



CHRIST COMMISSION FELLOWSHIP

Dgroup Discussion Guide

July 15, 2012

## Delight Yourself in the Lord

**WORSHIP:** In Your Presence/ Faith/ How Great is Our God/ Everything I Need/ How Great Thou Art

**WELCOME:**

1. What excites me the most?
2. When was the last time I got excited over something God did in my life?

**WORD:**

*"Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart" Psalm 37:4*

Being presence driven like Moses should be our ultimate goal. We inhabit a purpose driven world, but in Exodus 33: 14-16, Moses shows us that more than our purpose in life, more than our race to the fulfillment of our goals it is important that we remain **presence driven** so that we can reach our promised land.

What are some of the proofs of being presence driven?

1. God is pleased with us (Exodus 33:16)
2. We are distinguished

What then is the secret of being presence driven?

Get excited with God. Expect God to be God, to always be the victor. Enjoy God.

*"Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart" Psalm 37:4*

Think about the last time you got excited about something – diamonds, a new car, a new pair of shoes, a boyfriend/ girlfriend? Do you remember the feeling? This should be the same feeling we have for God. We should become excited with God. To have an insatiable desire to know all about Him, to be compelled to get closer to Him. To become fascinated with Him.

If we want to become favored, to become distinguished, to become rested . . . to become presence driven. . . we should learn to *delight ourselves in the Lord*. Delight is defined as a high degree of pleasure, enjoyment, rapture; something that gives us great pleasure. It can also be defined as something that gives great pleasure to, satisfaction or enjoyment.

Unfortunately, for many God is not a source of delight but rather a duty. The command to delight in God has become a duty. Delighting means enjoying God to a point of always being in God's presence but the tragedy is many are not. This is why many are easily discouraged and disheartened, they do not understand what it means to delight in the Lord. They do not have the right motivation. They have lost track of what is really important. We place value in the created things, but have forgotten to take delight in the Creator. We have focused on the gifts, rather than on the Giver. This kind of thinking has led us to the wrong behavior.

We need to correct our thinking based on truths. Truths about God and truths about ourselves. We need to correct our view of God so that we can find delight in the presence of God.

First, we have to understand --- what is delighting in the Lord. What does that mean? To understand what it means to delight in the Lord, we have to understand what it is NOT. In Exodus 13, 14 and 15 we see the story about God's victory over the Egyptians at the Red Sea. Initially, the Israelites delighted in the Lord. They sang praises and danced victory dances for the Lord, but a few days later into the wilderness they began to grumble. They had so easily forgotten how the Lord had protected them and freed them from the Egyptians. This had become a pattern for the Israelites --- they entered into a life-long pattern of complaint and disobedience.

Often times, we also fall into this same pattern. We delight in the Lord only during the times that when things are going well in our lives and then grumble and complain when things are not going our way. During these times of delight, we only think we are delighting in the Lord but in reality we are simply delighting in what the Lord has given us at that moment. Just like the Israelites were upon crossing the Red Sea. Their focus was on their deliverance from the greatest army in the world. Their focus was on their own good and welfare. This is not the right focus. Our focus as believers should be on God Himself. On His Presence and Omnipotence. On His power and grace. On who He is and not what He has given us.

Delighting for what God gives us and does in our lives is good BUT even better is to delight in the Lord Himself. Philippians 4:4-5 reminds us to *“Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say rejoice! Let your spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.”* We should rejoice in the Lord always because our God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow for His people.

The Christian life is centered on faith. Faith that God Himself will lead us, care for us and provide for us as He leads us to our spiritual promised land. If this is so, then our circumstances and feelings should not be the basis of our joy. Instead, we should find joy as we delight in the Lord Himself. So in everything that happens in our life – whether good or bad, in our success and failures, in our triumphs and trials – we should understand that God will always be there for us. He is always faithful. He is always good. . . because we belong to Him.

Paul and Silas in Acts 16 exemplified this for us – even while they were imprisoned, they continued to sing praises to the Lord. Even before God intervened in their lives, even when they were being beaten and tortured – they continued to sing praises. They could do this because their joy and delight was in the Lord Himself and not in their circumstances. They understood that God is sovereign. That He is in control. And because of this – God intervened and chains were broken. . . and lives were saved.

When we understand this truth, delighting in the Lord is no longer a problem. Is no longer a duty.

This is the secret of being presence-driven. Delight yourself in the Lord --- our righteous, just, Holy, loving and most of all sovereign Lord whose will, purpose and counsel will rule for His own Glory and praise.

Discussion:

1. How do you understand *“delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.”*?
2. What are the chains in your life that you need/ want broken as you delight yourself in the Lord? Be specific.
3. Who’s souls do you want saved as you continue to delight in the Lord?

**WORKS:** Israelites at the Red Sea versus Paul – Silas imprisoned.

1. Taking into consideration these two, to whom do you most identify with? Why?
2. What is your identifiable “Red Sea victory”? What do you see as the destructive pattern or patterns that you have fallen into that hinders you from truly delighting in the Lord? Please be specific.
3. What was the prison that God had freed you from? What characteristic of God kept you singing praises in your prison?

In our Christian life, we tend to levitate from one pole to the other. Sometimes we are the Israelites grumbling and complaining after a victory; at others we are like Paul and Silas praising at the top of our voices. When we continue to pursue intimacy with God and we learn how to bask in His presence, we begin to understand who God is. We begin to experience His sovereignty in our lives. We begin to understand that He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow – that His love and grace is constant and unfailing. . . then we will begin to truly delight in the Giver and not in the gifts alone. Let us continue to pray for one another as we seek God’s help to conquer our Egyptians, as we find our way out of the wilderness, as patiently wait for Him to break our chains. Let us encourage one another to worship and delight in our Creator, continue to dwell in the presence of our Savior as we prepare for His return to take us home.