV](#) And Jesus said to him, “**What do you want** me to do for you?” And the blind man said to him, “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.”

The question required the blind man to be honest.

5. My limitations are gifts that invite me to come to God. ***He will never give me anything that makes Him seem obsolete. Every-***

thing we make by ourselves will ultimately frustrate. Once we feel we've "got it," we really don't!

Luke 12.16 ESV And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, **17** and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' **18** And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. **19** And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" **20** But God said to him, '**Fool!** This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' **21** So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

The challenge is to become **receivers** rather than **achievers**.

God finds us but doesn't complete us.

The aim is not to fool myself into thinking I have it all, that I am complete without Him. What I'm seeking for is to discover, "**How is God seeking me in this (business, marriage, relationship, activity) matter?**"

II. Pursuit of God is the discovery that God is Pursuing Us!!

Ps 84 ESV TO THE CHOIRMASTER: ACCORDING TO THE GITTITH. A PSALM OF THE SONS OF KORAH.

- 1 How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!
- 2 My soul longs, yes, faints
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and flesh sing for joy (*ranan*)
to the living God.
- 5 **Blessed** are those whose **strength** is in you,
in whose **heart** are the highways to Zion.
(**NKJ** *whose heart is set on pilgrimage*)
- 6 As they go through the Valley of **Baca**

they *make* it a *place* of *springs*;
the early rain also covers it with pools.
7 They go from *strength* to *strength*;
each one appears before God in Zion.

NLT-SE *The autumn rains will clothe it with blessings.*

What makes us keep going through painful places? What are the deep longings?

III. A Compelling Vision! (Longing & Pursuit)

Acts 14:21-22 ESV When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that **through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.**

This is the message of the apostles to the early church.

There were three things that Paul wanted to establish:

- * Strengthening the souls of the disciples.
- * Encouraging, coaching them to continue in the faith.
- * Understanding that many (πολλοις) tribulations are **necessary** to enter the kingdom. **Tribulation**- made narrow by pressure.

A. The Narrow Entrance

Matt 7.14 ESV For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Some places are more narrow than others. Some places are so narrow you don't think you will make it. Anne and I have been married 43 years. We have been through some narrow places.

KEY: When the relationship survives the narrow place, it becomes more valuable.

Births- the narrow pressure of the birth canal makes the child live.

Friendships, Businesses, Marriage are made valuable by surviving pressure. Some times it is so narrow that it leaves one of us behind. Sometimes the pressure is so intense that we say, "I just can't make it."

B. The Necessary Encounter

Why do some people live their whole lives in a dynamic search for God? Why do some people start out vigorously and then fizzle out?

Why do some people grow and grow in prayer and intimacy with God, while others never begin?

Why do some people reach a point where they stop growing, overcome by the burdens of daily life? These are universal spiritual quandaries.

A young aspirant to holiness came to visit the hermitage of an old holy man who was sitting in the doorway of the quarters at sunset. The old man's dog stretched out across the threshold as the young seeker presented his problem to the holy man.

"Why is it, Abba, that some who seek God, come to the desert zealous in prayer, but leave after a year or so, while others like you remain faithful to the quest for a lifetime?"

The old man smiled and replied, "Let me tell you a story. One day I was sitting here quietly in the sun with my dog. Suddenly a large white rabbit ran across in front of us. My dog jumped up, barking loudly, and took off after that big rabbit. He chased that rabbit over the hills with a passion. Soon, other dogs joined him, attracted by his barking. What a sight it was as the pack of dogs ran across the creek, up the stony embankments, through the bushes and thorns. Gradually however, one by one, the dogs dropped out of the pursuit, discouraged by the course and frustrated by the chase. Only my dog continued to hotly pursue the white rabbit.

"In that story, you will find the answer to your question."

The young man sat in confused silence, finally, he spoke, "I don't understand, what is the connection between the rabbit chase and the quest for holiness?"

"If you failed to understand," answered the old hermit, "it is because you failed to ask the obvious question. Why didn't the other dogs continue the chase? And the answer to that question

is very simple. **They had not seen the rabbit.** Unless you see your prey, the chase is just too difficult. You will lack the passion and the determination to perform the hard work required by the discipline of your spiritual exercise. The opening reflection is about a primal prerequisite for the spiritual journey. **You must see the rabbit.”**

When I saw the kingdom of God, it was a **spiritual encounter, a pearl of great price.**

I have been able to stay in the race because I saw the rabbit. We will drop out of the race if we only follow the other saints who have seen the rabbit. If I am only following somebody who told me about the rabbit, the chase is just too hard.

IV. Growth Means PROGRESS & Change

Ps 84:6 As **they go through** the Valley of Baca they **make** it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.

7 **They go from** strength **to** strength;

Renew the DESIRE for MORE. New Grace to Pray, to Go for It, to always LONG for MORE. Poor in Spirit. Always Hungry for the Wild Possibilities of God!

THE GATES OF PRAISE make the Valley of Baca a place of Springs Heaven Answers with Rain

**The KINGDOM is Released in Tears and Thanksgiving – Long-
ing transforms Desolations into Consolation**

Gen 29.31 **ESV** When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

32 And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name **Reuben**, for she said, “Because the LORD has **looked** upon my **affliction**; for now my husband will love me.” (**Suffering**)

- 33 She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the LORD has **heard** that I am **hated**, he has given me this son also." And she called his name **Simeon**. (Loveless life)
- 34 Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will **be attached to me**, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called **Levi**. (Abandonment)
- 35 And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "**This time I will praise the LORD.**" Therefore she called his name **Judah**.
Then she ceased bearing.
(Thanksgiving becomes the Messianic Line of Deliverance)