

True Satisfaction

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Life Lessons | July 19, 2026 | James 1:5; Matthew 5:3; Matthew 6; Isaiah 53; Psalm 90

Prepared from the spoken message and lightly edited for readability. Scripture quotations and spoken phrasing are preserved as delivered.

Well, good morning, Champion Forest. It is so good to be here with you today. I just want to thank Pastor Jeff for the kind, encouraging words, and I want to tell you, church, what God is doing in the lives of college students and young adults is fantastic. It is wonderful. He's worthy to be praised.

So, if you have a young adult or a college student in your home, next to your home as a neighbor, or as a friend, please tell them there is something here for them, that God has a plan. I would love the chance to meet them and tell you more about our young adult ministry.

I'd love to thank Pastor Jarrett Stephens for allowing me to be in his pulpit. What an honor and a grace to communicate God's Word with you today.

If you have a copy of God's Word, open it up to Psalm 90, right in the middle of your Bible. I want to ask you a question, though, as you're turning there and opening up your notebooks. What satisfies you?

Now, I know everyone in the room hears that question and thinks of someone or something. It's a question I want to give all of our time to today: What satisfies you?

Wives, is it when your husband does what you ask him, when you ask him, or when he does it before you ask because he's been told before and is showing that we're learning? We are learning slowly.

Is it a warm meal at the end of a day? Is it a cold sandwich on a hot day? Fresh watermelon? Cantaloupe? Had one last night. So good.

I've been in Houston now for six years. I'm learning to love it. Here's what I know about Houston: You are satisfied when my Dallas Cowboys lose. I won't count the Super Bowls we have that are more than Houston, but you're satisfied when Dallas loses, and that's okay. I'm learning to see that as a way that you show love.

But this question is so important for us today. What is it that satisfies? Who did you think of? What did you think of?

I think about a single mom who has daughters and sons, and at the end of your day, you've spent all your time and energy on your children. If there's anything left for yourself, you probably don't take it because you're still thinking about them for the next day.

I think about the husband who wakes up early to go to the job he does not love just to provide for his family - food, clothes, gas, money for sports so your kids can enjoy things - hoping that it's a good year and you can have one week to go on vacation and make memories as a family. But your day-to-day work is not satisfying

you.

I think about young adults I talk to every week who are feeling the weight of this world. What do I do? Who am I? How do I know what to study? Is she right? Is he right for me? Is he ever going to grow up? All of these questions we're asking, and we're seeking satisfaction through daily means.

I know multiple people who've spent more nights in a hospital bed this year than in their own bed, and they would be so satisfied just to go home and get back to their routine, a sense of normality.

It's an important question we have today: What is it that satisfies us?

We're on week two of a summer series called Life Lessons. Each week, you'll hear from a pastor about what they have learned or are learning. Through our time today, you can guess we're going to talk about true satisfaction.

I believe the reason we like to talk about satisfaction is simply that life is difficult. Life is really challenging. It's hard. It feels like you come up for a breath of air, and then you're pushed right back under in the waters of affliction - just enough to reset or catch a breath and then get going again.

My wife and I have a daughter just over two years old. For the last week, almost on the dot, she's woken up at 4:30 every morning crying, "Mommy, Daddy, I'm crying. I'm sad. Mommy, Daddy, I'm crying. I'm sad."

We're crying. We're sad. I'm praying peace over her room.

Life is difficult, and it comes in so many different ways: financially, in marriage, tensions at home, and all of these different relationships we have. Every day, there's a guarantee of difficulty. If it's not today, it's coming. That's not bad news. That's just a good perspective to have.

That's why satisfaction is such a good topic for us to focus on, because no one in this room likes to be dissatisfied. No one signs up for that. We long for rest, peace, and satisfaction. It's a godly desire.

I'm really thankful that the Scriptures don't shy away from that topic. God doesn't neglect our disappointments or our discouragement. In fact, the Scriptures again and again show us pictures of men and women walking through discomfort, dissatisfaction, disappointment, and a longing in our hearts that only God can fill.

God is no stranger to it. He's written 66 books detailing to us the way to satisfaction. But even more so, God made Himself deeply familiar with our sorrows and griefs through the person of Jesus Christ, plunging into His own sorrow and suffering.

Look at Isaiah 53 with me. The Scripture says:

*He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

Surely he has borne our griefs

and carried our sorrows.

— Isaiah 53:3-4

Our sorrows and our griefs. Listen, God knows troubles and sorrows. He's experienced them, but He knows ours as well. God desires our satisfaction in Him.

God knows that every single one of you in this room desires satisfaction. If you stood up and shared, it would sound different and look different, but the baseline is that God knows each of you desires satisfaction. He knows that it is a huge piece of your heart. He knows the difficulties you've been walking through. He knows what you're about to walk into.

That song we just sang: "I trust in God, my Savior, the One who will never fail." So I trust my unknown days to the known God. I have satisfaction in Him.

But He knows what's been difficult for you. There may be no one in this church who knows it but you. I just encourage you to come share with a pastor or a minister after this. We want to be a church that walks alongside you in the highs, but also in the lows of life as well. Both deeply matter to the Lord.

Christian in the room, here's great news for us: The Bible talks again and again about us being stewards and ambassadors of God's design for our lives. That overwhelms my soul the longer I sit and think about it. The Creator God of heaven and earth, who spoke the earth into existence - the light, the sun, the moon, and the stars - knit you together specifically, uniquely, and intentionally in your mother's womb. He gave you a name and numbered the hairs on your head. Before mountains were shaped, before the beaches and all of that, He knew you.

He's entrusted to you unique gifts and graces, good things for the church and for the people in your life to see and experience His love. But He's also trusting us with challenges, difficulties, and sorrows.

So it's not wrong for us to desire satisfaction. It's a good thing. We get in the wrong when we start looking for it in the wrong places, in other people, and in the things of this world.

When you head out today and walk to a life group, you see the library on the wall. There are the big three circles. It's a great tool for sharing the gospel, but you'll see "brokenness" on it. We face and go deeper into brokenness when we look for satisfaction in the wrong place.

That's what today is all about: True satisfaction is only found in the steadfast love of God.

In my Bible, when I'm writing something down, I underline and capitalize "TR" because there's an eternal, everlasting truth: Satisfaction comes in God's steadfast love.

The Everlasting God

Look with me at Psalm 90. Scholars debate the context of this psalm, but what we do know is that Moses, titled "a man of God," prayed on behalf of Israel to the Lord during a difficult time.

Some suggest this happened in the context of Numbers 20. Just to catch you up, Israel has been walking

through the desert. Miriam has died. Aaron has died. Moses has lost a family member and a partner in ministry. Then he strikes the rock instead of speaking to it, and now he's not going to the Promised Land.

As you can believe and relate, Moses is going through discouragement. He feels defeated. Death is around him. What does he do? He looks for satisfaction. But what's important is how he does it. Better yet, who he looks to in this moment of hurt and loss.

Moses turns to God in prayer and devotion.

If you're taking notes, you can write this down: the everlasting God.

This is how Psalm 90 begins. In the first two verses, Moses prays. What I love about this is that there's death, discouragement, and defeat. It's been a long road for him, leading Israel through the wilderness. In spite of that, regardless of his circumstances, Moses begins his prayer Godward. He directs his mind, his senses, and his spirit toward who the Lord is.

I think about Jesus teaching His disciples how to pray. Don't you love His life and ministry? There's one question they ask about learning from Him, and that is, "How do You pray? Teach us how You pray."

Isn't it true that a healthy, growing prayer life makes you long for God more? There's something in that which people see and want, and it's a relationship with God.

When Jesus begins responding to them, He says:

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.*

— Matthew 6:9-10

He gets Godward. He raises His eyes and His attention, His heart and His affections, to the Lord.

There's a pastor who says that the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6 has two halves. The first half is God's world. We get in on His world, and then we bring Him into our world, where we start asking for provision, protection, and so on.

So we begin our prayers Godward, toward the everlasting God. Here's what Moses says:

*Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*

— Psalm 90:1-2

The everlasting God.

Moses addresses the Lord as Adonai. It's a reverent address to the one true God. He says His name intentionally. It underscores God's authority, His covenant faithfulness, and His relational nearness.

Think about that in the context I just described. Miriam is dead. Aaron is dead. Moses struck the rock. The Promised Land isn't happening for Moses. Christ redeems that, but think about all that's going on. Moses appeals to God in His authority, sovereignty, and relational nearness, and realizes there's comfort from the everlasting God. It distinctly points to the Sovereign One who rules over all.

Here's encouragement for you and me today: In your weariness and difficulty, God is still sovereign over all. It doesn't change who He is or where He's seated.

In fact, I heard a challenge from a pastor years ago who asked this question of his congregation. I'm going to ask it of you today, and I want you to really think about it: When was the last time you stopped to think about who you were praying to before you prayed?

True story: I grew up, and at dinnertime, this was the Kilgo prayer: "Rub-a-dub-dub, God bless this grub."

I would be asked not to pray for too long so the food would stay warm.

On a serious note, a lot of us have a typical tagline we like to begin our prayers with. I've noticed it for me: "Jesus, I love You." Then I go, but I'm not thinking about the Jesus I love.

My prayer life changes when I stop. Practically, here's what it is: It's two or three deep breaths. It's just beginning to think about the God who dwells in unapproachable light. The waters of the earth fit in His hands with nail-pierced scars. He's the One who intentionally made me, who hears my prayer before I even speak it, who knows my thoughts, who thinks more about me than there is sand on the seashore, and who promises redemption and good.

When I stop and think about who my God is and the relational nearness I have to Him, my prayer life changes. In fact, it's hard to get out of my prayer space. Since August of 2024, I've found myself coming back to my place of prayer throughout the day because of this relational nearness the Lord has taught me in His love.

But it begins with, "Who are you praying to?" It begins with having awe in the Lord - not rushing, not jumping, not getting to the ask, but pausing, being still, and letting the Holy Spirit, who has been given to every believer, direct your mind to the throne of grace.

Moses has desire. He's hurting. He longs for satisfaction. He begins by fixing his eyes on the Lord and coming to Him in prayer. That's a good word for us today. The One he's speaking to and serving is the everlasting God.

Some of you need to hear that today. We serve the everlasting, unchanging, eternal, beginning-and-end God. He is faithful, and He holds the middle in His hands.

There is no problem too big for our God. I believe it's an old hymn that says, "What a gift it is to come and bring it all to Jesus." What an honor.

In fact, problems and giants become an invitation to intimacy with Christ. I don't know about you, but my

problems and giants don't go away every time I pray. But what happens when I'm in this place of prayer, aware of the everlasting God, is that I have peace like a river. I have a presence that comforts and assures me that what's coming will be for His glory and my good.

I'll rest in that. I'm okay in that. But it's a nearness to God. It's the everlasting God.

Finite Man

Then I think this is where a lot of us find ourselves and where Moses goes next: finite man.

Look with me at verses 3 through 11:

*You return man to dust
and say, "Return, O children of man!"
For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.*

*You sweep them away as with a flood;
they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning:
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.*

*For we are brought to an end by your anger;
by your wrath we are dismayed.
You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.*

*For all our days pass away under your wrath;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.*

*Who considers the power of your anger,
and your wrath according to the fear of you?*

— Psalm 90:3-11

Isn't that mindset true? Have you ever stood on a crystal-clear shore - not in Texas - and looked out over God's creation and felt so small? Wave after wave, horizon beyond what you can see, God painting the sunrise and painting the sunset, and you realize how small you are.

Maybe for you it's the mountains or the trees. It's hiking through trails, getting out to this outlook, and just going, "This is so beautiful, but I feel so small."

Or it's getting up in an airplane. To me, I'm so prayerful in an airplane because I don't think we belong up there. Every time, I'm thinking it's coming downhill steep, and I begin praying. But then I look out the window,

and all my problems that are bigger than life itself at street level aren't even apparent when I look at them from God's perspective.

Maybe it's standing over the casket of a loved one or sitting at the graveside of someone who's no longer there.

My grandpa was my faith hero. I never met a man like him. He never once complained. He was married for 60 years. I remember sitting at his graveside, telling him about my life and what's been going on. I knew he wasn't there. I knew he was with Jesus. But I was just getting a chance to talk, telling him about Lily and weeping because, in that moment, I realized I just wished I had one more conversation.

We come to these moments when we realize we are finite. Our years and our days are like grass in the morning that is withered in the evening.

I brought this from my yard this morning. I really did. I stooped over and spent time picking out a good piece of grass - something green, something big. It's pretty, isn't it? Every man in the room just compared your yard to my yard, and it's no competition. There's no winner.

Then I went and picked this piece of grass from Pastor Jeff's yard. It's withered, and it hasn't had any attention or been watered in quite a while.

I'm just kidding. His yard looks beautiful.

But I bring this to us today because it's really important to get a visual of what God's Word is saying. This is a big deal, to say that our life is like a piece of grass. There's not much hope in life right here.

For some of us in the room, by the grace of God, we feel like this green grass - strong, vibrant, nourished, rooted, healthy, and confident. Things are going well by the grace of God, only by the grace of God.

Others of us have been walking with Jesus for decades, and we feel like this. Or maybe you're a new Christian and you feel this way - discouraged and defeated. You think about who you used to be, and you still feel like that's your identity.

You walk in here and worship, and there are a few people who know you, but for the most part, you go home and don't feel nourished or rooted in God's love. You would say He loves you, and you tell other people He loves them, but this is life, and you're just longing to get back to this.

Just a note on that: God doesn't call you back to previous faithfulness. Your past is not the standard. It's a good example, but God is calling you to faithfulness today. You can be faithful right here, and you can be faithful right here. What a witness this is.

Think about our life: a piece of grass.

If any of you drove by my home later, looked at my beautiful yard, and saw me on my knees begging the grass to help me financially, or crying and telling the grass about my anxiety, saying, "Please give me peace," you would think I was a fool. The doors would probably be locked, and my wife would need me to go on a long walk until I could come back into the house.

But the reality is that some of us are doing this, and we don't realize it. We're putting all of our eggs in this world's basket. We're hoping the right guy will come along, the right girl will come along, a new zip code will improve things, or that we'll get a better job, a higher tax bracket, a nicer car, or more vacation.

You're begging this blade of grass to be enough, and it simply will not be. It was never intended to be enough.

In fact, grass is only healthy because of the nourishment underneath it. The Scriptures say that the root of the righteous will never be moved and always bears fruit. That root is Christ.

Today, if you're not there yet, if you still think this could be enough for you and that Christianity is helping other people but isn't for you, or if there are things in your life you think you can go get and then you'll be good, I pray a holy dissatisfaction over that pursuit. It won't help. It was never meant to be enough.

Here's the good news: God longs to fulfill your desires. More than that, God is the only One able, and He is ready, willing, and available to begin filling you and satisfying you in His love and with your desires.

No matter how much changes or doesn't change in this piece of grass, it won't be enough for your life. Moses had learned that through 40 years in the desert. Temporary means don't increase satisfaction. They may increase happiness, but true satisfaction comes from Jesus.

I was thinking about satisfaction, and my mind went to the airport. When you use the restroom and walk out, they ask, "How was your visit today?" It's never pleasant. But there are the red, yellow, and green buttons.

I think I'm nice, so I'll go and hit the green one four or five times because no one ever does. In fact, I think they just put their paper towel right there.

But I think sometimes, as Christians, we've gotten so defeated and beaten over the head by the enemy and our circumstances that when we think about God's love, we're like, "I'm okay with the yellow. I know He loves me, and that's good."

But there is none of that in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our satisfaction, regardless of circumstances, cultural events, or emotional trends, should be green: "I am satisfied in the love of Jesus Christ."

That's what He longs to bring to you and give you for every day. In fact, He's done everything that was needed to bring you that satisfaction. The Bible says:

It is finished.

— John 19:30

It is finished on our behalf through Jesus.

Covenant Satisfaction

This leads us to this: We have the realization that in our midst is the everlasting God. We have the sober awareness that we are finite people in need, which, by the grace of God, leads us to true satisfaction. True satisfaction is found in covenant satisfaction.

Look at how Moses continues his prayer:

*So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.
Return, O Lord! How long?
Have pity on your servants!*

*Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.
Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!*

— Psalm 90:12-17

Look at your text and look at verses 9 and 10. The span of our days is toil and trouble, like a sigh. They're soon gone. They fly away. There's not a lot of hope there. In fact, in the original languages, the Greek and the Hebrew reemphasize the negative experiential tone of trouble and hardship.

It's how we opened: Life is difficult.

But look at the beautiful exchange that happens here. Think about your life as a calendar. Every day, every line, every month, and every year is just filled with disappointing, discouraging, hard appointments - places you don't want to go, things you don't want to experience, loss, sorrow, and grief.

The gospel of Jesus Christ takes those toilsome and troubling days and, with red ink in the blood of Jesus, marks over them and writes, "Rejoicing, gladness, joy, satisfaction, and peace."

That's what's promised to you in Christ. Things don't have to get easier. There's a love of God that fills your heart in spite of difficult trials and days, all because He's caused our hearts to be filled with His love.

Moses spent decades learning this. He was called a man of God. That's what the Scripture says: Moses, a man of God. But Moses knew he was a man who needed God.

Moses recognized that whether his grass was green and he felt strong, or it was withered and dying, he needed God in every way.

Have you recognized that yet? I don't know where you are. You might be here because of your circumstances. I've seen God do it in my life. I had a career-ending surgery during my sophomore year of college. It took all my dreams away, and I was right here.

But I thank God for that withered piece of grass I was, because it led me to say, "I don't have it all. I'm not enough. But my Jesus is."

Some of you are here. If you're in Christ, that's great news. But if you're not, I just want to love you and tell you this world is not enough for you. You're made for so much more.

Have you recognized that yet?

Think about Jesus. Matthew 5:3 begins the greatest sermon ever recorded by saying:

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

— Matthew 5:3

We could illustrate that by saying, "Blessed are those who know life is a piece of grass and aren't looking for their comfort here, but are looking to Me."

What do we do, then? Thank the Lord, the Bible tells us and directs us in every aspect of our lives. It's the living, breathing Word of God. It pierces through joint and marrow, thought of mind and heart, and it reveals God's truth.

Here's what it says:

*So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.*

— Psalm 90:12

Moses says, "God, now I need You to help me number my days. God, teach me how short my days are so that I may live them in Your fullness."

It's not so I can walk around and know that I'm defeated or know when the end is. No, so that the shortness of my days would be influenced and pivoted by Your glory, so that I'd live them in Your fullness.

I was thinking about my life and this lesson on being satisfied in the love of God. I was looking back, praying, and thinking of a few enemies, opponents, and adversaries of a Christian resting in the satisfying love of God.

The enemies of a life satisfied in the love of God include pride. It's thinking that somehow, because you're smart enough, you make enough, or things went well enough, you're this vibrant piece of grass on your own. You did it. You got it. Kudos to you. Pats on the back. If we had more of you in the world, it'd be a better place.

Pride. What's right in the middle of pride? "I." I've got this. I'm good. I don't need help. Maybe that's causing you to lose satisfaction.

Maybe it's greed. You want more. We have a microwave culture. We want it right now. Instant gratification. "I won't be happy until I climb the ladder and get the promotion. Someone got it over me, and I deserve it more. I'm greedy. I want more."

You've been praying for years for provision. God gives it to you, and it's, "Thank You, but I want..." Greed takes satisfaction away from our hearts.

Maybe it's comfort. You just want to sit back, put it in cruise control, kick your feet up, relax, and coast through life. You're seeking after temporary comforts, and it could be at the expense of an eternal soul. Comfort takes away satisfaction.

Maybe it's control. You want to lead. You want to call the shots.

Maybe it's comparison. You're looking at their life and their blessings, not having any idea what they went through to be there.

The Bible tells us that there were multiple times people would rise up against Moses because they wanted the leadership, but they had no idea what it meant behind closed doors. Think about the number of times Moses tears his clothes and gets on his face before God because it's so hard and burdensome.

Let me encourage you not to compare your circumstances to someone else's, because you just have no idea.

Lastly, it could be bitterness. There's unforgiveness in your heart. Something happened to you years ago that you just can't get over. It's not right. It's not fair.

The only thing I can say to that is, first, I hear you. It may not have been fair. It may be the hardest thing you could have ever imagined for yourself or for your child.

But what wasn't fair was Christ on the cross for us, the perfect Son of God facing the fullness of God's wrath. That wasn't fair. But in that, we have forgiveness.

For you today, if there's bitterness that's keeping life and satisfaction from you, I encourage you to follow the example of Jesus: "Father, forgive them." Give them forgiveness so that you can live in freedom.

When it comes to wisdom, how do we grow in it? How do we gain wisdom to number our days? The Bible also addresses that:

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

— James 1:5

The love of God has been this theme in my life lately that is overwhelming my soul, but it hasn't always been.

In fact, a couple of months ago, I felt like I was on this pursuit to know more about God's love. If you would text me and say, "How can I pray for you?" my simple response was, "Pray that I would know God's love."

"How are you doing?"

"I want to know God's love."

I would read, pray, study, journal, and do all these right things. But I was miserable. In fact, I felt like I went from the green grass to this withered piece while I was trying to know God's love. It made no sense to me.

Then I got alone with the Lord one morning, like I had been doing. I felt this sense of glory, the presence of God, come into the room. I knew He was about to speak to me.

I opened up my psalm reading, which was chapter 90. I read about grass in the morning and in the evening. Yep. Verses 10 and 11: toil and trouble. Yep. Sighing and sorrow. Yep.

But then I got to verse 14:

*Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.*

— Psalm 90:14

I thought, "That's it. I've been wanting to know more about God's love, but I haven't been satisfied in God's love. I want to be satisfied in the love of God."

It's less about learning. I want to learn through experience, which I'll share here in just a minute.

A change of circumstances will not satisfy you. Only the covenant love and faithfulness of God will bring true satisfaction into your life. No amount of change, relocation, improvement, or promotion can satisfy the desires of your heart because, like Ecclesiastes 3 says, God has made each of us with eternity in our hearts.

In verse 14, that word "satisfied" in the Hebrew means to be caused to be filled, to be full, to have no more room for appetite - completely full, filled, and spilling over. It's God who causes us to be satisfied.

Here's a point for us as we think about pursuing the satisfaction of God's love: It's not self-generated. God's not waiting for you to get better to satisfy you. It's not about self-generation. God must be the One who actively fills you with gladness.

Think about that. God promises to satisfy, and He actively fills us with gladness.

Here's a question: When was the last time you came before God and asked Him to satisfy you?

You got alone, went to your prayer closet, got a cup of coffee, sat on the couch or went to the table, opened your Bible, got your journal, and just said, "God, I want You to satisfy me in Your love."

As I ask you that question, I feel weird. Isn't it true, Christian, how weird we feel asking God for things sometimes? We feel strange asking Him to bless us or even to show us His love because He's done so much for us, and there's so much to do.

But if that's you, you and I are in the same boat. I think it means we have a short view of God's heart for us. We have a misunderstanding, a gap in our understanding of a Father's love.

What would it look like to go before Him in the morning, get on your knees before the everlasting God, think about Him as everlasting and you as finite, but think about His covenant love, and just say, "God, would You, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, cause me to be satisfied in Your love? I won't leave this room until I am."

What a beauty that could become. Sometimes it's cost me my plan.

Are you drifting toward a self-reliant plan where you can click on YouVersion, get the check mark, and feel good about that? Or is it a Spirit-led love, where God leads you by Himself to Himself, and there's joy and

overflow there?

Programs and plans are not bad, but they're not the Holy Spirit. He can use them, but they're not Him. We need to be led by the person of the Holy Spirit toward His love.

Look at verse 15 with me as we close. Moses makes this prayer: God, teach us wisdom. God, cause us to be satisfied. Then he says:

*Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.*

— Psalm 90:15

Think about that bold request. Moses asked God to match the days of his hardship and difficulty with joy and gladness.

"God, I've had 20 years of marital problems. Would You match those 20 years with 20 years of joy, love, and unity with my spouse?

"God, You know how I've felt about my child for 18 years. Would You take the next 18 years, or a lifetime, and bring gladness, rejoicing, and friendship with my child, that we would grow together?

"Lord, I've had 30 years of financial trouble. Would You take that trouble and give joy and gladness?"

This all goes back under the banner that those things won't satisfy you. Christ will. But as we live satisfied with Christ, as Moses did, we can ask God to redeem our days of trouble.

Here's a beautiful truth: God doesn't ignore our difficulties or our trouble. He redeems them. Everything in your life has redemptive potential, and one of His names is Redeemer.

You can think about that. In fact, the things that drove me crazy and the sin I used to live in, God has redeemed. He does it every time I talk to a young adult and say, "Look at me. I know. I've been there too. Addiction, drinking, pornography - look at me. I've been there, and God's redeemed it."

I get to watch Him tear down walls in front of people because He's restored things in my past, and I'm thankful for it.

It reminds me of a promise in the Old Testament. In Joel 2:12, God calls His people to repent and return to Him. That's an invitation for some of us today. That could be your response.

He says that when you do, this is what happens:

*I will restore to you the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent among you.*

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,

*and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.*

*You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I am the Lord your God and there is none else.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.*

— Joel 2:25-27

Maybe that's a prayer today. "I've never thought about asking God to redeem my past. It felt like a burden. It felt like He's tired of me talking about it or He's still disappointed in my past."

No, no, no, no. Unconditional, everlasting love.

*I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.*

— Jeremiah 31:3

I believe that promise. I believe it for you, and I believe it for me today.

As we close, I want to put up this quote from Scottish preacher Alexander Maclaren, who I think sums all of this up really well. He says, "The only thing that will secure lifelong gladness is a heart satisfied with the experience of God's love."

So I go back to my question: What satisfies you? Who or what did you come in here satisfied in?

I pray today that you'd leave in a satisfied relationship with Jesus Christ, because He is satisfied in you by faith when you draw near to Him. If you're weary, He promises, "Drink from the river of His delights."

You draw near. He never casts you away. You can come to the Lord today and have a relationship with Jesus.

In the New Testament, this whole idea of "Satisfy me in Your love" climaxes in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He's alive. Our King reigns, and He's alive.

Like Job said:

For I know that my Redeemer lives.

— Job 19:25

Today, as Billy Graham used to say, you come by the way of the cross, and God will meet you right where you are. You might walk out in the same circumstances, but with a different spirit and a new heart, as God promises.

All your troubles, all your cares, and all your worries - Christ fulfills, satisfies, and redeems.

True satisfaction is only found in the steadfast love of God.