



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Sabbatical Reflections: Desiring One Thing

Speaker: Rich Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: Psalm 27: 1-6

The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident. One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do 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. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock. Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

Psalm 27: 1-6 (NIV)

Sermon Outline:

- You cannot live spiritually if you are not committed to prayer.
- Despite being around Jesus often, over a 3-year period, the apostles still had significant gaps in their walk.
- We become who we were meant to be when our lives are focused on beholding (to dwell and fix your gaze upon) God.
- David was in a warzone, surrounded by his enemies, and the one thing David desired was God.
- There is a difference between worshipping God and worshipping the experience of worship.
- To behold God we should:
 - -Befriend silence
 - -Normalize Boredom (God is working beneath the surface)
 - -Pray using the words of others, (e.g. praying the Psalms)
- God is always beholding us with eyes of Love.
- Prayer is lifting mind and heart to God.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday Pastor Rich shares his reflections from his sabbatical on the importance of prayer.

Sermon Questions

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, was there a practice of prayer? If so, what did it look like and what was the reason you were told for prayer?
3. What do you desire or behold? Does it bring you life or hold you down?
4. In your prayer life, what does it feel like? What would normalizing boredom mean for your prayer time?
5. What excuses do you make for missing or avoiding time in prayer?
6. Whether you pray regularly or not, try and add 10 minutes within your day just to pray and focus on beholding God this week.