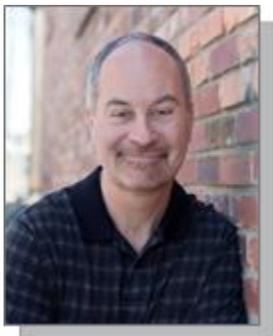


When We Find No Satisfaction

*“We are distressed when we are compelled to wait...Waiting intensifies pain because it forces us to see we are dependent creatures, we want satisfaction.” Dan Allender, **Cry of the Soul***



I did not outrun this last ugly cold virus. Despite all my precautions being around many sick people it laid me low. I seldom get sick, but even the best of precaution and health strategies failed. My lingering cough, mushy brain, and body fatigue continued to dog my last weeks. This virus disrupted a yearlong anticipated speaking engagement on marriage for my wife and me at a beloved local church and sadly had to forgo in the last minute. My wife is supportive and people kind to me. Intellectually I know this sickness too shall pass, it is only temporary. But why won't this rational thinking *satisfy*?

I was dragged into the land of disappointment. Internally I couldn't find the energy to propel me forward and shake off the negative feelings. My soul felt discouragement, unsettled by unfulfilled commitments. It was more than just my body healing; it was a deep longing arising in me.

I had moved beyond the rational into the world of the passionate and unacknowledged desire for satisfaction. Dr. Allender wisely says, “We are distressed when we wait in a bank line or for a friend that is late. The break in momentum toward satisfaction tells us that relief is not imminent; in fact it might not occur at all. We want *satisfaction*-the resolution of our tension and emptiness-but we can't obtain relief because satisfaction of our deepest desire is in the hands of those [people and events] we can't control.” Like a cold bug, or waiting in a bank line, or for late friends. The recognition that our another person can be unsettling from the knowledge that we our best efforts we let each other lacks real satisfaction, and only loneliness and heal that deep

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satisfaction is in the hands of and scary. The discomfort derives humans are imperfect, and despite down. Each of us living in this world the healing balm of God can fill our ache.

So where do we rightly go with this tension and emptiness we experience? I had to take some of my own counseling, which so often as a soul physician I have dispensed to others. I had to *name* and *feel* my struggle, and then allow God to help me. To free the captive, you must name the captivity. We need to fully acknowledge the weight of our demand for immediate satisfaction. It is a false requirement that life, even God, cooperate when and how we think things should happen. We must confess our demand for satisfaction before the Lord. *Acknowledge our dependency to God*. Dealing with our dependency moves us out of discomfort and toward truth and a deeper peace. We alone are not the point of existence. Loving God and others are the point where real satisfaction is found (Mathew 22:37-39). So when the inevitable tensions and emptiness come, may we allow the pain to move us to the One that will satisfy our deepest thirsts.

Warmly in Christ,

Dave

Executive Director