



Empowering People to Change the World

Need That Cultivates Righteous Thirst

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- Open with “The Lord’s Prayer”
- What is the most peace inspiring sound you can think of?
 - Did you imagine the sounds of a summer rain hitting the glass?
 - The soft rolling waves of the ocean landing on the sandy beach?
 - Gentle breeze through a forest in the fall, when the leaves are getting dry and brittle?
 - How about the sound of sizzling bacon?
- A survey from “The Daily Mail” reported that the number one sound that helps people feel most at peace is the sound of sizzling bacon!
 - Why?
 - For one, it tastes amazing and the anticipation of that perfect crunch of sizzling pork fat in your mouth is transcendent.
 - It could be the emotional connection and thought of someone preparing a morning meal for you.
 - Just the beginning of a new peaceful day and the anticipation of the flavor that will soon arrive.

Psalm 73:23-26

“Yet I still belong to you;
 you hold my right hand.
 You guide me with your counsel,
 leading me to a glorious destiny.
 Whom have I in heaven but you?
 I desire you more than anything on earth.
 My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak,
 but God remains the strength of my heart;
 he is mine forever.” (New Living Translation, NLT)

- Our *need* or *desperation* has the potential to drive us towards the Father for resources, solutions, comfort, and peace from the impending storm raging at our doorstep.
- There is a moment after the need has been met, resolved and the storm subsided that the aroma of the Kingdom still lingers in our soul and heart.
- This moment is the fertile soil which can be leveraged with intentionality and cultivated into a continual thirst and hunger for God.
- The pressure is lifted and relief from the situation subsided, yet there is a lingering feeling of the ointment and balm of the Spirit and aroma of the Kingdom, its ministry of healing over us.
- These are the moments that can stoke the fire in hearts and release the river living water from our lives.

Divided in our desires: The Kingdom of God vs The World

- We must be honest with ourselves about the nature of the relationship.
- The connection and presence we seek with Jesus is reserved for those who treasure Him above all things. We can't dabble with God and live mostly in love with the world.

2 Chronicles 16:9

“For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.” -

- Returning to familiar sin and habits will keep us separated from true intimacy with the Father.
- The bondage in our lives of lust, porn, alcohol, drugs, wrong relationships, and the desire for things of this world, which all eventually burn in the end, must be severed to experience total union with our Creator.
- Do you have a righteous thirst for dwelling in the secret place with the King or are you preoccupied with a worldly thirst that is consistently unsatisfying?

1 John 2:15-17

“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.” (New International Version, NIV)

- Mercy, grace, and unconditional love are available to everyone.
- But the treasures of God, intimacy with Him, the riches of His Kingdom—these are available only to those who treasure Him above all things.
- This is the secret of true unity, complete unity with Jesus.

Psalm 84:2

- “My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”
- Fasting in a busy season can be very challenging if you don’t understand what is available to you from the Father.
- It can be extra challenging for those who have only learned to fast from food and have not yet learned to feast on God.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set ***eternity*** in the human heart.”

- I want to pause here a moment and reflect on this truth: if you desire to become a wholehearted person, you must reach the point where happily and lovingly, you give absolutely everything over to God in order to have Him.
 - You make Jesus your everything.
- Not only is this the fulfillment of your heart’s created eternal desire, but it will also be your source of ALL recovery and restoration.

Psalm 37:4

“Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.” (New King James Version, NKJV)

- Times come to all of us when we come to the crossroads of choosing what is **right** verses what is **easy**.
- Author Chad Harrington writes this about spiritual thirst:

“Spiritual thirst is our longing for vitality, peace, and delight in God, for the moment-by-moment refreshment that comes from His Spirit.”

John 7:37-38

- “On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow **rivers of living water.**”
- The life of God flows through us like a river, a powerful river, unceasing, ever-renewing, ever-flowing river.
- That river is meant to flow in you and around you, healing you, imparting strength and connection with your King into your humanity.
- To receive the river of life, we love God in our longing for life, we love God and our desire to connect with Him and for life to feel full again.
- That’s where things are decided.
 - We enter in with our longing.
 - We feel it, become present with it; and in this place we love God.
 - We chose Him, we prefer Him.

Psalm 143:6

“I spread out my hands to You; My soul *longs* for You like a thirsty land.”

John 4:14

Jesus said, “Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (NIV)

Five Disciplines to Cultivating Righteous Thirst for God:

Matthew 5:6

“Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.” (NKJV)

1. **Repent from Sin**

- This is the first and primary component.
- Our sin separates us from God, but when we confess, He is faithful and just to forgive us.
- Confession heals our union with God and we enter into a deeper chamber of intimacy with Him.

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (NIV)

2 Chronicles 16:9

“For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.”

2. **Reset your Narrative**

- Live in the identity as His beloved.
- Take your thoughts and the messages from the enemy to the Cross.
- Embrace the mind of Christ and recalibrate unhealthy narratives at Calvary.

2 Corinthians 10:5

“Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” (NKJV)

3. **Rest in the Secret Place**

- God the Father waits for us in the “secret place.”
- He is always there even we don’t feel it at first, but He is there.
- Jesus confirms that the Father is waiting for us in there Matthew 6:6,18.
- We are designed to need rest and resting with Him is where deep restoration and true refreshment can happen.

Mathew 6:6

“But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Mathew 6:17-18

“But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

4. **Renew your appetite for God’s Word**

- Once you discover that you were made to crave the nourishment of God’s word, a true hunger develops.
- If you skip a meal, you soon begin to realize from the longing in your spirit that you have been fasting from Him and there is a lingering hunger.

Luke 1:53

“He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.”

Psalm 34:8

“Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good;
Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!”

Psalm 84:2

“My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”

5. Request & Receive

- Come boldly before His throne with your petition for rich, true connection, and refreshment in the river.
 - *“Jesus, I need time with just you.”*
- We need just to ask Jesus to come near if we have emptied ourselves and desire Him above ALL else. He will bring the meal!

Matthew 7:7

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

John 6:48

“I am THE bread of LIFE.”

Matthew 6:11

“Give us this day our daily bread.”

- I am aware of the days I take time to only to sample an appetizer from His Kingdom, but there are days when I make space for the full combination plate!
- There is rich and deep connection and my spirit is renewed, my soul lifted, and my heart is full, I desire this every day.

Communion

John 6:49-51

“I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, they will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

- ***I invite you to worship, receive union with the Father’s Kingdom today.***
 - ***Ask Jesus, where you need connection today?***
 - ***Where are you weary and need His living water and bread today in your life?***