



Psalm 40:4-8

What God Really Wants from You

*Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods. You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted. Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear. *Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required. Then I said, 'Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.* I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.*

How do you say thank you to God? Of course, you can form the words and speak your thanks aloud. You can offer a gift of thanksgiving to the church or to some other ministry that is dear to your heart and that does the work of God in the world. The author of the 40th psalm would have ordinarily offered a thank-offering in the Temple, but this poet understood that there was and is an expression of gratitude that reaches beyond any gift or liturgical offering that we can make. *Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear. . . . I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.* The greatest and best expression of gratitude, as with love, is in what we do. What God desires from us, more than anything else, is obedience to his will, obedience rendered not out of fear or slavish obligation but out of gratitude and love. It is human nature that when we have been deeply blessed by another, loved by another, we want to be able to give something in return. As with the psalmist we can say: *You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.* God has blessed us primarily in the gift of his Son and the grace of his forgiveness and life, but God has also blessed us individually in more ways than we can count. We show our gratitude primarily as we listen to his Word and strive to live our lives in obedience to his will.