

"Truly Satisfied" Isaiah 58:6-12 Trinity 4 2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ. Before I became a pastor, I was an IT consultant. That means I helped design and install computer systems for large companies. The work was challenging, the pay was great, but the hours were not. I had every physical thing I desired, and yet it felt empty. My wife and I didn't fully realize it until after we moved to Edmonton so that I could attend the seminary, but it's true. Since then, we have had far less (although we've still been truly blessed), but we are much more satisfied. Why? It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness. This is the essence of our sermon today. It's not about seeking more, it's about relishing in what we have, especially the spiritual satisfaction that comes from the Lord.

So, let's get started, shall we? Are we ready to seek, surrender, and sustain? Are we ready to be filled with the divine satisfaction that comes from the Lord? Let's find out together. Let's find out what it means to be satisfied in the Lord. Let's find out how to sustain that satisfaction through service. Let's find out how to be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Let's find out together, my dear brothers and sisters, for our God is ready to satisfy us. Are we ready to be satisfied?

The Source of Satisfaction, as we know, is the Lord. The Lord, who is the creator of all things, the giver of life, the provider of all our needs. He is the one who quenches our deepest thirst, the one who fills us with joy and peace. He is the one who satisfies our souls. When we turn to the Lord, we find a satisfaction that is unlike any other. It's not the fleeting satisfaction that comes from worldly pleasures. It's a deep, lasting satisfaction that comes from a relationship with the Lord.

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Now, let's look at the first aspect of this idea. The Lord is our guide. This is a powerful truth that we find in the Scripture. The Lord will guide you always. He will show you the way to go. He will lead you in the right path. This is a promise that we can hold on to. A promise that gives us hope, that gives us confidence. When we follow the Lord's guidance, we find satisfaction. We find a sense of purpose, a sense of direction. We find a sense of fulfillment that comes from knowing we are on the right path.

The Lord is also our provider. He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land. This is a beautiful image that speaks of the Lord's provision. Even in the harshest conditions, even in the most difficult circumstances, the Lord will provide for us. He will meet our needs. He will take care of us. When we trust in the Lord's provision, we find satisfaction. We find a sense of security, a sense of contentment. We find a sense of gratitude that comes from knowing we are taken care of.

Next, consider that the Lord is our strength. He will strengthen your frame. This is a powerful promise that we can hold on to. The Lord will give us the strength to face our challenges, to overcome our obstacles. He will give us the courage to keep going, to keep fighting. When we rely on the Lord's strength, we find satisfaction. We find a sense of courage, a sense of resilience. We find a sense of empowerment that comes from knowing we are not alone.

The fourth and final aspect is that the Lord is our source of satisfaction. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. This is a beautiful image that speaks of the satisfaction that comes from the Lord. He is the one who fills us, who quenches our thirst. When we seek the Lord, when we

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surrender to Him, when we serve Him, we find a satisfaction that is unlike any other.

As we continue to navigate the spiritual landscape, we find ourselves standing at the precipice of surrender. This surrender is not a sign of defeat, but rather a testament to our trust in the Lord. It's a conscious decision to let go of our human desires and inclinations, and instead, to fully embrace the divine will of God.

Surrendering for spiritual satisfaction requires us to lean on the Lord for strength. It's about acknowledging that our human strength may wane, but God's strength is unwavering. It's about recognizing that in our weakest moments, God's strength is made perfect. It's about understanding that when our frame is frail, God's strength is robust.

The Hebrew word for "satisfy" used in Isaiah 58:11 means to be filled, to be sated, to have enough. This word is also used in Psalm 107:9, where it says, "For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things." In both instances, the word is used to describe the divine satisfaction that comes from the Lord. It's a satisfaction that fills us, that satiates us, that leaves us wanting for nothing.

As we further surrender to the Lord, we begin to realize that spiritual satisfaction is not a destination, but rather a state of being. It's about being like a well-watered garden, flourishing and thriving under the divine care of God. He is like a spring whose waters never fail, constantly refreshed and rejuvenated by the living waters of God. Additionally, surrendering for spiritual satisfaction is about embodying the qualities of a well-watered garden and a spring whose waters never fail. It's about being nourished by the word of God, being refreshed by His grace, and being sustained by His love.

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We should be allowing the divine waters of God to permeate every facet of our lives.

In the realm of divine satisfaction, we find ourselves standing at the threshold of service. Service, my dear friends, is the conduit through which divine satisfaction flows into our lives and then radiates outwards. It is the vessel that carries the living water from the wellspring of divine satisfaction to the parched corners of our lives and our world.

Now, let's consider this idea of service as a conduit of divine satisfaction. It's not about grand gestures or monumental acts. It's about the small, consistent acts of love and kindness that reflect the heart of our Savior. C.S. Lewis once said, "The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention." What matters is the love and sincerity behind them. It's not about making a name for ourselves, but about making a difference in the lives of others.

Now, let's turn our attention to the idea of service as a vessel for divine satisfaction. It's not just about doing good deeds. It's about allowing the love of Christ to flow through us. It's about becoming channels of His grace, conduits of His love, vessels of His mercy.

In the words of the respected Christian author, Henri Nouwen, "We are not called to save the world, solve all problems, and help all people. But we each have our own unique call, in our families, in our work, in our world." We don't need to be trying to do it all. It's about doing what we can, with what we have, where we are. It's about responding to the unique call that God has placed on our lives.

Dear brothers and sisters, God's love for us is unending, His grace is sufficient, and His mercy is new every morning. He is the

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Source of our Satisfaction, the One who quenches our deepest thirst. Let's continue to seek Him, to surrender to Him, and to serve Him. Let's continue to be satisfied in Him. Amen.