



## SPG SERIES - Study 10 **Desperate to Make Room**

As we have looked at the Saturation of the Presence of God and heart healing, we have discovered that they are synonymous thoughts; leading us to think about being desperate for the presence of God. Desperate has 2 basic meanings:

1. having lost hope, suffering extreme need or anxiety
2. extreme intensity, overpowering, shocking, outrageous

The second meaning is the one we will focus on.

Think about Jacob, when he was with the angel:

...then the man (angel) said to me, "let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." (Gen. 32:26)

Here we have Jacob, who gets his name "Israel" at this time, because he had struggled with God and with men and overcame. What a beautiful picture of desperateness. Jacob, at all cost, was not going to let the man (angel) go, after wrestling all night, because he was desperate to be blessed.

Think of Abraham, when he was to offer Isaac:

"...then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham!" "Here I am", he replied. "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." (Gen. 22:10-12)

Do you think Abraham, (after waiting until he was 100 years old before the promise of multiplying his nation through Isaac was fulfilled), had a desperate faith?

What about Nehemiah:

3 They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire." 4 When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. 5 Then I said: "O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, 6 let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. 7 We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses. 8 "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, 9 but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.' 10 "They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. 11 O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man." I was cupbearer to the king. 2:1 In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before; 2 so the king asked me, "Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This

can be nothing but sadness of heart." I was very much afraid, 3 but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" 4 The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven, 5 and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it."

6 Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, "How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?" It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time. 7 I also said to him, "If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? 8 And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?" And because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king granted my requests...20 I answered them by saying, "The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it..." (Nehemiah 1:3-2:20)

13 Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. 14 After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes." 15 When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to his own work.

16 From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah 17 who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, 18 and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me. (Nehemiah 4:13-18)

Based on how Nehemiah wept and put himself at risk, consider his deep love for God.

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Consider how the people worked and defended (at the same time), while they restored the wall.

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After looking at Jacob, Abraham and Nehemiah, record what God is saying to you.

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After our many studies on unquenchable passion for our Lord, we know that gaining more of His presence and acknowledging that transformation is necessary, is vital. We should be experts at transformation, joining God in what He wants to perfect in us.

- Are you anticipating the transformation that needs to be completed? \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you eager for the next transformation project between you and God? \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you increasingly anticipating more of His presence and hearing His voice? \_\_\_\_\_

We live desperately everyday in that we do certain things we would never miss doing. This is the same kind of passionate desperation for God's presence we should be having daily, even more so.

As one member of our group stated, “I’m not sure I get this desperateness!” If we hear from God, and He tells us something to do, there should be nothing that stands in the way of our doing it! That is desperate. This member of the group communicated a message God gave him regarding his wife and shared it with her. He had passion to rectify the situation and experience transformation. Ten days later he confessed he had taken no “action” on this direction. The enemy desires to distract us and take us out. We must have the conviction of Abraham, Jacob or Nehemiah!! Desperateness must burn deep within us. This same member confessed “Ah, yes, I understand desperate now!” Isn’t this our story as well – that we get clear messages from God and don’t respond. We must become desperate to please Him.

Let’s dig deeper.

“After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: “I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.” Acts 13:22

Are you a man after God’s own heart? Do you do everything God wants you to? What are you sensing in your heart? \_\_\_\_\_

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Max Davis, in his book “Desperate Dependence” states:

“Desperateness is experiencing God’s best in life’s toughest situations...”

Do we have to wait until we are in dire circumstances to be desperate for God? Again Max states:

“When you reach the end, God’s best begins!”

I am not suggesting that we won’t incur testing and suffering, but unfortunately when He desires to have fellowship with us, we are not desperate enough to love Him with all of our heart and we limit His presence and power! Can you imagine the abundant life we can experience? The Psalmist stated:

“How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.” Ps. 84:1,2

Every day, and throughout each day, we are to be yearning and crying out for our God!

The context of the following Psalm is David being pursued by Saul, who’s trying to kill him.

Consider the man after God’s own heart:

Psalm 63 - A psalm of David when he was in the Desert of Judah.

O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. 2 I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. 3 Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. 4 I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. 5 My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. 6 On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. 7 Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. 8 My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. 9 They who seek my life will be destroyed; they will go down to the depths of the earth. 10 They will be given over to the sword and become food

for jackals. 11 But the king will rejoice in God; all who swear by God's name will praise him, while the mouths of liars will be silenced.

Here is another Psalm of desperateness:

Psalm 13

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

2 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart?

How long will my enemy triumph over me?

3 Look on me and answer, O Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death;

4 my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

5 But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation.

6 I will sing to the Lord, for he has been good to me.

No matter the circumstance, David rejoices in his salvation. Look at Psalms 17, 22, and 54!

What you see is the faith and desperateness David has for God, not so much in a physical sense but in a spiritual one.

Read Psalm 18. This Psalm indicates David's response to God's protection from Saul and other unnamed enemies. Enjoy the beauty of David & God's intimacy!!

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What has God called you to be desperate about? \_\_\_\_\_

What are you prepared to do about it? \_\_\_\_\_

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"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."

Matt. 5:8

Do you really desire to experience all of God and be filled to overflowing with the Spirit? Do you believe God wants you to be holy? Is that what you desperately want, to be in His presence continually? \_\_\_\_\_

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Let's not shortcut God's plan or minimize His presence in our lives; the abundant life He wants to give us as His children.

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