



Alpha & Omega
Christian Worship Center
1110 39th St, Newport News, VA 23607

What Are You Seeking from God / from Life “The Joy Of the Lord is my Strength”

Pastor K. Franklin, Sermon Notes / Sunday, February 1, 2009
Outline is available at <http://www.alphaomegaworship.org/Resources.htm>
Listen to the sermon online at <http://www.alphaomegaworship.org/Audio.htm>

Nehemiah 8:

1. And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to **bring the book of the law of Moses**, which the Lord had commanded to Israel.
2. And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that **could hear with understanding**, upon the first day of the seventh month.
3. And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and **those that could understand**; and the ears of all the people were **attentive unto the book of the law**.
4. And Ezra the scribe stood upon **a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose**; and besides him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiah, and Urijah, and Hilkiah, and Maasejah, on his right hand, Pediah, and Mishael, and Malchiah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam.
5. And Ezra **opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;)** and when he opened it, **all the people stood up**;
6. And Ezra **blessed the Lord, the great God**. And all the people **answered, Amen, Amen**, with **lifting up their hands**; and they **bowed their heads**, and **worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground**.
7. Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Aariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, **caused the people to understand the law**; and the people stood in their place.
8. So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to **understand the reading**.
9. And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the Lord your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.
10. Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto your Lord: neither be ye sorry; **for the joy of the Lord is your strength**.



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We learn a lot about how we worship from this particular passage:

- The requested that they bring the book of the Law of Moses
- They read and caused the people to hear with understanding
- The people were attentive to the reading of the word
- They built a pulpit of wood for this very purpose so that he could be above the people
 - The people were able to see the book and when he opened it, THEY STOOD
 - The people also worshipped by RAISING THEIR HANDS
 - The leader blessed the Lord and the people answered AMEN, AMEN
 - The people BOWED THEIR HEADS TO WORSHIP
 - The people PUT THEIR FACE TO THE GROUND TO WORSHIP AND PRAY
 - The people wept and mourned when they realized how sinful they were

In the end he reminded them that, The Joy of the Lord was their strength.

If you have Joy, what lack you? It is greater than happiness that so many of us seek.

HOW MANY ARE LOOKING FOR JOY??!!

The things that man needs are unseen, they are spiritual. Man was happy with God alone in the Garden. It was God who decided that it was not good for man to be alone and he provided him a help meet.

Genesis 2:

18. And the Lord God said, **It is not good that man should be alone**; I will make an help meet for him.
21. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh thereof;
22. And the rib, which the Lord god had taken from man, make he a woman, and brought her unto the man.
23. And Adam said, This **is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh**: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.
24. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall **be one flesh**.
25. And **they were both naked**, the man and his wife, and **were not ashamed**.

It's not good for man to be alone.

What is that you want out of a relationship?

1 Corinthians 7:

1. Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.
2. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.
3. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.



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4. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.
5. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.
 - Paul said it was good if a man could live without a woman.
 - But to avoid fornication, let every person be married that cannot or will not contain.
 - How many of us are defrauding the spouse that we are joined to?
 - Don't you realize that you don't have in you what you need to be happy and complete?
 - It lies outside you. First with God, and then with your spouse.
 - But, if you are looking to them for the wrong things, you will never be happy.

Are you looking for Joy, Peace, Love and fellowship?

What does it mean to be intimate with God?

Are you looking for the things that God is?

Or are you looking for the things that God does?

What do you want out of your relationship?

Some are looking for a maid.

Some are looking for daycare.

Some are looking for money.

Some are looking for a prostitute.

Some are looking for a slave (someone they can control)

Some are looking for a drug dealer // make me happy

In a relationship, you don't have what you need to be happy just as we can't be happy without God.

There was an empty place in the spirit of Man when God kicked him out of the garden just as there is an empty space in man when he is alone.

We look for things

God created you, he knows who you are, he knows how you work

He knows what satisfies you, more than even you know yourself

The bible is the guide that will put you in the place where you can be totally fulfilled

What are you Seeking



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We have been looking for things, but they don't satisfy, they fill, they leave us empty and wanting

God came to give us Joy, Peace, completeness, fulfillment, Life

1 John 1:

5. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light**, and in him is no darkness at all.

1 John 4:

8. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for **God is Love**.

John 4:

24. **God is a Spirit**; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Hebrews 12:

29. For our **God is a consuming fire**.

Nahum 1:

2. **God is jealous**, and the Lord revengeth; the Lord revengeth, and is furious; the Lord will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.

Psalms 84:

11. For the Lord **God is a sun and shield**: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

He knows what it is will put you in that place of ultimate contentment. It is like an orgasm but it fills and never lets you feel empty

More people after they have money and things go looking for something to do, to give, to give fulfillment and purpose to their life.