

I Thirst For God

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?
Psalm 42:1-2

When chased, the deer pants for water.

The deer takes to the river, stay submerged as long as his breath permits, then swim downstream in the middle so as not to touch the branches of trees on either side. He thus prevents the hounds from finding his scent. Sometimes he will stay in the water submerged with only his nose out, until he is routed. In a chase he becomes faint and longs for the water intensely (See Joel 1:20). It only has one refuge, it only knows one place to run to safety and that is water. A stream of living water is life and a rampart from the enemy.

This is not just a small thirst but also a great and deep thirst because of the long chase. It is a panting with hard breathing from being exhausted and needing to refresh their system, otherwise they will faint and not be able to go the whole way. The deer feeds close to the water so that after it has finished feeding it drinks with pleasure.

God is often pictured as the source of living water for the refreshment of the spiritually thirsty (Psalm 36:8-9; Isaiah 12:3; Isaiah 32:2; Isaiah 41:17-18; Isaiah 44:3; John 4:14; John 7:37-39).

Although the believer in Christ is complete, in Him we are ever reminded that without his influence, guidance and feeding of His Word we are poor and needy. Our dependence upon Christ is totally upon the faith of the Son of God who loved us and gave his life for us. Gal.2:20 If we do not comprehend this we will never be able to run to the living waters to drink of and be satisfied. He is the cistern that cannot break, the well that can never run dry, the life-giving Spirit and the Word of faith.

When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

Isaiah 41:17-18

Thirst is more vehement than hunger, and more impatient of dissatisfaction.

As long as we are in this world we can never be satisfied by the pleasures of it nor can we find rest by its rivers, for the panting of our souls is for the living God.

My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God.

We see here that David was thirsty for the living God and he wanted to be in the sanctuary ever praising, looking upon his face and beholding his beauty. It was his desire to meditate in his presence.

David had been running for very long time and he wanted to be restored to the privileges of being within the gates of the house of God. He understood that his freedom, joy and his peace came from only one source and that was his God. How can God deny the one who hungers and thirsts after HIM ?

Whoever goes to HIM can be sure that they will receive from Him. He will give us His good pleasure and impart into the heart that is seeking . That is why we have an audience with God when we go before the Throne of grace to speak with. Heb.4:14-16.

When shall I come and appear before God?

That is not to say when he shall appear in heaven but appear in the tabernacle with the priesthood and the worshipers. Those who belong to Christ will find themselves busy with the fellowship of believers because it is natural being part of the body of Christ. Yet there are those who have forsaken the gathering of the brethren and who have denied themselves the privilege and the blessings of the fellowship.

When we come to the house of the Lord we must expect to find the Word of God going forth and teaching us the justice of God. The righteousness of God is found within his people because they are ever crying out unto. Let us never give up the habit of meeting with one another in Christian love, in Christian service and in Christian worship.

The importance of the unity of the brethren

In very nature a deer is a deer but there are many different types of deer in the world. The believers in nature are all the same because they are all existing in God and coexisting with Christ. They all inherit the same blessings and the same impartation of life. They all have the divine nature of God and they are all of the same family.

But just as there are many different varieties of deer there are many varieties of believers in the world. Although we share a common faith there are many different types of customs and habits. The unity of the brethren in Christ was one of the main concerns of the Apostle Paul and he worked tirelessly to bring about unity within the body of Christ.

If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Phil. 2:1-2

Ministers of the Gospel ought to put forth this truth and they should be eager to see the body of Christ come together having the same thirst for God. Nothing creates a thirst

more than salt. Salt is a natural part of the body, which creates thirst, when there is a strong amount of salt within the body the body needs to be refreshed and drinking water is the only best solution.

God gave us a river

God shows us within the Book of Revelation that there is a river running down the middle of that great city. And on each side of the river stands the tree of life bearing twelve crops of fruit faithfully every month (Rev. 22:1). Water is a very important source of the earth without it we could not exist. God created the body so that it is 90% water.

The believer finds satisfaction in the presence of the Lord. The Holy Spirit gives us pleasure and joy and at His right hand there are pleasures forevermore and we see this as we worship Him. We are free to drink of His living water and be washed in His Holy Word (Ps. 16:11; John 15:1-3; Rev. 22:1). In Psalms 23, we find the Shepherd leaving us beside the quiet waters and there he refreshes our soul.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Psalms 23:1-3

It is the pure water that we should thirst for; it is the water that flows from the very Throne of God. This should be the delight of every believer when thirsty. If we thirst for anything else outside of that river it will never satisfy, it will never bring delight, it will only bring pain and strife. THE WATERS OF THIS WORLD ARE UTTERLY BITTER.

This water can only come from the Lamb for he is the center of the Throne of God and he is concerned for all his people. Because he is pure, he can offer us the water that is pure. Because he is kind his waters are free and ever pleasant to the thirsty soul. We can thirst and know that we will drink from the fountain of everlasting life; we can be satisfied with Christ.

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the Throne of God and of the Lamb. Rev. 22:1

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