

Draw Near: Increased Intimacy With God

Increased Desire for God Psalm 63:1

Introduction

- Recently, I was asked to describe the purpose and direction of our church in one word or phrase. I carefully chose the word, “HUNGRY” or the phrase, “Hungry for His Presence.”
- I believe each portion of the body of Christ on this earth has an ordained purpose and design to fulfill the “manifold” heart of God for the world. I believe one of The Gathering’s major purposes is to stir God’s people with hunger for His presence.
- Hunger is an essential part of the coming revival. God invests powerful moves of His presence (revival) into people who are hungry for His presence, are willing to pay any cost for His presence, and are willing to steward His presence for long-term maximization of His glory.
- Seeking His Face, Hosting His Presence, Stewarding His Kingdom

O God, You are my God

- “God” - ‘elohiym (Hebrew) = the supreme God, exceeding God, great God, mighty God (Strong’s Concordance)

- God is the supreme God among all gods. He alone is exceedingly great and mighty. There is no One like Him, and there is no one who compares to Him.
- This is fact and true whether you and I accept it or believe it. If we don't praise Him, creation will. If we don't worship Him, all of heaven will. If we don't fear Him, the devil will. If we don't love Him, the martyrs of history will. And if we won't believe in Him, the demons will. He will always be the supreme God.
- But is the God...your God?
- Is He more than a supreme and exceedingly great God to you? Is He your God? Your Father? Your Love? Your Desire? Your Salvation? Your Friend?
- Have you made a relationship with God personal? He desires you today.

Earnestly I Seek You

- “Earnestly I seek” - shachar (Hebrew) = to be up early with the implication of earnestness, to search for with painstaking, to enquire early, to rise early and seek diligently (Strong's Concordance)
- Do we seek God diligently? Even painstakingly?
- A practical way to seek God earnestly is to give Him back the first part of every day that He gives us...“firstfruits.”
- It is true that we can seek and desire God any time throughout the day, and we should. But this passage points out seeking Him early in the morning.

- This allows us to get the most out of each day for closeness with Him and effectiveness for His purposes.
- Would you be willing to ask God if this is something He desires from you? It is costly to our flesh, but we will never regret the early mornings spent with Him.

My Soul Thirsts for You, My Body Longs for You

- “soul” - nephesh (Hebrew) = breath, to breathe, to be breathed upon, vitality, life (Strong’s Concordance)
- “body” - basar (Hebrew) = flesh, skin, physical body (Strong’s Concordance)
- This incorporates our whole person, spirit/soul and body, longing after God in desperation and even to the point of suffering. (Strong’s Concordance)
- This isn’t, “I really want pizza for lunch.” This is, “If I don’t get a drink of water, I’m literally going to die!”
- Here are some practical ways we can begin this desperate longing: 1) pray for thirst and longing continually, 2) prophesy over yourself increased longing, 3) be around people who are desperate for God, 4) do something that you’ve never done with God before, 5) read a Biblical book about longing for God, 6) go to a conference about desiring God.

In a Dry and Weary land where there is no Water

- “dry” - tsiyah (Hebrew) = desert, drought, barren (Strong’s Concordance)
- “weary” - ‘ayeph (Hebrew) = languid [having very little strength, energy or activity], faint, thirsty, weary (Strong’s Concordance, Merriam-Webster Dict.)
- “My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.” Jeremiah 2:13
- The truth is that we are created to enjoy and be sustained by the living water of God’s presence. Nothing else will satisfy. This world is a dry and weary land without genuine water. We don’t thirst and long for God earnestly because we fill our spiritual bellies with substitutes - but they will never truly satisfy.
- Our broken cisterns are the gods and idols from which we seek comfort and fulfillment. What broken cisterns are you drinking from? Would you be willing to repent today so that true refreshing can come from God, who loves you?