

January 2025

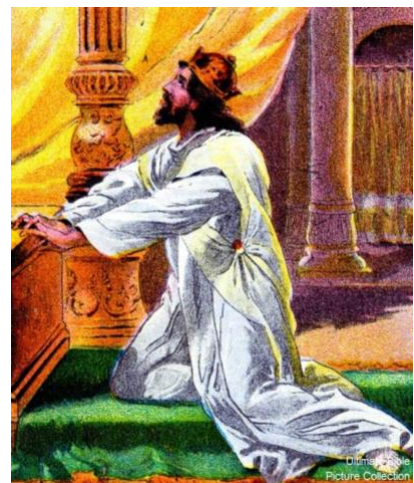
Dear Friend in Christ,

2024 is about to be wrapped up. To some it may have been a “long” year as they may have fallen on hard times and experienced disruptions and pain. To others they may have wished they had more time to change something in their past life in 2024. Perhaps, for those who carry any regrets about their past life in 2024 share these with God now in prayer and ask God for light and wisdom to make sense of what to do with these regrets. The Lord knows our weaknesses and shortcomings. And He assures us that we do not need to carry our burdens alone nor struggle without His help. Mt 11: 28-30 *“Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest....”*

Dear friend like it or not, the new year 2025 will soon be here. We don’t know what 2025 would be like for us, but God does! So, let’s start the year right with God. Let’s start by asking ourselves: What are we reaching for? What are we longing for? Having asked these questions pay attention to what it says back to us and what those responses actually mean. Pause a moment.

Know this no matter what we’re feeling or going through, or longing for, the answer to what we actually looking for is God. Our souls are always wanting God.

We should be like king David always seeking God. In scripture, king David had access to everything- money, wealth, women, fame, power, authority. He had it all and he failed a lot. He wasn’t perfect by any means. But He’s given this compliment by God in Sam 13:14 *“The Lord has sought out a man after His own heart.”* That’s right. What a compliment! What a showing of great love and respect. With that kind of compliment from God Himself we should pause to find out, What did he do? And more importantly What did he do when God goes off script? How did he respond to God? What was his worship like? What was his life like? How did he process his reaching and his longing?



Ps 27:4 gives us a glimpse of David’s heart. David simply says *“One thing I ask from the Lord, this only I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple...”* Just consider the first two words of this Psalm: *“One thing I ask”*.... Does this amaze us ...One thing! With all that he had around him and all he had access to, his desire is down to one thing. Whereas in our case we don’t want just one thing, we want everything we are not supposed to have. We want all the things. But somehow, David narrows down to just one. We got too many desires. We got too many priorities. We got too many passions and pursuits.

Perhaps, to get that one thing let’s look at what king David meant in Psalm 23. He starts the Psalm with these 3 words - *“The Lord is...”* David says. The Lord is....all that I could ever need. All that I could ever want. Out of all the things in the world, it is God

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who sustains me. God who is my portion. The alpha, the omega, the beginning and the end. He is the first and the last. He is whatever I need whenever and however I need it. The Lord is all that I could ever desire. He is centre. So, the Lord is my shepherd because He is the Lord. And that was the key to David's heart. What an example that is for us. So, how do we apply it to our own lives in 2025?

Just be aware that our daily seek is our daily reach! What we desire, we will reach for. And if we want to be near God, we must daily surrender, train, and condition our hearts to reach only for God. We need the Holy Spirit to reset our programming, our responses and reactions.

Finally, yes Lord, our wish for 2025 is we want to be where YOU are. We want to be in YOUR presence. We want to dwell in YOUR house. We want to sit in YOUR influence. We don't to live like YOU don't exist. We want all that YOU are, to be all in me. The Lord is my shepherd. May we rest in Him. May we trust in Him. May we reach for Him. Amen.