

Recap

Have you ever felt spiritually dry? Like your passion for God has diminished, and your prayer life feels stagnant? You're not alone. Even the most devout believers experience seasons where their spiritual fervor wanes. But there's hope. The ancient words of Psalm 63 offer a powerful roadmap for rekindling our desire for God.

Written by King David during a time of personal crisis, Psalm 63 begins with a striking image: "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." This vivid metaphor of spiritual thirst sets the stage for a profound exploration of our relationship with God.

The first step in rekindling spiritual desire is recognizing our current condition. Just as our bodies signal thirst when dehydrated, our souls can experience a spiritual thirst. This emptiness, far from being a sign of abandonment, is actually evidence of God's grace at work within us. It's a holy discontent, spurring us to seek Him more earnestly.

Jesus himself affirmed this in the Beatitudes: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Our spiritual appetite, like our physical one, is a gift from God. If we find ourselves lacking desire for the things of God, it may be a sign that sin has suppressed our spiritual senses, or that we've allowed other pursuits to take precedence in our lives.

The good news is that God uses these dry seasons to draw us back to Himself. He allows us to feel the emptiness of pursuing anything other than Him, so that we might once again hunger for His presence. This realization is the starting point for rekindling our passion for God.

The second step David takes in Psalm 63 is to recall past experiences of God's power and glory. He writes, "I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory." This remembrance takes place in the context of the Tabernacle, the center of Israel's worship life.

While we may not have a physical Tabernacle today, we can still engage in the spiritual discipline of remembering. Think back to times when God's presence felt especially real to you. Remember moments when His Word came alive, speaking directly to your situation. Recall seasons of answered prayer or unexpected provision. These memories serve as fuel for our present faith.

This act of remembering isn't just about nostalgia. It's about recognizing that our capacity to experience God goes beyond mere intellectual assent or emotional response. When we are born again, we're given a supernatural ability to "taste and see that the Lord is good," as another Psalm puts it. This spiritual sense allows us to perceive God's reality in ways that transcend our natural senses.

Consider how the Psalmist describes God's Word as "sweeter than honey." This isn't just poetic language; it's an invitation to experience Scripture in a deeply personal way. It's the difference between knowing honey is sweet and actually tasting its sweetness. When we approach God's Word with this expectation, we open ourselves to transformative encounters with His truth.

The Tabernacle itself, with all its intricate symbolism, was designed to point towards Jesus Christ. From the outer courtyard to the Holy of Holies, every element foreshadowed some aspect of Christ's person and work. The bronze altar represented His sacrifice, the lampstand His light, the table of showbread His provision, and the ark of the covenant His ultimate atonement for our sins.

For New Testament believers, this rich imagery helps us not just know the facts of our salvation, but to experience and behold the power and glory of the God who saved us. The gospel, prefigured in the Old Testament Tabernacle and fully revealed in Christ's cross, becomes the primary means by which we satisfy our spiritual hunger and thirst.

As we meditate on these truths, we're led to David's profound conclusion: "Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you." This isn't hyperbole; it's the testimony of someone who has tasted and seen God's

goodness firsthand. It's an invitation for us to pursue that same depth of experience with our Creator.

So how do we practically apply these insights to our own spiritual lives?

1. Recognize spiritual thirst as a gift, not a curse. It's evidence of God's work in your life.
2. Intentionally recall times when you've experienced God's presence, power, or love in the past.
3. Approach Scripture not just for information, but with an expectation of encountering God.
4. Meditate on the rich symbolism of the Old Testament, seeing how it points to Christ.
5. Allow the gospel to be more than just facts – let it be the power that transforms your daily experience of God.
6. Cultivate a hunger for God's presence in corporate worship, recognizing the unique ways He reveals Himself when His people gather.
7. Practice verbalizing your desire for God, even (especially) when you don't feel it strongly.

As we engage in these practices, we can trust that God will meet us. He promises that those who seek Him will find Him when they seek with all their heart. May we, like David, come to the place where we can sincerely say that God's love is better than life itself – not just as a theological truth, but as a lived reality that shapes our every day.

Let's embark on this journey of rekindling spiritual desire together, expectant for the ways God will reveal Himself to us anew.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you experienced seasons of spiritual dryness or diminished passion for God? How did you recognize it, and how did it make you feel?
2. The sermon suggests that feeling spiritually dry or empty can actually be a sign of God's grace. How does this perspective change how you view spiritual struggles?
3. David recalls his experiences of God in the sanctuary. What are some significant moments or places where you've especially sensed God's presence or power in your life?
4. How does understanding the symbolism of the Tabernacle/Temple as pointing to Jesus enrich your appreciation of the gospel?
5. The sermon emphasizes that being a Christian involves both knowing/believing and experiencing/beholding God. How do you see these two aspects playing out in your own faith journey?
6. David concludes that God's love is "better than life." Have you ever come to a similar realization in your walk with God? What led to that conclusion?
7. How does the gospel serve as a means to satisfy our spiritual hunger and thirst for God?