



DRAW
—NEAR—
TO GOD

One Thing Have I Desired Of The Lord

Psalm 27:4

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, the beauty of the Lord.
To inquire in His temple, the temple of the Lord.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfhg_vBOpg8

One Thing Have I Desired Of The Lord

Psalm 27:4

One thing have I **desired** of the Lord,
That will I **seek** after;

That I may **dwell in the house of the Lord,**
We are to dwell in God's presence!

All the days of my life. To behold the beauty,
The beauty of the Lord, to inquire in His
temple, the temple of the Lord.

What is “The Beauty of the Lord?”

Beauty = possessing qualities that give great pleasure or satisfaction

Wonderful, very pleasing or satisfying

*The more you get to know God,
the more beautiful He becomes!*

Matthew 6:33

But **seek** ye first the kingdom of God,
And His righteousness; and all these
things shall be added unto you.

Seek = to go in **search** or **quest** of; to **try to find** or **discover** by searching or **questioning**.

You can ask God ?s, but don't question God!

Commit To Know God

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; ² So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; ³ Yea, **if thou criest after knowledge**, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; ⁴ If thou **seekest** her as silver, and **searchest for her as for hid treasures**; ⁵ **Then** shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the **knowledge of God.** **Proverbs 2:1-5**

As seen in Matt. 6:33 and Prov. 2:1-5

Seeking God and His kingdom first takes:

1. A **desire** to please God
2. A **commitment** to get to know God and build the relationship with Him (not get info)
3. Putting forth the **effort** (seek) God
4. Following or **obeying** God

Do you really love and want to know me?

How do you spell “love?”



Spending time with someone
is critical in any relationship



How do I know and follow God?

And he said to them all, **if** any man will come after me, let him **deny himself**, and **take up his cross daily**, and **follow me**. **Luke 9:23**

1. **Deny yourself** = your agenda or plan
2. **Cross** = surrender, sacrifice, suffer
3. **Follow** = obey Him

How will you deny yourself and follow Him?

Set Goals

1. **Examples** - Pray 15 minutes a day.
2. Read one gospel chapter each day or one chapter of Proverbs by date.
3. Praise and worship for 15 minutes each day.
4. Keep a journal, a spiritual diary about God.
5. Read a daily devotional like **Our Daily Bread** or “Hearing God’s Voice” by **Chris Tiegreen**.
6. Meditate on the Word 15 minutes a day.
7. Study once a week a Bible character or topic.

Make Sure Your Goals Are

1. Relevant (meaningful)
2. Specific
3. Measurable
4. Challenging
5. Realistic
6. Timely, have a deadline
7. Written down

Make Sure You...

1. Monitor and keep track of progress toward achieving your goals.
2. Find someone to hold you accountable for achieving your goals.

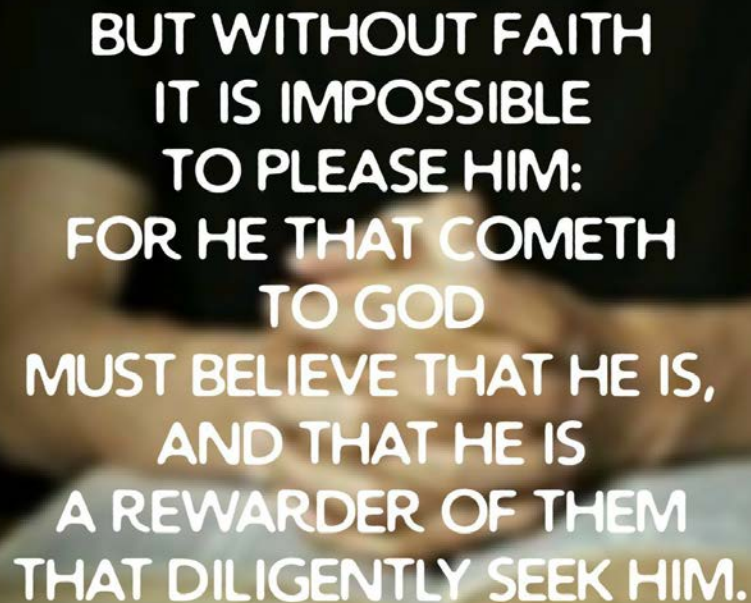
We judge others by what they do but judge ourselves by what we intend to do.

3. Adjust your goals if needed.

What happens if you commit to drawing near to and following God?



1. He will reward your efforts

A person is shown from the chest up, reading an open book. The background is dark, and the text is overlaid in white. The person's hands are visible holding the book.

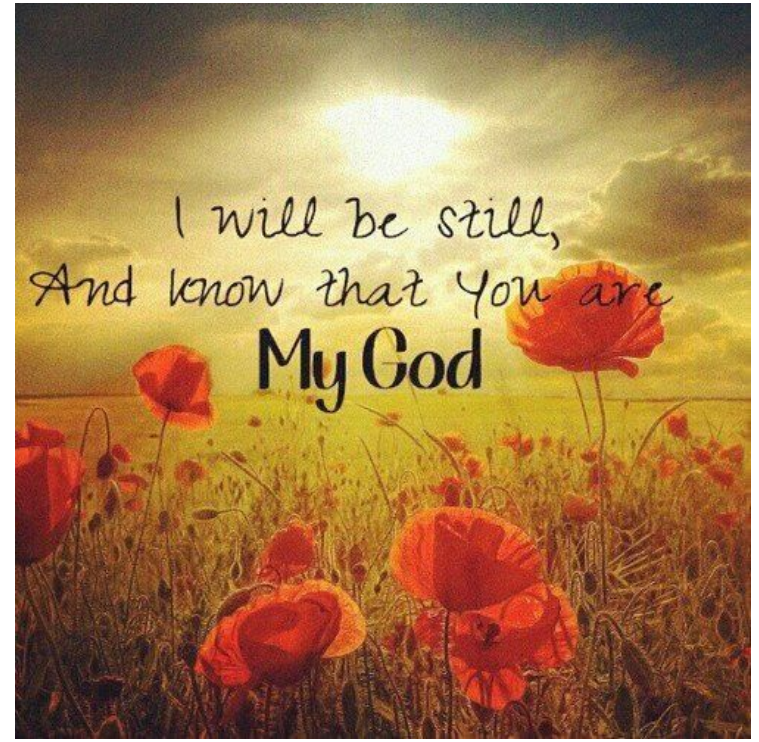
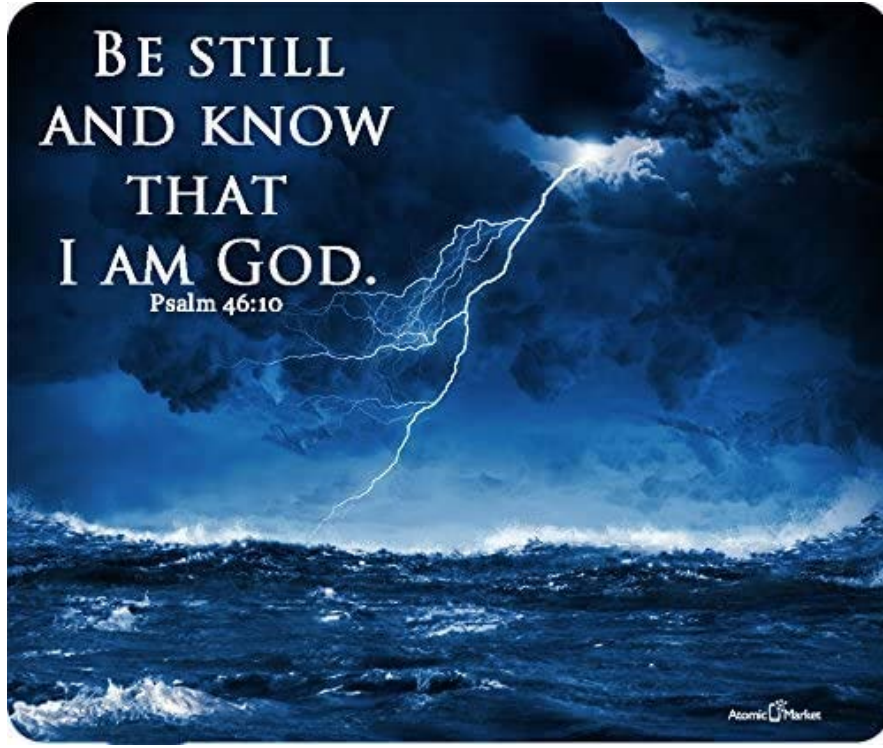
BUT WITHOUT FAITH
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE
TO PLEASE HIM:
FOR HE THAT COMETH
TO GOD
MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS,
AND THAT HE IS
A REWARDER OF THEM
THAT DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM.

HEBREWS 11:6

2. He will draw closer to you

Draw near to God and
He will draw near to you.
James 4:8a

3. You will get to know Him better



4. You will get to know His voice

⁴ And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him:

for they know his voice.

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

John 10:4, 27



5. You will get His direction

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. Acknowledge Him in all thy ways, and **He will direct thy paths.** **Proverbs 3:5-6**

6. You will get His wisdom

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. **James 1:5**

With him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding. **Job 12:13**

7. You will get His peace

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. **John 14:27**

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. **Phil 4:7**

What happens if you commit and start drawing near to God?

1. He will reward your efforts.
2. He will draw closer to you.
3. You will get to know Him better.
4. You will get to know His voice.
5. You will get His direction.
6. You will get His wisdom.
7. You will get His peace.





Looking forward to 2021

This presentation will be posted or email me

Agenda

5. The next meeting is Feb. 3, 2021
6. **Reminder** - call me if you have ideas for meeting topics or what to do for Black History month. Call Luther Ellis to volunteer with dues collection.
7. Closing prayer
8. Adjournment

Adjournment

Genesis 31:49 (NKJ)

May the Lord watch
Between you and me
While we are absent
One from another.

Amen