

PRAYING THE PSALMS

POWERFUL THIRST

Friday, February 2

Reading: Psalm 63

Psalm 63:1 *You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek You; I thirst for You, my whole being longs for You, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.*

Bible teacher A. W. Tozer stated over 50 years ago, “One of the greatest foes of the Christian is religious complacency...Orthodox Christianity has fallen to its present low estate from lack of spiritual desire. Among the many who profess the Christian faith, scarcely one in a thousand reveals any passionate thirst for God.”¹ All this time later and this is still a problem in the church today. One reason God’s power is not evident in the church is that His people’s hunger and thirst for God is too small!

Psalm 63 was written from a parched land - both physically and spiritually. It was a low time in David’s life when he was forced to flee to the desert by the rebellion of his own son Absalom (2 Samuel 15-18). God seemed far away (see Psalm 61). Yet it is here in this arid wasteland that David expresses his deep desire for God.

Despite his situation, David was able to say God is “my God” (63:1). When times are tough, those are the times we should long for God the most! But this is impossible if we are not thirsting for Him before the trouble comes. We must seek Him in the good times and the bad. Psalm 63 gives us some powerful help to gain an appetite for the Lord.

WORSHIP (63:2-3) - David had spent time in worship at God’s house. It is our regular worship that prepares us for the crisis experiences of life. Though rejected and on the run, David knew that God’s love (*hesed*) was better than life. While life has its ups-and-downs, God’s love is constant. What better focus than to worship the One who is always there!

PRAYER (63:4) - Though everything seemed to be going wrong, David proclaimed, “In Your name I will lift up my hands.” This is a posture of prayer. Despite his circumstances, David’s prayers were full of joy and praise (see also 63:5, 7, 11).

SATISFACTION (63:5) - David was satisfied in God’s presence. Though “roughing it” in the wilderness, God was all that David needed. As the Apostle Paul would say centuries later, “I have learned the secret of being content in every situation...I can do all things through Him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:12-13).

CONNECTION (63:6-8) - David maintained a constant connection to God. To “remember” is more than a mental exercise. The word means to remember and act on that knowledge. To “think of” means to meditate - filling your mind with the promises of God. To “cling” is the same word used of husbands and wives “united...and become one flesh” (Gen. 2:24). It means to keep close, be loyal, be devoted.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Bible scholar F. F. Bruce said, “The soul’s deepest thirst is for God Himself, who has made us so that we can never be satisfied without Him.”² How can David’s example help you have a more powerful thirst for God? Your life will never be the same!

¹ <http://www.azquotes.com/quote/1396229?ref=thirst-for-god>

² <https://lifeisworship.com/2014/03/06/the-souls-deepest-thirst/>