

Unravelling Scripture: Psalm 37:4

Psalm 37 verse 4 reads: *Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

Wow, who wouldn't want that! Wouldn't this be worth striking a bargain with the Lord for? I believe, I believe, now let me get to work on my gimme gimme wish list. Father, I want this, I want that, I want everything I've ever wanted and I want to be happy of course.

A long time ago as a newly wed, all I wanted was an automatic washing machine, but I couldn't afford one, so I saved and saved until the day came that I could afford to buy one. I was so happy and convinced my needs had been fulfilled and that I'd never want for anything else! How naive and how I shocked myself when, perhaps no more than two weeks later, I had another 'need'. All I wanted this time was a circular dining table and chairs! How shallow I felt when I reflected!

This was long before I became a Christian, yet, when I first heard the scripture *Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart*, I was as taken with it as many are when thinking it means Christians get everything they want - everything their heart desires! Now, I didn't become a Christian based on this mistaken understanding; my journey to acceptance was much deeper, but despite having discovered long ago that the joy of material things is very short-lived, I liked what I thought was a materialistic promise. Who wouldn't!

But the truth is that this isn't a materialistic promise; it doesn't have the superficial meaning that it seems to introduce - thankfully, it means so much more. Instead of it meaning that God fulfils our wish lists, it means that He puts a personally crafted wish list into each one of our hearts so that we begin to desire the things that He knows will make us happy, not for five minutes, five hours or even five days but forever.

His promises are eternal and He's interested in ensuring that each one of us becomes all that He created us to be in this life and beyond. Now that's not a bad deal when you realise that most people never reach their potential, but before you run away with the idea that I'm preaching a prosperity gospel, let me assure you that I'm not. I know from personal experience that the Christian road is not an easy one.

When I recognised that Christ is all that He claimed to be and I gave my life to Him, I knew a joy and peace like no other, but then my journey really began and I found myself on a path that twisted and turned with steep valleys and high mountains thrown into the mix - a rocky road without a doubt.

But one thing I know for sure is that those who choose Jesus Christ and His plans for them will never have their hopes and dreams destroyed. This is because, He takes everyone who accepts His gift and He leads them by the hand into the future He planned for them from the very beginning.

I want to end now with two scriptures that He surely provided for Christians on their journey. The first is Jeremiah 29:11 which speaks specifically about the future, *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you, not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

The second is Romans 8:28 which speaks encouragement to us on rough and tough days, *All things work together for good for those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose.*

I have loved these two scripture promises since the day I discovered them, and they have sustained and carried me through some of my darkest times along with many interventions through which God revealed Himself to be walking with me.

If you are already walking with Him, you're blessed, but you don't need me to tell you that, but if you're not, then the best is yet to come, for you too were created with a wonderful purpose that God wants to reveal to you if you will only let Him. If you want to find out more, email me at admin@thelittlechurchworld.org and let's talk.

God bless you today, tomorrow and always.

Discussion Questions

1. In light of this message, do you think that God does not want to bless us with material possessions?
2. Why do you think the writer was never satisfied with her latest purchase?
3. If you were to generalize, what two or three things do you think people crave in life?
4. Linked to the third question, what is God likely to plant in our hearts that will give us lasting happiness and fulfillment?