

Are you satisfied with God?

**“In Your presence is fullness of joy;
in Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”**

By John Piper

One of the most important discoveries I have ever made is this truth: *God is most glorified in me when I am satisfied in Him*. This is the motor that drives my ministry as a pastor. It affects everything I do.

Whenever I eat or drink or preach or counsel or whatever I do, my aim is to glorify God by the way I do it (1 Cor. 10:31). This means my aim is to do it in a way that shows how the glory of God has satisfied the longings of my heart. If my preaching betrayed that God had not even met my own needs, it would be a fraud. If Christ is not the satisfaction of my heart, would people really believe me when I herald His words, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will never go hungry, and he who believes in Me will never be thirsty (John 6:35)?

The glory of bread is that it satisfies. The glory of living water is that it quenches thirst. We do not honor the refreshing, self-replenishing pure water of a mountain spring by lugging buckets of water up the path to make our contributions from the ponds below. We honor the spring by feeling thirsty, and getting down on our knees, and drinking with joy. Then we say, “Ahhh!” (that’s worship); and we go on our journey in the strength of the fountain (that’s service). The mountain spring is glorified most when we are most satisfied with its water.

Tragically most of us have been taught that duty, not delight, is the way to glorify God. But we have not been taught that delight in God is our duty! Being satisfied with God *is* our duty! Being satisfied in God is not an optional add-on to the real stuff of Christian duty. It *is* the most basic demand of all. “Delight yourself in the Lord” (Psalm 37:4) is not a suggestion but a command. So are “Serve the Lord *with gladness*” (Psalm 100:2) and “*Rejoice* in the Lord always” (Philippians 4:4).

The burden of my ministry is to make plain to others that the “love (of the Lord) is better than life” (Psalm 63:3). And if it is better than life, it is better than all that life in this world offers. This means that what satisfies is not the gifts of God but the glory of God—the glory of His love, the glory of His power, the glory of His wisdom, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

This is why the psalmist Asaph cried out, “Whom have I in heaven but You? And earth has nothing I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever” (Psalm 73:25-26). Nothing on the earth—none of God’s good gifts of creation—could satisfy Asaph’s heart. Only God could. This is what David meant when he said to the Lord, “You are my Lord; apart from You I have no good thing” (Psalm 16:2).

Wealth and prosperity do not satisfy; only God does. It would be presumptuous not to think Him for His gifts (“Forget not all His benefits” Psalm 103:2); but it would be idolatry to call the gladness we get from *them* love for *God*. When David said to the Lord, “In Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand are pleasures forevermore” (Psalm 16:11), he meant that nearness to God Himself is the only all-satisfying experience of the universe. It is not for God’s gifts that David yearns like a heartsick lover. Only God will satisfy a heart like David’s.

This is the essence of what it means to love God—to be satisfied in Him. In HIM! Loving God may include *obeying* all His commands; it may include *believing* all His Word; it may include *thanking* Him for all His gifts; but the essence of loving God is *enjoying* all He is. And it is this enjoyment of God that glories His worth most fully.

My wife is most honored when I say, “It makes me happy to spend time with you.” My happiness is the echo of her excellence. And so it is with God. He is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.

None of us has arrived at perfect satisfaction in God. I grieve often over the murmuring of my heart at the loss of worldly comforts. But I have tasted that the Lord is good. By God’s grace I now know the fountain of everlasting joy. And so I love to spend my days luring people into joy until they say with me, “One thing I have 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 of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple” (Psalm 27:4).