

## The Longing for a Thirst for God

How long has it been since you recognized a desire to pray as Moses did, “LORD show me your glory”? Has your quiet time seemed wooden and stiff instead of filled with holy desire? Are you asking God to give you the joy of the early days of your salvation? In this workshop we will consider how we can develop a thirst in us that only He can quench.

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Introduction: Job 19:23-27

Quote: A.W. Tozer: “Why do some people ‘find God’ in a way that others do not? Why does God manifest His presence to some and let multitudes of others struggle along in the half-light of imperfect Christian experience?”

What is “spiritual receptivity”? Psalm 27:8 “My heart says of you, ‘Seek His face! Your face, Lord, I will seek!’”

Illustration:

Principle: God calls all of those who are saved to intimacy and sweet communion.

Application: What hinders us from this vibrancy?

I. The Bible

God is not silent. It is the nature of God to speak.

Psalm 19 says, “There is no speech or language where His voice is not heard.”

A. Systematic, personal and daily Bible study – separate from the study preparation for ministry.

Illustration:

Principle: Knowing God comes with consistent personal application of His Word.

Application: What (apart from your preparations for ministry) are you studying right now? How is God speaking to you personally?

## II. Prayer

- A. Psalm 42:1 “As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?”
- B. Exodus 33:1-11 and 34:29-35 Moses...the presence of God is what distinguishes us from all the other people on the face of the earth.
- C. Exodus 33:17 Moses used the fact that he knew God as an argument for knowing Him better.
- D. How do we even begin to draw near to God in such a way?
  - 1. Active conscience
  - 2. Job 42:3-6 Confession compared with Repentance
  - 3. Willfulness
- E. Luke 10 Motivation to pray
  - 1. The odds were against them.
  - 2. This is what it is to live in “the gaps”.
  - 3. Praying earnestly – begging, pleading

Illustration:

Illustration:

Principle: Prayerlessness is a declaration of independence from God.

Application: What are some of the things that hinder us from spending time in prayer and what can we do about it?

## III. Meditation and Memorisation

- A. Meditation is more than just concentrated thinking.
- B. Psalm 103:1-2 Praise the Lord, oh my soul. All my inmost being praise His holy Name. Praise the Lord, oh my soul and forget not its benefits.”
- C. Meditation lends itself to memorization.

Illustrations

Principle: Meditation and memorization invite the Lord into our minds.

Application: What is God calling you to?

***Suggested Readings:***

- A. W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*, Christian Publications, Inc.
- B. Timothy Keller, *Prayer, Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*, Penguin Books.