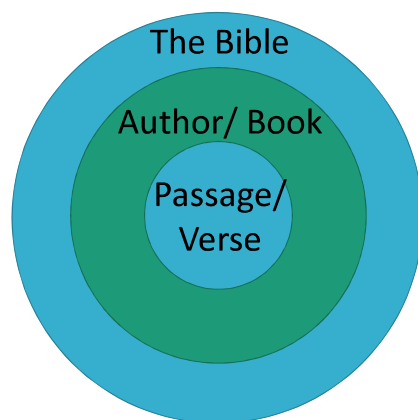


Psalm 37:4
Delight yourself in the Lord;
And He will give you the desires of
your heart.

Reading the Bible for all it is worth

- What does it say?
- What did that mean for the original audience?
- What does that mean for us today?
- What does that mean for me?



Video of Oprah and Colbert exchanging
favorite bible verses and explaining them.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1jXPhsz26g>

Oprah says:

- Delight, not in the LORD, but the character / attributes of the LORD.
 - But it says, "LORD" (YHWH), not the LORD's character
- Blends the uniqueness of God's call to us with eastern religions, Jesus' teaching, fuzzy advanced science:
 - Focus on being a force for good, then good will come.
 - Leaves behind the call for the intimacy in relationship with YHWH
- Misses out on the centrality of Jesus in connecting to YHWH
 - Love the Lord your God...
 - John 5:42 I know you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in the Father's name and you did not receive me.
 - If you do not receive Jesus, you do not love God.
- Treating God like a cause and effect slot machine
 - Missing out on the experience of a changed heart.

Book of Psalms

- Poems and Songs by multiple authors.
- Hearts naked before God.
- Psalms do not just awaken my heart, it places emotions front and center.
- The Psalmist's emotions are intentionally on display and contrasted with divine truth.
- We witness sorrow, joy, despair, frustration, anger, confusion, shame, regret, discouragement, turmoil. All of it out in the open, and all of it in the presence of a sovereign God.
- That backdrop of the sovereignty and companionship of God is the difference between these songs, and songs of the world.

The Psalmists

- Foundational truth is the Sovereignty of God.
- Faith in God keeps the Psalmists faithful through all of life's issues
 - Do not turn from God.
 - Do not deny God.
- Since God loves us...
- Since God is our constant companion...
- Since Christ alone is worthy...

Let's read Psalms 37: 1-8

- "A Psalm of David"
- Psalm 37 is an acrostic.
- "LORD"

Division of Labor

My job:

- Fret not
- Envy not
- Trust
- Do good
- Dwell
- Cultivate faithfulness
- Delight
- Commit
- Trust
- Rest
- Wait patiently
- Fret not
- Cease from anger
- Forsake wrath
- Fret not

God's job:

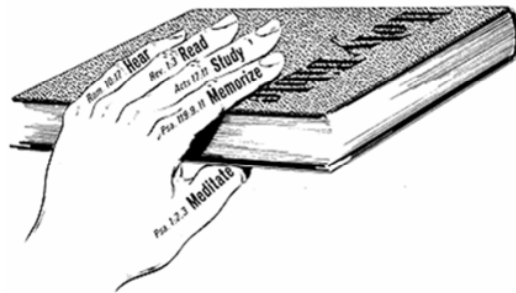
- Evildoers wither
- Evildoers fade
- Give the desires of the heart
- He will do it
- Bring forth righteousness
- Bring forth judgment

Cross references to Psalm 37:4

- John 15:7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
- Psalm 145:19 He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.
- Isaiah 58:14 then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
- John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.
- 1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.
- Psalm 21:1-2 O Lord, in your strength the king rejoices, and in your salvation how greatly he exults! You have given him his heart's desire and have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah
- Job 22:26 For then you will delight yourself in the Almighty and lift up your face to God.
- Job 27:10 Will he take delight in the Almighty? Will he call upon God at all times?
- 1 Peter 1:8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,
- Psalm 104:34 May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord.
- Psalm 43:4 Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.

How do I Delight myself in the LORD?

- Get to know God better
 - Through His word
 - Hearing
 - Reading
 - Studying
 - Memorizing
 - Meditating



How do I Delight myself in the LORD?

- Get to know God better
 - Through Prayer
 - Talking to God
 - Listening to God
 - Being still before God
 - How do I pray?
 - Praise
 - Thanksgiving
 - Adoration
 - Confession
 - Petition
 - Intercession

How do I Delight myself in the LORD?

- Get to know God better
 - Through getting to know His people
 - Fellowship opportunities
 - Bible Study opportunities
 - Worship opportunities
 - Assembling together
 - Stimulating one another to love and good deeds
 - Service opportunities
 - Biographies

How do I Delight myself in the LORD?

- Get to know God better
 - Doing God's will
 - Doing the things in the "My Job" list
 - Demonstrating my love through obedience.
 - Resting in God
 - Waiting on God (season)

What are the takeaways?

- Big Idea: The command to Delight in God is not a burden or duty
 - I get to be emotionally naked before God.
 - I get to allow God to change my heart.
 - I need to participate in the work of God in me and through me.
- What are the benefits for me if I practice those three things in faith in my world as a part of a deepening relationship with God?
- What is my responsibility in that area?
 - Is there a decision I need to make?

**Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord;
And He will give you the desires of your heart.**

Interpreting scripture correctly:

4 questions: What does it say? What did that mean for the original audience? What does that mean for us today? What does that mean for me?

3 Rings

How Oprah goofed up the interpretation of the PS 37:4

Book of Psalms: Songs and Poetry

Open emotionalism.

How are these songs / poems different from ones from the world?

Psalms: What are their foundational truths?

What are our foundational truths?

Psalm 37 is an acrostic in the original Hebrew.

Written by David in his old age.

“LORD” is the translation of the Hebrew word:

Division of labor:

My job:

- Fret not
- Envy not
- Trust
- Do good
- Dwell
- Cultivate faithfulness
- Delight
- Commit
- Trust
- Rest
- Wait patiently
- Fret not
- Cease from anger
- Forsake wrath
- Fret not

God's job:

- Evildoers wither
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- Bring forth righteousness
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Cross References for Psalm 37:4: John 15:7, Psalm 145:19, Isaiah 58:14, John 15:16, 1 John 5:14-15, Psalm 21:1-2, Job 22:26, Job 27:10, 1 Peter 1:8, Psalm 104:34, Psalm 43:4

How do I delight myself in the LORD?

Get to know God better: Through His word (five fingers example)



Get to know God better: Through prayer

Talk, Listen, Be still

How? Praise, Thanksgiving, Adoration, Confession, Petition, Intercession.

Get to know God better: Through His people

Fellowship, Bible Studies, Worship, Service, Biographies.

Get to know God better: Through Obedience, and Rest

What are the takeaways for me?

Big idea: Command to Delight

- Emotionally naked
- Allow God to change my heart
- I need to participate in the work of God in my and through me.

What are the benefits for me?

What is my responsibility?

Is there a decision I need to make?