

Delighting In God's Presence Pt. 4

Sermon Title: **Delighting In God's Presence Part 4**

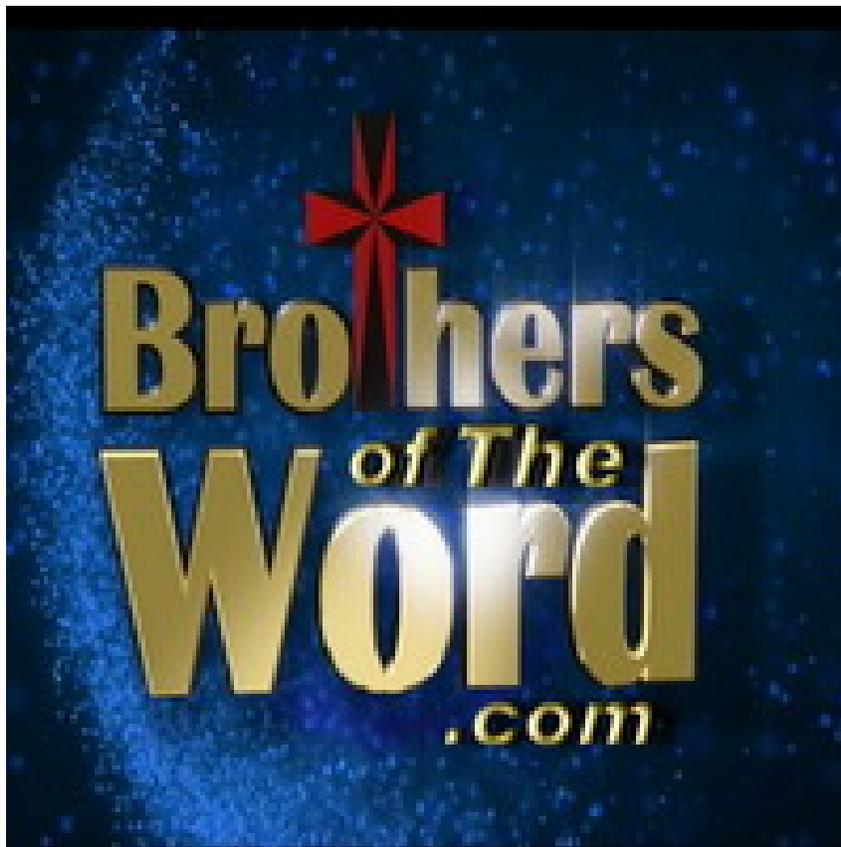
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Speaker: **C. Elijah Bronner**

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Thank you for joining Brothers Of The Word, because brother you need the word! We welcome all of you joining us by television, and those of you joining us online at BrothersOfTheWord.com Welcome to today's service. Thank you so much for tuning in. It is always a wonderful joy and delight to have you join us.

I would like to read just a little humor that I came across. I like it when people laugh before I can even tell the joke. A man was on his death bed and he called his best friends to his bedside. He wanted to give each of them \$25,000 in cash to be placed in his coffin when he died. He called his lawyer, he called his doctor and he called his pastor. Sure enough, a week later the man died. Each of the three friends placed the envelope in the coffin. Several months later they ran into each other. The pastor confessed that he had only put \$10,000 in the envelope and put that in the coffin. He said that the church needed some repairs, so he kept some and only put \$10,000 in. Then the doctor fessed up as well. He said he had only put \$8,000 in the envelope and put it in the coffin because he needed some medical equipment that the hospital needed. The lawyer was outraged. He said I am the only who kept my promise to our dying friend. I want each of you all to know that I put my envelope in the coffin containing the full amount. I wrote a personal check for \$25,000.

We have been looking at scripture over in the book of Psalms. Psalm 27 and Psalm 37. I have been actually reading Psalm 27 from the Amplified Bible. Psalm 27:4 says: *One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek, inquire for, and [insistently] require: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord [in his presence] all the days of my life, to behold and gaze upon the beauty [the sweet attractiveness and the delightful loveliness] of the Lord. To meditate consider, consider, and inquire in His temple.* We have also been reading Psalm 37:4 which says: *Delight yourself also in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.* We have been using as a subject: Delighting In God's Presence. This is part 4. We have just been having a wonderful time learning about this wonderful opportunity invitation that we have to come and dwell in the secret place most high with our Heavenly Father.

We have been talking about developing, not religious duty, not something out of obligation, but developing relationship. A passionate, intimate, loving relationship with the Heavenly Father. We are not talking about religious. We are not talking about rules and regulations, and being religious and religion. We are talking about relationship. Our Heavenly Father loves us so much, and he desires us to know him; to experience him; to enjoy him; and to live in light of his presence. When you are with God you become complete in him. He completes us. There is something about it when you learn to delight in God's presence. You are fulfilled. He completes something in us. There is always a God shaped void in the life of every person, and no one can fill it but God.

God wants us to come to him so he can fill that void. He completes us. We are complete in him. When you are with God there is nothing missing, nothing broken. You are complete in him. What a wonderful place to be...complete in him.

To be complete in him. As we delight in God one thing you will find out is that you will start to become like God. The principle is you become whatever you behold. You become what you behold. If you keep spending time with something, and keep looking at something, you eventually become that what you behold. Notice in Psalm 27, he says that one thing he desires is to behold. He wanted to behold the Lord. When we delight in God's presence we become more like him. He rubs off on us.

Anybody you run with will eventually start rubbing off on you. I remember one time I used to go [this was years ago] to this little spot, me and a friend, and we would be playing this game. I would always come home smelling like smoke. Well that is because the place was smoky. So you will always become like whoever you are running with or whoever you are hanging with. My wife would smell my clothes and she would always say "You smell like smoke." It is not that I was smoking, but I had been in a room filled with smoke. That is the way it is if you hang around God you will pick up his aroma. You will pick up his fragrance. You pick up the savor of God. We become like him. Let me show you some scriptures about that. Psalm 17 talks a little bit about that. Psalm 17:15. Notice what it says, he says: *As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness.*

Notice behold, we become what we behold. He says I will behold thy face in righteousness. Notice what it says, I shall be satisfied when I awake with thy likeness. He says Lord as I continue to behold your face, Lord I am going to be satisfied when I wake up and will be just like you. I will start looking just like you, start acting just like you. I will start conducting myself just like you. That is one of the wonderful benefits of spending time with God. Spending time in the presence of God. 2 Corinthians 3:13 talks about the same thing. It says that when we continuously behold the glory of God, we are changed into that same image. When you can take God's word, and you continuously behold the glory of God in his word, we are transformed; we are changed into that same image. When we the image of Christ in his word, and we continuously gaze upon him in his word, we are changed. We are transformed into that same image.

You become what you behold. As we behold him we become like him. That is one of the wonderful benefits of being in the presence of God. Spending time in the presence of God, delighting yourself in the presence of God. God loves us so much, and he just loves when we hang out with him. He becomes such a great joy and delight in our lives. You just get to the point where you just look forward to it, and you enjoy it so much. He becomes your best friend. What an awesome relationship. Most Christians are satisfied with a second hand relationship with God. Most Christians are satisfied to come to church and they receive second hand information about God. Not that there is anything wrong with that. You need that, but that

should be supplemental. What you get in church is supplemental, but it is not a replacement for you yourself going to God.

For you yourself spending time with God. For you yourself beholding his likeness. So you yourself are transformed into his likeness. There is a strong heavy percentage of Christians that are satisfied with a second hand relationship. How many of you know I don't want to be satisfied with a second hand relationship. I want to know him myself. What a wonderful privilege and great joy it is to have that opportunity to know him ourselves. We are blessed with this opportunity. Let me just share some other accounts we can look at in the life of David in particular. I'm also going to show you something in the New Testament that Jesus said.

Flip over to Psalm 42, and we will look at verse one, and verse two and verse eight. Psalm 42, notice what it says there. You can feel the desire that David has for God. You can feel his desire. This is why he was a man after God's own heart. Because he loved God so much. Just listen to what it says in verse one and two. Then we will flip down to verse eight. Notice what it says: *As the heart panted after the water brooks, so panted my soul after thee o God. My soul thirsted for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God.*

Picture there is a deer that is running through a dry place, a wilderness, seeking and searching possibly being hunted. A deer that is dried out and he is just looking for water. He is panting for water and David has that imagery. He said Lord as the heart pants for water, so does my soul pant after thee o God. I thirst for thee o God. I just love that desire he has for God. Flip down to verse eight. You can see a little bit about his fellowship and communion with God in verse eight. He says: *Yet the Lord will command his loving kindness in the daytime.* That is a powerful scripture and I meditate on that all the time, because that is kin to the scripture in the book of Lamentations that says his mercies are new every morning.

One translation says his loving kindness is fresh every morning. This is exactly what this says here in verse eight. Yet, the Lord will command his loving kindness in the daytime. Glory to God! You should be happy in the daytime because God commands his loving kindness every day. The word command there simply means God gives the word. God gives the word for the day for the loving kindness. He commands his loving kindness. God gives the word and it is done. You don't argue with God when God gives the word. God gives the word for his loving kindness to appear in the daytime. That is the way you embrace every day. I remind him of that. I say Lord you have commanded your loving kindness today.

You get to enjoy his loving kindness throughout the day. That is his promise. His mercy and loving kindness is fresh every morning. That is a fresh batch of God's love he releases every morning...it's new. It is not the same batch that you experienced yesterday. It is brand new. It is fresh love. The Lord gave me an

illustration of that. I couldn't understand and said Lord why do you have to do it over every day. Why couldn't we just use the same batch we had yesterday.

He gave me an illustration. He said you know how you would hug your kids every day? Now I might have hugged them yesterday, but the next day it is a fresh new hug. It is almost as if I am saying I missed you during the night, and I am glad to see you during the day. So I want to enjoy you all over again fresh today! That is what I believe God does to us. He gives us a hug every day! Every day he gives us a hug! He commands his loving kindness in the daytime. Every day he loves us. Every day he wraps his arms around you. Every day we get to enjoy his embrace. Every day he commands his loving kindness. You studied the commands of God. He commands his loving kindness. He commands the blessing. He commands our deliverance. If you studied just on what God commanded.

When he gives the word and then it is done. He commands the blessing. He commands his loving kindness. Remember the centurion? He came to Jesus and said just send your word. The command. It is in the command. God commands his loving kindness. Isn't that good news? He commands his loving kindness in the daytime. I want you to see the communion David had not only during the day, but look at the night. After he has enjoyed God's loving kindness all day, he said in the night his song shall be with me and my prayer unto the God of my life. So he is basically saying Lord at nighttime, he is so grateful for the love he has experienced all day. He is just thinking about the love he has experienced all day. He is just in the residue of what he has experienced all day.

He says Lord your songs are with me at night. You have commanded your loving kindness in the daytime, and your song is with me at night; my prayers are unto you at night. He is just continuing that fellowship. It is a continual fellowship. Flip over to Psalm 63, and you will see a little bit more of the same. I just wanted you to feel the passionate heart here about his relationship with God. David's relationship with God. This is what set him apart from any other person; any other king. Psalm 63, notice what it says: *oh God, thou art my God. Early will I seek thee.* That is giving us a key...you begin your day with God. Early will I seek thee. You begin your day with God. When your eyes open in the morning you begin your day with God.

Early will I seek thee. My soul thirsted for thee. My flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land where no water is. To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. Here it is again, he talks about his loving kindness in verse 3. Same thing; you can tell it is the same thought as Psalm 42. Same thought. Notice what he says in verse 3: *Because thy loving kindness is better than life. Thy loving kindness is better than life.* God's loving kindness is better than anything this world has to offer. His loving kindness is better than life. His loving kindness is better

than anything in our natural existence all put together. His loving kindness is better than life itself.

Life with God is better than any other life. I don't care how you try to put it together. That is what he is really saying. Life with God is better than any other kind of life. I don't care how you try to put it together. You couldn't buy my relationship with God. You couldn't pay it. I don't care if someone offered me a \$100 billion dollars, I would turn them down. No, because his loving kindness is better than anything. His loving kindness. You couldn't buy my relationship with God. His loving kindness is better than anything this world has to offer. His loving kindness...it is better than life.

My lips shall praise thee. [verse 4] Thus will I bless thee while I live. I will lift up thy hands in thy name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness. There is that satisfied again. Remember we talked about how we are complete in him. We are complete in him. That is satisfied. We are complete in him. Psalm 17:5 where we read earlier talked about being satisfied. *I'll be satisfied after beholding your face. I'm satisfied when I awake and I have your likeness.* There is something that satisfies us. There is something that completes us. We are complete in him. *My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips.*

When I remember thee upon my bed and meditate on thee in the night watcheth. You can see his communion with God. He is delighting in his presence all day and all night. He is constantly in his mind, in his thoughts, in his heart. Verse 7: *Because thou has been my help, therefore in the shadow of thou wings will I rejoice my soul followeth hard after thee. Thy right hand upholdeth thee.* In Psalm 63 you can see David's desire toward God. You can see his esteem of God. You can see his satisfaction in God. You can see his secret communion with God. You can see his joyful dependence on God. All that is right there in Psalm 63:1-8. Very akin to Psalm 42, very similar. But it is our soul's cry and request and desire to love on the Lord, and to enjoy his presence. There is something so powerful over in the New Testament that Jesus teaches us.

Jesus teaches us over in the Gospel of John chapter 15. Jesus says to us: *If you abide in me.* Now that word abide is used nine times from verse 4 to verse 10. You think he was trying to tell us something there? You think he was trying to say something to us about abiding? Well that word is used nine times between verse 4 and verse 10 in John 15. He is letting us know that our time with him is not something we don't simply visit. It is not occasional; it is not sometimes when we feel like it. He is saying it is a place where you can remain. Abide is a place of permanent dwelling. It is a place of constantly...permanency. You abide.

Now I may travel and go stay at hotels, but I don't abide there. All of my stuff is back here. I live here. So we abide, we dwell, we remain. This is where he invites us, he says if you abide in me and my words abide in you. He goes on to say you can ask for whatever you will and it will be done for you. That comes out of relationship with him. When you go to God out of a relationship with him it is so easy. Because he said if you abide in me, my words abide in you. God almost does the prayer for you. It is so easy when you have been abiding with him, and his word is abiding in you, he almost prays through you. It is the most effortless, easiest prayer you will ever find yourself giving.

If you have been abiding with him and his words are abiding in you, he says ask whatever you will and it will be done. That is because he is right on top of your tongue. He is praying it for you. It is the easiest prayer. He helps you to pray, and it is the easiest and most powerful prayer. It gets results. That is what Jesus said: If you abide in me and my words abide in you, you will ask whatever you will and it will be done for you. In John 15, he goes on to talk about in verse 6, he uses the word wither; that if your union is broken, if your connection with God is broken...you began to wither.

You wither. Your spiritual life withers. The life of God in you withers. Our peace withers. Our love withers. Our joy withers. All of our prayers wither. We shrivel up. We die. That is what he says there, we begin to shrivel up, wither and there is no effectiveness if we lose our connection. The word wither actually means to lose force, to lose energy, to lose freshness. Has anybody ever tried to make a sandwich and your lettuce has withered? You don't even want to put that on your sandwich do you? It is no good. It has lost its freshness. Well that is the way we become when we lose our connection with God. There is no freshness, there is no energy, there is no force, there is nothing. He says if we will abide in him and he abide in us, and his words abide in us.

Folks, there is a force, there is a freshness, there is an energy. That is why you can ask whatever you want and it will happen; it will come to pass because your prayer has power now. Your prayer has force, your prayer has freshness. Your prayer has some freshness. It is powerful. I really wanted to get in there because there is so much I wanted to share about abiding in him that he shares with us in John 15. It is so powerful for our lives. I pray that you have been getting something out of this communion and fellowship that God has invited us to have in him. To have his life flowing in us and through us all of the time. That is why it is so important to maintain that union. He wants us to maintain union with him so that his life flows through us in full force, full vigor, in full effectiveness, with full energy, with full freshness. With full freshness we have his life. We maintain God's life and in my opinion it is the most important thing in life. It is the most important thing in life.

Your time with God is the most important thing in life because everything in your life will flow out of that union. Your marriage won't work right if you haven't been spending time with God. There will be no freshness. There will be no love in your marriage. That is what Jesus was trying to say; everything else in your life will begin to wither. It shrivels. There is no effectiveness; there is no freshness; there is no force. He gives us life, it is his life. That life is so delightful. That is why David was so hungry for that life. He said Lord as the heart fanneth after the water brook so does my heart fan after thee o God. O God I have to have you. I have to have you. What a wonderful privilege it is just to love on the Lord, and allow his love to fill us. We receive his love and we live in light of his love. We live in vital union with him. Praise God. Amen.