

YHWH promises us divine joy and pleasure that's not dependent upon favorable circumstances



I'll take my cold, cold heart; I'll take my unrenewed mind; I'll take Your Word in my hand; and then I'll give you time to come and melt me. -Misty Edwards

A Different Type of Pleasure

In much of our present-day culture, we are used to a barrage of sensory stimulation and rapid output to our every whim or desire. We have a google search at our fingertips and can get a nearly instantaneous response to our questions. Amazon delivers whatever we order right away. Video games, movies, facebook, and youtube videos provide consistent action and input. We have an around-the-clock news cycle and can have relatively constant communication with virtually anyone around the world. Our phone is usually not more than ten feet away from us and provides us a multi-faceted drivel of diversions. I find this type of

stimulation and instant accessibility a bit like eating potato chips - it seems to "taste good" at the time but doesn't really satisfy.

If we take this type of sensory expectation into our relationship with YHWH, we are bound to be disappointed. The pleasure He promises us is slower, deeper, quieter, and takes time and energy to cultivate. He doesn't barrage us with incessant badgering, but speaks with a still small voice that we have to quiet and humble ourselves to wait to hear. This quieting of our heart takes time and energy, and if we don't understand God's ways we can be tempted to give up and think that nothing is happening...and run back to the predictable and incessant.

Especially in this season of premeditated seeking of Him, I am well-aware of the amount of distraction, boredom, tiredness, etc. that I often bring into my times with Him. I have to consistently recalibrate my heart again and again back to a focus on Him. I remember a time of deep pleasure that I experienced a couple years ago at Sukkot after spending a few times reading the Bible out loud for an hour wherever the previous person had left off in the Bible reading chain. I was so surprised at the sense of deep enjoyment that consistently came to me after these times. But, how many times have I done this since then? Definitely not as often as I would like.

God clearly promises us pleasure, delight, and joy in His presence that is not dependent upon favorable circumstances. This pleasure is different than what the world attempts to give. But, as we slow down and quiet our heart before Him, there is pleasure--it's just of a different kind and order. I believe in this season He wants us to simplify things and is calling us to more frequently close our computers, turn off our tvs, phones, and the constant barrage of internet chatter. He is wooing us to be with Him. The King is returning. Will we ready when He comes? The

fall festivals allows us an opportunity to make assessments and changes as we recalibrate our hearts to His song. For added accountability and help with this, we have multiple opportunities to join in with this set-apart time--from scheduled, physical times to pray together; Zoom calls; or just committing to join in on a daily one hour prayer commitment. It's not too late to join in. Let me know if you're interested.

My heart is hearing this call and is responding. Do you hear this call too? What adjustments can we make in this season to position ourselves more completely before Him?