

Psalm 63

Author: David

After being forced to leave by his son's Absalom's revolt (2 Samuel 15:1-12), David penned these words in the dry and weary desert lands surrounding his home of Judah. The dry desert most certainly caused David to have a physical thirst, and his desperation for water has caused him to recognize his spiritual thirst and his longing for his Lord. I wonder which would be worse—having spiritual thirst that could not be satisfied, or having no spiritual thirst at all.

Not Thirsty At All

For many years, each Sunday morning and most Wednesday nights you would find me in church. Then on Thursday mornings or on Sunday nights, I would lead a women's Bible studies. I was faithful, but I was not thirsty. Though I was saved, I had never truly tasted the good ways of God. I realized that it is simply impossible to thirst for something you have never really tasted.

Our salvation and our church involvement alone do not make us thirsty for the Lord. If they did, our churches would be full to capacity and we would need to build more. Budgets would have a surplus, and every people group in the world would have a missionary among them to share the Gospel. You must recognize your need and ask to be filled.

Yet I had no spiritual thirst for the Lord, or His Word, or His ways—until I asked for it. Over a decade ago, I attended a women's conference that finally made me thirsty. I witnessed women worshiping God with radiant tear-stained faces. They loved God passionately, and that love birthed genuine worship in this long-time pew warmer. I left the event with a holy jealousy and a new thirst for what those women had.

Like any jealous girl, I came home and told my Daddy God that I wanted exactly what those other girls had. I began to pray that I would love God as much as those women did. And my answer was, "Yes!" because, when we pray in accordance with God's Word and God's will, our Daddy always says yes.

Read Matthew 5:6.

What happens for those who thirst for righteousness?

Those who have a thirst for God will be filled. And the more you thirst for God, the more you want of God. You just gotta have more! Whether God has delivered you from the desert to pure thirst-quenching delight, or if you are still in the desert, like David, pause and praise Him.

Spiritual Thirst—Unsatisfied

In this Psalm, David is experiencing worship withdrawal. He is forced to leave, not only his home, but also access to the Temple where he regularly worshipped God. But now he can no longer hear the Temple choir sing or hear the instruments played. With his whole body and soul, he longs for God's house and worship. So he calls out to God early in the morning (vs.1)

and through the watches of the night (vs.6). His spirit is as dry as the sand in the desert that he now calls home.

Was it possible for David to worship God in the desert? Yes, and he does. We can worship God whenever and wherever we are, yet there is something powerful about worshipping in God's house with God's people.

A few years ago, my travel schedule kept me from my home church for several Sundays. When I returned home, I became ill, and then I shared the illness with my children. Before I knew it, six weeks had passed before I was able to get back to church. I remembered, and identified with, David's words in verse one. My thirst could not truly be satisfied until I finally got to the Lord's house to participate in corporate worship.

Read Psalm 84:10.

Where would David rather be than anywhere else?

In this dry, sandy, and barren land, David's mind thinks of praising God. His praise gives his body life, his spirit hope, and his mind focus. In our life, we will know some desert experiences like David's. There will be times when we are exiled from our normal life to the dry and barren land of not normal. In those desert times, praise will give our body life, our spirit hope, and our mind focus.

Spiritual Thirst—Satisfied

Are you thirsty for spiritual things? Do you long to say, "better is one day in your courts" and "I have been in the sanctuary and beheld Your power and glory?" Boy, in the wilderness places of my life, I sure do. In those times, when we cry out in our thirst, God offers us a drink that will never leave us thirsty.

Read John 4:13-14.

What is the result of drinking the water Jesus offers?

This water of life is available through a personal relationship Jesus Christ. Anyone who confesses, "Lord, I believe" will be saved (Romans 10:9). When you recognize your need and ask for it to be filled, your thirst of salvation will be satisfied, as you God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength (Deuteronomy 6:5). Then this water will not only satisfy your own thirst, it will well up within you and spill out onto others. You will become a fountain of living water from which others can drink.

Perhaps you have already said, "Lord, I believe," but you are just not thirsty. Yet you want to be. My friend, our God is just as ready to fill you up as He did David—and me. Just seek Him. Ask Him. He is more than willing to meet you in your dry and weary land.