**Introduction**

The Quiet Hour Collection

 The Psalms, especially those penned by David, reveal the passion of a man who genuinely knew and enjoyed God. That reality is nowhere more evident than in Psalm 27 and specifically in verse 4. In this verse there are five words that clearly explain the priority of *“one thing”* that David so genuinely desired to experience.

1. **David’s Prayer** – *“…have I* ***desired*** *of the Lord…”*

* This word literally means “to inquire or request and at times to even make a demand.” David was experiencing a great sense of urgency which was clearly expressed to God.

2. **David’s Pursuit** – *“…that will I* ***seek*** *after…”*

* This word literally means “to search out and to strive after.” David knew Who and what he needed, and he was determined to find it.

3. **David’s Position** – *“…that I may* ***dwell*** *in the house of the Lord all the days of my life…”*

* This word literally means “to sit down, to settle, and to remain.” David was willing to disconnect from the outside world as he faithfully waited on God.

4. **David’s Perception** – *“…to* ***behold*** *the beauty of the Lord…”*

* This word literally means “to gaze, to perceive and contemplate, and to have a vision for.” David wanted to see God in a new way and to stay focused on Him.

5. **David’s Practice** – *“…and to* ***inquire*** *in His temple.”*

* This word literally means “to inspect, admire, consider, and care for.” It was David’s way of expressing his desire to learn more about and to develop of deeper knowledge of the things of God.

 The best word to describe this verse is “passion.” There is not a hint of a casual, careless, or complacent approach to God. David displayed great intensity, fervency, and sincerity in the way that he pursued his relationship with God. It is certainly obvious why his enjoyment of God was truly so authentic.

**Essential Elements of a Genuine Encounter With God**

1. **A spiritual PASSION for God**

* Those who genuinely know God, have an all-consuming appetite for God that cannot be satisfied by anyone or anything but God Himself. They have a craving for intimacy with God that becomes a driving force, enabling them to maintain an undistracted focus in their spiritual thirst for God.
* **Psalm 63:1-2**

2. **A special PLACE of seclusion**

* In a culture that is dominated by noisiness, busyness, and craziness, it is essential to find a place of calmness, quietness, and aloneness. That will not be easy with the constant and unending demands place upon an individual’s life, but it is essential. Reconnection with God requires disconnection from every other person or duty, if even for a short time.
* **Psalm 91:1**

3. **A specific PERIOD of time**

* In life, there will always be time for that which is of the greatest significance, though sometimes it is necessary to simply make time for it. For this reason, time with God must be scheduled as any other necessary appointment. Extended periods of time will lead to enhanced encounters with God that are more productive.
* **Psalm 46:10**

4. **A structured PLAN of action**

* Organization and structure will allow you to determine not only what you want to do, but how you want to do it. This will eliminate the frustration which occurs from a random approach to your walk with God. With the proper tools, you will be guided and directed in meaningful communication with God. God will speak to you through His Word, and you will speak to God through prayer.
* **Psalm 25:4-5**