

Thirsting for God

Psalm 63

Historical Context: 2 Samuel 15-17

Inscription: A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.

Poetical Structure: Synonymous and Antithetical Parallelism

Poetical Layout

- 1) O God, thou art my God;
early will I seek thee:
My soul thirsteth for thee,
My flesh longeth for thee
In a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;
- 2) To see thy power and thy glory,
So as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.
- 3) Because thy lovingkindness is better than life,
My lips shall praise thee.
- 4) Thus will I bless thee while I live:
I will lift up my hands in thy name.
- 5) My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness;
And my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:
- 6) When I remember thee upon my bed,
And meditate on thee in the night watches.

- 7) Because thou hast been my help,
Therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.
- 8) My soul followeth hard after thee:
Thy right hand upholdeth me.
- 9) But those that seek my soul, to destroy it,
Shall go into the lower parts of the earth.
- 10) They shall fall by the sword:
They shall be a portion for foxes.
- 11) But the king shall rejoice in God;
Every one that sweareth by him shall glory:
But the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped.

Outline

- I. David's longing (v. 1-3)
 - A. His longing for God's provision (v. 1)
 1. The timeframe invoked
 2. The thirst involved
 - B. His longing for God's power (v. 2)
 - C. His longing for praise to God (v. 3)
- II. David's living (v. 4-8)
 - A. His use of his body (v. 4-5)
 - B. His use of his mind (v. 6-7)
 - C. His use of his soul (v. 8)
- III. David's looking (v. 9-11)

- A. He looked for victory (v. 9-10)
- B. He looked for vindication (v. 11)

Poem

O God, my soul doth thirst for Thee,
In a dry and weary land I long to see.
I seek Thy power and glory divine,
In this world, Your presence, let it shine.

My flesh may faint, my heart may tire,
But in Your presence, I find my desire.
I lift my hands and praise Your name,
For You alone, my soul will acclaim.

In the sanctuary, I'll behold Your might,
I'll sing of Your love through day and night.
For Your mercy and grace, my soul does yearn,
To dwell in Your presence and never turn.

Oh, God, my God, my soul shall sing,
For You are my refuge, my everything.
In the shadow of Your wings, I'll rest secure,
My heart and soul, in You, are pure.

So, I will seek You early, with all my might,
My soul thirsts for You, day and night.
In Your presence, I find joy untold,
For You are my Shepherd, my Rock, and my stronghold.

Meditation Guide

1. What does it mean to earnestly seek God's presence as the psalmist describes in verse 1? How can you cultivate a similar longing for God in your own life?
2. The psalmist declares that God's lovingkindness is better than life itself. Reflect on the depth of this statement and consider how it challenges your own priorities and desires.
3. In verse 6, the psalmist meditates on God throughout the night. How can you incorporate intentional times of meditation and reflection on God's goodness and faithfulness into your daily routine especially as you prepare for bed?
4. The psalmist finds satisfaction and contentment in God alone (verse 5). How does this contrast with the pursuit of worldly pleasures and possessions? What steps can you take to align your heart's desires with God's will?
5. Reflect on the psalmist's experience of God's protection and support in verses 7-8. How has God been your refuge and stronghold in times of trouble? How can you encourage others to find refuge in Him?
6. The psalmist's praise and thanksgiving in verses 11-12 overflow from a heart that trusts in God's unfailing love. How can you cultivate a heart of gratitude and praise even in challenging circumstances?

7. In this psalm, the psalmist's soul thirsts for God (verse 1), his lips praise God (verse 3), and his hands are lifted up in God's name (verse 4). How can you apply these expressions of devotion in your own worship and relationship with God?