

Intro: When was the time that you were MOST thirsty in life? When would you have KILLED for a drink of water!?

I remember very clearly:

- Pic 1: West Texas 1977 or 78
- Pic 2: Went for a “walk”
- Pic 3: Blooming Cactus

After an hour or two climbing around in ravines, in the midday sun, it occurred to me...not good! Hot, Snakes, Thirsty. About 2 or 3 hours later...still waiting for the other crew to arrive...I realized...this whole DAY wasn't very smart... By the time the other crew showed up...I would have done anything for a drink of water!

That is what Dave is feeling SPIRITUALLY in Psalm 63:

This Psalm is written by David...as he is hiding in the wilderness of the desert, running for his life.

He is experiencing physical thirst and he realizes...that's not the worst part of his life at that point

In the same way we get PHYSICALLY thirsty, he was SPIRITUALLY, and he has the desire to be quenched, fulfilled by God So he tells us:

How To Seek After God

Psalm 63 Page 409

1. The Problem David Was Facing: Spiritual Thirst.

Vs 1-2

The physical thirst David was probably experiencing was nothing to him compared to what was going on in his heart and soul Look at vs 1:

- **I KNOW you are MY God!** This is a statement of personal possession: *God, I KNOW you: Just can't SENSE you* Have you ever been in that place...where no matter what you do...it just seems like God isn't there? Pray, Worship, Sing, Read Bible, Fellowship, Serve....Regardless of what you do...God is nowhere to be found!
- **I Remember When I Felt Your Presence:**
>Beheld: I remember the personal experience of SEEING you in worship: In the sanctuary, and in your presence
>I experienced your *Power*: I was in moved by a recognition of your strength and your power and your majesty
>I experienced your *Glory*: I was overwhelmed by your Splendor and your honor and your glory: (Weight)
Applic: David says...it isn't REAL for me now...but there was a time in your presence when I KNEW you were there
Illus: There are times in our worship when I sense that...there is a palpable sense...God is here!
He manifests Himself to me...in my heart and in my spirit...And I recognize His presence here!
David says, I remember that...BUT I don't have that now...and everything in me longs for your presence!
- **I know nothing else satisfies:** “*Dry and weary land where there is no water*”
David here is telling us: Nothing else in this world satisfies that thirst in my soul!

Solomon, wisest man that every lived said the same thing. I have tried everything this world offers, nothing satisfies!

Some of us have tried those things:

>Power, >Money >Drugs >Relationships >Sports >Fame

All of those things satisfy for a period of time, but none of them meet the true need of the soul

There is something within us all that longs after God!

Our world is trying that right now. There is this FRANTIC pursuit of happiness, joy, satisfaction...Never realized!

We live faster, play harder, work more, re-create more often and with more unusual activities...Not enough!

Augustine: “*We were made for You, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.*”

Ecc1: 3:11 “*God has placed eternity in the hearts of man!*”

David was in a dry and weary land without water...both physically and spiritually...and we are as well!

2. The Plan David Came Up With...For Him and For Us!

Vs 3-11

David says, this is where I AM...BUT this is not where I want to STAY!

So in the rest of the Psalm talks about the kinds of things he could do to pursue God and fill that desire...

And they are the SAME kinds of things WE need to do when we are longing after God as well.

- **VS 1: Earnestly will I Seek:** Lit = *Early and with intensity will I pursue you God!*
Before I do ANYTHING else...God I am going to make following after you my goal!
There is NO better endorsement in the scripture for getting up in the morning and spending time with God!
Reading your bible, praying...pursuing Him...even when you don't feel like it...and you can't seem to find Him!
Illus: Just this week met with someone said: Since Jan, Reading Bible every morning, praying...Changed my life!
- **VS 3: Regularly will I praise you for your blessings**
Because your love is better than life: Lit = *Your mercy, your favor, your goodness in my life*
I may not SENSE your presence, but I can SEE your blessing!
All I have to do is look around me...and everywhere I look I see how you have blessed me, protected me, brought good
Illus: WE forget that when we feel like God isn't close! WE overlook what we have...focus on what we don't have!
David says...NO! Whether or not I can SENSE you...I can SEE you! Everywhere I look I see your hand of blessing
Illus: Remember old Hymn: Count Your Blessings
*When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed, When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one, And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.*

- **Intentionally will I lift you up.**
Vs 4: I will lift up my hands: *“The lifting of the hands was what the priest did in worship, to honor God”*
This is an intentional act of worship! David says...I might not FEEL like it...but I’m going to make the decision I’m going to worship you as an act of the WILL, not just as an act of EMOTION!
Illus: Listen: I lift my hands when I CHOOSE TO!
I don’t have to “feel” it, I don’t have to be “moved” I don’t have to have the emotion: I CHOOSE TO Exalt Him!
- **Joyfully will I sing to you!**
I can find SOMETHING to praise you for God!
I may not get what I want...I may not like what is going on, I may not enjoy what is happening
BUT: I can choose to sing your praises! When the music starts and the words show up...I can CHOOSE to sing!
Illus: Guess what: When we choose to praise Him, our HEART FOLLOWS OUR WILL!
We have it all wrong: We think our heart LEADS...no it does not
Our heart follows our will: I don’t always FEEL like loving my wife: or my kids, or my church, or YOU
But I choose every single day to love each and every one of those things...and when I CHOOSE...MY heart follows!
When we start singing God’s praises...our heart follows our lips and our will! (Treasure?)
- **Daily will I think about you:**
I will think about you when I lie in bed:
Think: Lit = *to meditate, to think about, to recount and remember*
God, these are the reasons I love you! I am going to list, one by one your incredible blessings in my life.
Illus: When Darlene and I were first married we used to lie in bed and I would say, Give me 5 reasons you love me
That’s what David is doing...God...when I’m in bed at night...I think about your goodness
- **With all my strength I will pursue you!**
Vs 8: Clings: Lit = *pursue, follow close, hold onto, join, stick to*
God, I’m going to follow after you with everything I have, hold onto you and not let you go!
We are usually good for a day, or two, or a week, maybe a month...
JOB: But we have to come to the place like Job did where we say, *“Though you slay me...I will trust in you!”*
JACOB: Wrestling with the angel all night long: NOT going to let you go until you bless me!
Illus: Have you ever wrestled with God that way? Listen, there is a place on the other side of *“I want to”*
Where we are living on I CHOOSE TO follow you...regardless of where you lead or what it costs...
THAT is what God is doing in these times of absence...training our hearts to love Him in every part of life.
- **Always will I position myself by God:** Vs 11 *“all who swear by God’s name”*
Lit = *everyone who aligns themselves with God, swears allegiance with and to Him*
In the bible someone’s name is indicative of their Character
Elohim: Lit = *The supreme, all powerful, all faithful Creator God!*
Illus: Regardless of what comes...I am going to align myself with God...and trust in Him.

CONCL: Sooner or later in our walk with God we come to one of those times when we feel like we can’t find Him
Regardless of what we do...where we go...how we serve...how much we pray, read our bible,
It feels like He is no where to be found...and we are alone...

Sometimes it feels like He is intentionally Hiding from us!

David says...that’s how I feel, That is where I am...but I’m not going to stay there!

God, I am going to seek after you...There is nothing else in this life that I want more than YOU

Nothing else satisfies, nothing else fills that hole within

David tells God: *When I can’t SENSE you or SEE You...I am going to CHOOSE to SEEK You!*

And He tells us how!

- Early will I seek you
- Regularly will I praise you for your blessings
- Intentionally will I lift you up
- Joyfully will I sing to you
- Daily will I think about you
- With all my strength will I pursue you
- Always will I position myself by you

What about you this morning? Are you doing those things?

We should be doing them...even WHEN we senses His presence

These are the things that keep us close to Him

The closer we walk to our Shepherd the safer we aer, and the more His peace will fill our hearts! Warren Wiersbe