

## Psalm 67

**Read Psalm 67** What does life and peace boil down to? Many of the things that we pray to receive have to be removed. Whatever has to be added beyond simple faith to make us happy is crippling us and making us sick. The blessed and joyful world is not full of men's stuff. It is far more basic than that.

This psalm is a petition to God to run the world according to his graceful plan. We could be no better off than to live in the way he has intended. It is a request to send forth the gospel; and an open invitation to all men to join him. It is a request to inspire all men to worship God. It is a request to have God bring forth abundant produce and plant life. It is a request to move in men's hearts; to create a blessed world.

It is a very simple, bottom line request from the creator for life. After the tribulation, the people will not be sweating the monthly bills and the smaller issues of life. This psalm is just asking for God to be merciful; by giving the people life and an awareness of him. The testing has boiled down men's hopes to be saved by God.

God makes things simple; but man gets crossed up in it. This is another psalm that describes life in the millennium. God will shut down the military and the factories. It will be a time of very simple living; and getting off of the treadmill. If it describes nature abounding and men praising. This is what life should be like.

*How do we know it is not talking about life in the Garden of Eden?* The psalmist is asking for mercy. Adam and Eve did not understand anything about mercy before they fell. God did not burden them with the information about their unhealthy habits yet. It is not that they were not sinful in the beginning. There were just no rules to break yet. We never hear about Adam or Eve praising God. They had nothing to fear or aspire to. Everything was taken care of; without hassle. Unfortunately easy living does not work well to sustain a relationship between God and man. The curses were adjustments to diminish Adam and Eve's affections for things that were too big in their heart. Adam had a greatly-diminished profitability and enjoyment in his work. Eve would have to start taking more direction, and she would have a more-tainted child-bearing experience.

The bible begins in a garden and ends in one. It seems like the saints will end where they started; in paradise with God. The scene is similar; but the actors have changed substantially. Man has been changed.

We tend to think that certain circumstances can make us happy. Absolutely not true. The Garden of Eden and the millennium teach us that it is an illusion. Some people become depressed because they cannot seem to get happy in a perfect situation. That is why suicide in Hawaii is so high. They can no longer blame it on the neighborhood. Eve was not content in paradise. The problem was not her low self-esteem or with the available food supply. It had to do more with her role. Satan could only tempt her according to her inclinations.

*But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. (James 1:14)*

To lock-in Eve in an eternal state early on would have been more like hell; because she was not on the same page; or embracing God's plan. She would have been *a fish out of water*. She questioned the way things were. She was not content in accepting God's word as being conclusive. She would have been like a caged animal in heaven.

That is why God posted an angel at the Garden of Eden, preventing Adam and Eve from eating from the Tree of Life. It would have locked them into an eternal state.

*Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"— 23 therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. (Genesis 3:22-24)*

There is no scenario where the flesh can be continuously content. Various religions portray the after-life as being full of things that make men happy. The Muslims believe that they will have 72 virgins. The Mormons have a similar belief; and also having their own planets. Such imaginary things would not make a man happy in the long run. I have seen *absolutely miserable* people who are clutching onto their tortuous lives; and they would still not let God drive. God is showing them that the road they are on only leads to more of the same. God uses the attraction of his glory to draw us; and the fear of our

destruction to prod us forward. The mother eagle begins to remove the soft down and nest stuffing when it is time for her eaglets to move on. It eventually becomes a nest of pointy sticks; where she takes them out and lets them free fall; until they start to fly on their own. We keep trying to settle into places that God is shutting down. Our lives become more unbearable as we resist changes that God is making.

*I will hedge up your way with thorns, And [e]wall her in, So that she cannot find her paths. (Hosea 2:6)*

If an unsaved person was sent to heaven (if somehow they were not destroyed in God's presence) they would be very uncomfortable. There would be more fear than worship. The spiritual life is an acquired taste. **If you wait until you feel like seeking God, you never will.** We need to take baby steps to pray and listen and wait on God. We need to walk more and more in the Spirit. The natural man has no interest in such things. They would not resonate or be joyful. Their hope is not in God. They would want to get back to something they could control. The holiness would freak them out.

*Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us [d]diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. **15** For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. (2 Corinthians 2:14-16)*

Eve is no different than the residents of the millennium who are unsaved. During the millennium there will be unsaved people posing as believers. When Satan is released from hell. He will round up hundreds of millions to march against Jerusalem. How could he accumulate such a rebellion in a perfect world? There will be posers and conformists who secretly are bored and want to try something else. Either the Kingdom of God is within us or it is not. Going to church and living a moral life is not enough to have the joy of the LORD. You have to make it very personal and intimate. It has to become a priority.

Preachers describe God's heavenly additions in heaven to accommodate us as mansions. They describe mansions being built in the sky. Jesus is preparing a place for us. We are told that for now, the kingdom is within us. I think that he is transforming us as his walking tabernacle. We need to be at peace inside our own skin with the Holy Spirit...before we can think about how heaven would be. This life is not just disposable time until we get to heaven. We are already being fitted into a new eternal suit; with a

new heart and mind. Life's experiences are designed to move us towards the more-trusting spirit-led life.

*“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father’s house are many [a]mansions; if it were not so, [b]I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know.” (John 14:1-4)*

God has known who will be saved forever. There is no late-breaking news, requiring that heaven get another expansion.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He [a]made us accepted in the Beloved. (Ephesians 1:1-6)*

There is a part of us that is comfortable with God; and we get teared up as we realize how fortunate we are. There is an original nature in us that is estranged from being controlled; or having an appointed destiny. We are not that consolable; as long as we are controlled by our flesh. We do not trust, because we are not trustworthy.

God had to bring down the handicapping system bar very low to get us into heaven. We only have to believe that God is who he says he is; and entrust ourselves to that end. That is where mankind began his journey; and that is where it leads. In that respect, Adam’s fall probably was a net blessing to us. God does not expect anything more from us than dust. The angels are very impressive; but they have to be perfect.

It is almost like man cannot be converted into happy and satisfied servants of God. It really requires that the Holy Spirit step in and make it all happen. Even solid believers struggle with their dual nature; and with this world. They trust God; but they are still greatly-influenced by their worldly thoughts. As we walk with God; our faults become easier to see. We seem to have a hard time staying on course and keeping our hope intact. David was perplexed as to why his own soul was downcast; when it should be happy. He tried to coach himself.

*Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; (Psalm 43:5)*

Paul absolutely knew the truth forward and backward; but he still lapsed daily back into this unhappy, striving guy. It really frustrated him. All of the solid saints in scripture felt like hypocrites.

*I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Romans 7:22-24)*

We cannot stop the bad thoughts from coming. We have to daily fill ourselves with fellowship with God. It is a daily tug of war. If we are filled with the Holy Spirit, there won't be room for other stuff to preoccupy us. It is far better to start the day filled with the Holy Spirit; than to skip it; and try to catch up with God as the day goes on.

*I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. (Galatians 5:16-18)*

Feed your spirit; so you can walk above your circumstances...and not be crushed by the weight of self doubt and restlessness. Heaven is not just God and angels and saints...and a location... it is also our state of mind and emotion. Everything has to be right to make it perfect.

*For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be [b]carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the [c]carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from*

*the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies [d]through His Spirit who dwells in you. (Romans 8:5-11)*

Adam and Eve lived their lives; and walked with God as part of their morning routine. It was not necessarily the high point of the day to them. They had undisclosed options to explore. In the millennium; our desire and attention and entertainment will truly be in Jesus; because we will be in our spirit, not our flesh. People will live a self-sufficient life, with home-grown food. It will not be like our *specialized economy*; with people continuously getting buried in work.