

19-027-1-Making God's Beauty our Home  
presence, indwelling, beauty, relationship, contemplation, devotion  
Psa 27:4

To enjoy a life full of God's beauty, our eyes must focus on Jesus.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

–[**A blind man** sat in public with a hat at his feet and a sign: “*I’m blind, please help.*” Few gave donations, until a PR person came by, flipped the sign over and wrote new words. Later, on returning, he saw the hat full of money and told him what he wrote: “*Today is Spring and I can’t see it.*” Why did that stir compassion in passers-by? It changed their perspective. It alerted them to the gift of seeing Spring’s beauty that the blind couldn’t enjoy.] God gives Christians spiritual sight, but when we’re distracted, we fail to enjoy its benefits or to help others who are still spiritually blind. **HOM.idea**– **Psa 27:4**, *One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.*

### **I. Distractions Attract but Divine Sight Delights**

- A. [**Bible teacher John Stott** once said, “*The thing I know will give me the deepest joy—namely, to be alone and unhurried in the presence of God, aware of His presence, my heart open to worship Him—is often the thing I least want to do.*”] He was British, but American believers may experience this too.
- B. [Swiss theologian **Philip Schaff**, in 1854, described us to a German audience as more like *Peter* than *John*. He said that American Christianity “*is more... like busy Martha than like the pensive Mary, sitting at the feet of Jesus. It expands more in breadth than in depth. It is often carried on like a secular business, and in a mechanical or utilitarian spirit.*”] Culturally, not much has changed in 170 years: staying busy is normal and quietly reflecting is rare.
- C. What differs between Mary and Martha?– **Luke 10:38-42**, As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!” “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

**TRANS:** We may *identify* with Martha, even *agree with* her complaint. But this verse seems to be Mary’s prayer– **Psa 27:4** (MSG), “*I’m asking GOD for one thing, only one thing: To live with him in his house my whole life long.*”

*I’ll contemplate his beauty; I’ll study at his feet.” **To enjoy a life full of God’s beauty, she focused her eyes on Jesus. Is that our desire and focus?***

### **II. Our Devotion to *Dwell on Him* Defines How we *Dwell in Him*.**

- A. **How supreme is our focus?**– “*One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek:*” (Do we put seeking closeness to God as top priority? Is prayer a duty, a chore, or do we look forward to it as a delight?)
- B. **How intimate is our focus? Is it** “*that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,*”? What does “*the house of the LORD*” mean?
1. It’s a **divine encounter**– **Gen 28:16-17**, When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely **the LORD is in this place**, and I was not aware of it.” He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is **the gate of heaven.**” (*Jesus is that for us!*)
  2. It’s **lifelong fellowship**– **Psa 23:6**, Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.
- C. **Do we focus on His beauty?**– “*to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD*”? (*Take time to smell the roses! Rejoice in the treasures of creation! Created beauties reflect an even more beautiful Creator! They’re our prelude to gazing at His awesome, eternal beauty in Heaven.*)
- D. **How eager is our focus** “*to seek him [or NKJ, inquire] in his temple*”?
1. The Holy Spirit makes each of us Christ’s “*temple,*” so we can ask him about anything all day long. *Our Teacher lives inside us!*
  2. [In the 1200s, **Richard of Chichester** wrote a prayer that helps us keep our eyes open and our hearts attentive to Jesus: “*Thanks be to Thee, my Lord Jesus Christ.... O most merciful Friend, Brother, and Redeemer: may I know Thee more clearly, love Thee more dearly, and follow Thee more nearly.*”]

### **CONCLUSION:**

–**Psa 27:4**, *One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. Although we’re not blind to Christ’s beauty, we can become distracted or inattentive. **But to enjoy a life full of God’s beauty, our eyes must focus on Jesus.***

–[**Song, Open Our Eyes:**

Open our eyes, Lord,  
we want to see Jesus;  
To reach out and touch Him,  
and say that we love Him.

Open our ears, Lord,  
and help us to listen,  
Open our eyes, Lord,  
we want to see Jesus.]