

**September 8, 2023**

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

**Pv. 21:21 *Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.* (NIV)**

In this proverb, Solomon reminds us that if we desire real life, it can only be found by pursuing righteousness and love. The Hebrew word for righteousness is **tzedakah** which means *to be found in a right relationship or blameless*. This was said of Job in **Job 1:1 *In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.*** (NIV) Now this did not mean that Job was perfect, but what it does mean is that he admitted his sin to the Father and repented of that sin. **1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*** (NIV) Job's desire was to stay 'right' with God. Here, Solomon pictures one who continually seeks righteousness. I wonder if I desire this more than I desire my selfish wants. It can only be developed when we have a pure and deep love for the LORD.

The word 'pursue' paints a picture of one who does not give up but continues on without stopping. This person does not easily throw in the towel or give in to their own selfish desires, but instead holds the will of the LORD in high esteem. They are willing to sacrifice their personal wants for the will of the Father. In fact, they delight themselves in the LORD. This means, they enjoy serving and pursuing the righteousness of God. The benefit of this is that they find life, not existence. They are fulfilled by the life of the LORD living within them. This brings all of the benefits of the fruit of the Spirit.

**Dear LORD, please help me to desire You more than anything else. I want to know You and the power of Your resurrection. I want to dwell only in Your presence today. In Jesus Name, Amen**