

Psalm 63.1-8
Deep Down And All Around

Aim: for us to early and earnestly seek God!

Scripture Reading: Psalm 63.1-8

INTRODUCTION:

Today all across America is the day that we set aside in order to honor and celebrate our Fathers/our dads. When the culture of America is seeking all the more each and every day to diminish the role of fathers to nothing more than an idiot on TV, we as children of our heavenly Father must stand firm against the schemes of the enemy and be resolved to act like men, godly men.

But although this day is set aside to recognize fathers, this morning we will not negate the role of women and children. Today we ALL must submit ourselves to God's authority. We all must submit ourselves to God's Word. So we will not be speaking to the fathers and men only this morning. This will be a message for every single one of us.

Therefore, let me ask a question. When you factor in all the areas of your life: work, family, church, Jesus, money, health, etc...What is the greatest need that you have right now?

Most of you know over the last two months we have been in a sprint-race in the selling of our home and in the purchasing of a new home. Pretty much our whole lives were consumed with this transition from one home to another. It was a rollercoaster ride of looking at house after house and all the many pros and cons between one house and another. It was fun for the most part, but it was also extremely exhausting and life consuming.

Three Fridays ago, I mentioned to Stephanie that for the first time in nearly 8 weeks it felt like I had a normal day. That's a very long time to go for a person who is all about structure and habits and daily patterns. I literally do the same thing almost every morning. It would bore you to death. I am a creature of habit and for two and a half months I was overwhelmed with all of these brand new cares and needs in my life.

It got so overwhelming for me that I began to loathe the word need. Stephanie and I were throwing this word around like it was some childish toy. We need this or we need that. And God literally slapped me in the heart and rebuked me for my foolish ways and how I was using this word need. What did we really need? What do you really need?

In our Elder and Staff meeting earlier this month, Pastor Mike brought us **Genesis 26.23-25**

Genesis 26.23-25 “Then he (Isaac) went up from there to Beersheba. The LORD appeared to him the same night and said, ‘I am the God of your father Abraham; Do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you, and multiply your descendents, for the sake of My servant Abraham.’ So he (Isaac) built an alter there and called upon the name of the LORD, and pitched his tent there; and there Isaac’s servants dug a well.”

Now that may not seem like much to you this morning. But God used **verse 25** to captivate my mind and to steal my heart back to Him. Remember my context; overwhelmed with all the cares and all the needs of our new home every single day for nearly 8 weeks. And then to read from **Genesis 26** that the LORD appeared to Isaac and the LORD spoke with Isaac and blessed Isaac and then seeing Isaac’s response...he built an alter and called upon the LORD and pitched his tent.

He pitched his tent in the presence of the LORD. He didn’t want to leave God. He didn’t want to wander away from Him. He even had his servants dig a well. He remained with the LORD.

Out of all the things I was thinking that I needed the one thing that I was forgetting that I needed was God Himself. I needed God. My mind and my heart were being tugged away by all these new cares for a home and I was double-minded. Do you know what God thinks about a double-minded man?

James 1.7-8 “For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

James 4.7-8 “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”

Being double-minded is not a good thing to God. Having your mind pulled in two directions and that really means having your mind pulled away from God is not characteristic of a godly man. So how did Isaac's faith minister to me? It showed me that I needed God. I needed his presence again in my life. I needed to resist the devil, to draw near to God, confess my sin to him and to no longer be double-minded.

I had drifted away from God and I needed God. In that moment I felt the deep-down-all-around longing of my soul's thirst to be quenched by God. And then later I came across **Psalm 63** in my communion time with God one morning and for the last ten plus days I have been pulling apart each verse in **Psalm 63**. Wednesday night after Life Group I felt compelled by the Holy Spirit to step away from John this Sunday and for all of us to study **Psalm 63**.

Let's read it....Psalm 63.1-8.

Title: Deep Down And All Around

Aim: for us to early and earnestly seek God!

God Was His God (v.1)

“O God, You are my God;”

What I would like to do this morning is to hit **verse 1** pretty heavy and then...for us to see how the rest of the Psalm actually flows from David's **earnest** pursuit of God.

Psalm 63 is a Psalm or a song of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah. It is a wilderness Psalm. Most likely David was fleeing for his life from his son Absalom. David's other son Amnon wretchedly raped his sister Tamar and so Absalom had his brother Amnon murdered. This enraged David and so it caused Absalom to flee Jerusalem.

Over the next few years Absalom began to plot against his father to take over the kingdom. He gained a tremendous following during this time and then the time came to take over. David then fled Jerusalem and went into the wilderness to escape the coup and his son's treason. It's nearly impossible to describe the hatred and the bitterness that existed from Absalom against his father David. While David fled for his life into the wilderness it's most likely during this time that he wrote **Psalm 63**.

So David, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit writes a song to God while under great pressure and dangerous circumstances. Listen to how David sings to God in **verse 1**,

Psalm 63.1 “O God, You are my God. I shall seek you earnestly; my soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.”

Take a deep look into David’s resolve and confidence. He sings **O God, You are my God**. David sings of his possession of **God**—the One True God. God was his. He was his God. David calls Him Elohim which describes and sings of **God’s** power as Creator and God’s power as Judge. It means Strong One.

It is the Strong, Creator **God** that is David’s **God**. It is to this **God** that he sings to and declares **God** to be personally his. This **God** is the Almighty **God** and He is David’s **God**.

How sweet was the mind and resolve of King David here! To sing and to testify...out in the middle of nowhere fleeing for his very life that **God** was his. How many of you know that the mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart. (Luke 6.45) David’s heart was fixed on **God**, his **God**. His **God** was the all-powerful **God** who created the heavens and who created the earth and all that fills the earth.

David sings of his personal relationship with the **God** of creation. With the **God** who judges. With the **God** who is the Strong One. David will not forsake his **God** even in the midst of losing his life from his son.

So what does a man do when his **God** is the Creator, Judge, and Strong One?

He keeps on singing from his heart.

Possession Breeds Desire (v.1)

“O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly;”

You may have in the margin of your bible that the word **earnestly** can also mean **early**. David sings and declares to **God** that **early** and **earnestly** he will **seek** Him. Why? Because the all-powerful Creator, Judge, and Strong-One is His **God**. And His **God** is worthy of him to **early** and **earnestly seek** Him.

Think about David's location. He's in the middle of the wilderness. No house. No bed. Maybe a cave. Maybe a tree. Definitely the comforts of his normal life are gone. He's cold. He's hungry. He's weary. The elements of the wilderness are probably not very pleasurable.

Spurgeon says, "communion with God is so sweet that the chill of the morning is forgotten, and the luxury of the couch is despised. *Possession breeds desire.*" David had **God** as his possession. And because **God** was his, it wrought an unyielding desire in him to sing and to declare that **early** and **earnestly** he would **seek** after God.

Early will he seek God. David's resolve is that the cares of his circumstances are nothing to be compared with **early** and **earnestly seeking God**. Remember, this is a song. He's totally disregarding the fact that anyone out in the wilderness looking for him could hear him singing. But in David's song he saying that **God** will be the first object **early** each morning that he will **seek**.

Think about this for a second. This is what it means to **earnestly seek** after God **early**. That there would be nothing else that he **seeks** first, but **God**. **God** would be the first thing before all other things. Is this your spiritual habit? Is this how you **earnestly** roll out of bed each morning? Is **God** the first object that you seek before all other objects?

Matthew Henry says that the godly man and woman would have it no other way than to **seek God early** and **earnestly** because the godly man and woman is "afraid of missing Him. Therefore they MUST begin every day with Him" lest they miss Him throughout the day.

To **seek God** is to search for Him meticulously. David would rise **early** and **earnestly seek** and search for **God**. To search for him in his praying and communing with **God**. To search for him in the Law. To search for Him in His providences. To search for Him in His divine interventions. David would **early** and **earnestly seek** for **God** in order to see Him in all of life.

But why? Was it just because he needed **God** to get him out of this situation? I'm sure the situation served him well towards **God**, but this is not what we immediately read next.

David **early** and **earnestly** sought after **God** b/c he was very aware of his **soul**. He was keenly aware of his **soul's** need. So...

He Earnestly Sought God [For] His Soul (v.1)

“O God, You are my God; I shall seek you earnestly; my soul thirsts for You”

This line right here in David's song is at the heart of everything pertaining to your life and **God**. David says, **“my soul thirsts for You.”**

You know it's probably true that most people do not even know what the **soul** is. Most people in churches probably do not know what the **soul** is. And yet it's a word that we read over and over again in the Scriptures and not only that but everyone has one; everyone has a **soul**.

What is a **soul**? It is the inner-being of a person. It is the immaterial aspect of the human being. So basically it's the immaterial you that you cannot see. This immaterial you was created by **God**. In Genesis we read that God breathed life into man. He gave man a spirit or a **soul**. This is what is created in you in the image of **God**.

As the theologian Anthony Hoekema says, just like **God** you have a mind; you have a conscience, you have rationale, understanding, and reasoning. This is a reflection of **God's** intellect in us. Anytime someone invents a machine, writes a book, paints a landscape, calculates a sum, or names a pet, he or she is proclaiming the fact that we are made in **God's** image. You have a mind.

And just like **God** you also have emotions. You have a what we call a heart in the sense of your desires, your passions, your longings and your convictions. These are strong desires and they too reflect God's image in us.

This is the immaterial you; this is your inner-being; your inner-man. This is your **soul**. Everyone has one and every **soul** was created by **God** Himself. When **God** creates and shapes us and breathes life into us...we are intimately made by **God** in His image.

So just like David in **verse 1**, your **soul thirsts for God**. If we break that down it sounds a lot like this. Your mind **thirsts for God**. Your conscience. Your reasoning. Your understanding. Your logic. Your intellect **thirsts for God**.

Your mind **thirsts** to think Godward thoughts. Your conscience **thirsts** to be guided by God. Your reasoning **thirsts** to figure things out the way God wants them to be figured out. Your understanding **thirsts** to be consumed with **God's** knowledge. Your intellect **thirsts** to be driven by **God's** power. And all of these things are just dealing with your mind.

But you also have a heart. So just like David in **verse 1**, your **soul thirsts for God**. Your desires **thirst** to be quenched with **God**. Your passions **thirst** to be quenched with **God**. Your longings **thirst** to be quenched with **God**. Your convictions **thirst** to be quenched with **God**.

So all of this inner you; is what makes up your **soul**. This immaterial you that is made in the image of **God**. **God** made it in His image, so that His image in you would **thirst** for Him.

So why did David sing and declare to **God** that he would **early** and **earnestly seek Him**?

Because he knew the intimate longings of his **soul**. He knew that his **soul thirsted after God**. So it was right, in his mind, to make sure that his **soul's-thirst** would be quenched with **God** and nothing else.

Listen, David had some not-so-good moments in his life where he satisfied his **soul**, (he let his mind dwell and his heart be fixed) on things other than **God**. But this was not one of those moments.

Listen, every thought that you have that is birthed from your mind/your conscience actually **thirsts** to be quenched in God (it wants to go to Him). Every emotion/affection that is birthed from your heart actually **thirsts** to be quenched in God (it wants to go to Him).

So think about the longings of your **soul**, now. Think about how your inner-man works. Think about how all of you...**thirsts** after God. This is why David was resolved to **early** and **earnestly** seek **God**.

So let me ask you again...when you factor in all the areas of your life: work, family, church, Jesus, money, health, etc...What is the greatest need that you have, right now?

You need **God**. Your **soul** needs **God**. Your **soul is thirsty for God**. Will you quench the **thirst** of your **soul** on **God**? Because the alternative is not very good.

The Alternative Is Dry And Weary And Desolate (v.1)

“In a dry and weary land where there is no water.”

How many of you have learned by now that there is nothing in the world that **satisfies** your **soul** other than **God**?

There’s no doubt that we are blessed constantly all day and every day will blessings from **God**. But we must take our **soul** higher than the mere blessings of **God**. Our **soul thirsts** not simply for the blessings of **God**, but for **God** Himself. There’s a big difference.

I’m not diminishing the blessings, because the blessings of **God** serve a great purpose. The blessings of **God** are a means to **God**. They are a means to get our **soul** fixed on Him.

As David looked around in the wilderness he confessed that his **soul thirsted** after **God** **in a dry and weary land where there is no water**. Every time you and I try and quench our **soul’s thirst** on the world around us, it’s like we are drinking in **dry land, weary land**. It’s like you’re drinking in **dirt** and **sand** to quench the **thirst** of your **soul**.

The man who is drifting in the desert and who is dying of **thirst** doesn't gather up a handful of sand and drink until his **thirst** is quenched. No! So why would we, as our **soul's thirst**, take cups that are filled to the brim of worldliness and drink in? It's foolishness. It's wickedness. It's suicide.

Spurgeon says, "A weary place and a weary heart make the presence of God the more desirable: if there be nothing below and nothing within to cheer, **it is a thousand mercies that we may look up and find all we need.**" You need to lift up your **soul** Godward to **God!** See the world for what it is...it is **dry** and **weary** and dead and lifeless and it has no **water** to quench the **thirst** of your mind, the thirst of your heart, the thirst of life. It does just the opposite...it starves and dehydrates you a little more every time you drink in the world.

Listen, David knew the intimate longings of his soul. He knew what it longed for. He meditated upon it. How about you this morning? Do you know deep-down-and-all-around the longings of your soul? Do you know that every thought from your mind longs to be satisfied in God? Do you know that every emotion, desire, and affection from your heart longs to be satisfied in God? Do you know this? How aware are you of your soul's needs? What do you need this morning?

So what is the fruit from a godly man's **soul** when it is being quenched in **God?** What is the fruit from a godly woman's **soul** when it is quenched in **God?**

You See God In His Power And Glory (v.2)

"Thus I have seen You in the Sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory."

Because David **early** and **earnestly sought God**, because his **soul-thirst** was quenched with the Living Water, because his flesh was sustained by the grace of **God**; he saw **God**. He saw Him. He saw His attributes. His glories. His power. He saw His essence, not simply what **God** does, but who **God** is. David communed with **God** and saw Him **in the sanctuary**.

This wasn't only in public worship, but what David experienced privately with **God**. That holy place and moment where **God** met with him. In that holy **sanctuary** moment David saw **God**. He saw **God's power** and **glory**. His **power** to create, to forgive, and to protect.

And David longs for another look. **To see Your power and Your glory**. Again and again and again.

What other fruit came of David's **soul-thirst** being quenched in **God**?

You Understand God's Loving-kindness Is Better Than Life (v.3)

“Because Your loving-kindness is better than life, my lips will praise You.”

In **verse 3** David speaks in the affirmative. He speaks about something that is true. It is known to be true. It's with certainty. God's loving-kindness. God's loyalty. God's loyal goodness, kindness, love, grace, and faithfulness is better than life.

When your soul is quenched with God your mind understands things that it never understood before. For David he understood that God's loving-kindness was indeed better to him than his life. David measured God's loving-kindness and it out measured his life. His wealth, his status, his position, his possessions. God is better than life in the temporal and even in the longest sense eternal.

Therefore David says, my lips will praise You. When your mind is satisfied in God your mind makes your lips praise God. When you have your soul quenched by God – your lips will praise Him. When you have your body sustained by God – your lips will praise Him. When you see His power and glory – your lips will praise Him. When you know that His lovingkindness out measures your life – your lips will praise Him.

Therefore your lips should never stop praising Him – He's better than your life!

What next in the fruit basket of **soul** quenching **thirst** in **God**?

Your Hands Fly Up (v.4)

“So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift my hands in Your name.”

David says he **will bless God as long as he lives**. The word **bless** here means to praise; to kneel; to salute. Get the picture of a man kneeling before a king and praising him and lifting up his hands towards the king.

It is a complete and whole effort of blessing from David’s **soul** before **God**. In essence it is his soul (v.1) that is kneeled low and salutes God. It is his eyes (v.2) that is kneeled low and salutes God. It is his lips (v.3) that is kneeled low and salutes God. It is his hands (v.4) that are now being lifted up and saluting God. This is a prayerful gesture of lifting up the hands as a symbol of all of you blessing God.

It’s also like a child that lifts its hands to its father, so we in praise and blessing as long as we live lift our hands to our heavenly Father. We praise, bless, salute Him with all that we are. How many of you know that we cannot praise, kneel, and salute anything else as long as we bless God as long as we live? That’s single-minded devotion to God!

What next?

Your Soul Professes Satisfaction (v.5)

“My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth offers praise with joyful lips.”

David’s inner-man is satisfied. It is sated. It is filled to the full. His thoughts fulfilled. His desires fulfilled. His passions fulfilled. His ambitions fulfilled.

Therefore he says again **my mouth offers praises with joyful lips**. This means his **mouth** shines forth, it flashes forth, and it boasts **praises upon praises to God**. This is a man who's **soul is satisfied in God**. You can't stop the **praises**. It shines forth and flashes forth like lightning across the sky.

You Also Remember God In The Evening (v.6)

“When I remember You in my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches.”

As David laid on his make-shift bed he remembered **God**. He remembered His love, His kindness, His promises, His mercies, His character, His providences. His last thoughts of the day were fixed on his first thoughts of the day in **verse 1**. He meditated, pondered, imagined, and even studied **God** upon his bed. He didn't have transient thoughts as he laid there, but an abiding thought upon **God**. He had long thoughts about God even as he took his last thoughts before sleeping.

Matthew Henry says, “Perhaps an hour's pious meditation will do us more good than an hour's sleep would have done.”

As David **meditates** upon **God** on his bed he remembers...

You Boast That God Is Your Great Help And Protector (v.7)

“For You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy.”

In the midst of all that David had endured early on by the hands of Saul and now by his own son he knows deep down that **God** is his **help**. **God** is his deliverer. **God** rescues him from trouble and danger. His confidence is not in his military tactics to escape and to fight, but in His **God** who he hides **in the shadow of His wings**.

David hid the in the shadow of God's wings. These were the wings of divine power and divine tenderness. It was God's divine protection and safety and David's reliance upon God. He learned that God was able and ready to protect Him and to keep him close as a mother hen would keep her young. What an amazing tender illustration of how God loves His children.

So because of this...David again sings for joy!

How many of you have **sung for joy** while abiding under **the shadow of God's wings** even in the midst of very difficult times? I want you to know that all those who believe in **God** and believe in His Son Jesus will never be disappointed, even when your life is under attack from the enemy. Jesus does not disappoint!

So how do you think David would end this measure of the song?

In **verse 8** he finishes how he starts.

Summom Bonum (v.8)

“My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me.”

David started with his **soul**. He spoke of his **soul** midway. And now he ends with his **soul**. He says that his **soul**, which is all of his mind, conscience, desires, thoughts, and emotions **clings to God**.

Cling means to stick; to join; to cleave. David is describing a marriage between his **soul** and **God**. All of this speaks to David's oneness and communion with **God**. As his **soul** would **cling** to **God** there would be a great and wonderful fellowship and enjoyment and worship and exaltation to **God**. His **soul** is now joined to **God**.

All of his inner-self. His inner-person is now one with **God**. He was determined to **seek God early** and **earnestly** for his **soul thirsted for God**. And now **God** blesses David by joining his **soul** to Himself. How? **God's right hand upholding him**.

I get the picture of a child **clinging** to her father's neck while her father is holding her by his strong **right hand**. Even our **clinging to God** is done **by the power of God**.

David's **soul** was **clinging to God** because it was by **God's** divine **power**. For David, **God** is the Summum Bonum. That's Latin for the highest good, which is an end in itself, and the source that holds all other goods. There was nothing greater and more excellent for David's **soul** to **cling** to than **God**. He was and is the Summum Bonum...the highest good, and the source of all other goods.

I started this sermon off by asking you what your greatest need was. What is the greatest need of your **soul**? Every moment of the day you have choices to make. Choices of whether or not you are going to **satisfy** your mind/conscience/intellect in **God**. Choices of whether or not you are going to **satisfy** your heart/desires/longings in **God**.

All of your **soul thirsts for God**. You must quench it with **God**. You must **seek early and earnestly** upon **God**. You must fix your **soul** upon His Son Jesus Christ.

If you are not a child of **God** this morning. Your **soul** is in bondage. It's arrested by the enemy and the temptations and sins of the world. The only way of escape is for the divine **right hand** of **God** to set you free and to **uphold you**.

He has provided the way of escape and it is only through His Son Jesus. Jesus died so that your **soul's thirst** could be quenched with the Living Water. **God** Himself. You must drink from the fountain of living water or you will remain drinking in from the **dry and weary land** around you.

Today can be that day where you are set free from the burden of sin. Look to Jesus. Look to Christ. See what he accomplished for you on the cross. Look again and again until **God** the Holy Spirit opens your eyes to see the glory and the beauty of Jesus' work for you. Then believe in Him and His work. Then confess your sins to Him. Turn away from your sins and follow after Christ. Then wake up each morning **early** and **earnestly seeking God** to **satisfy** your **soul's thirst**. It can be well with your **soul**!