How Thirsty Are You?
Psalm 63:1-8 (NKJV)

Please turn with me in your Bibles to Psalm 63. And let's read verses 1-8.

Psalm 63:1-8 (NKJV)

1 O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.

2 So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory.

3 Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You.

4 Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.

5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.

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

7 Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.

8 My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me.

PRAYER

***************
In 1996, a young marine corporal by the name of JOEY MORA was standing on a platform of an aircraft carrier patrolling the Iranian Sea. Incredibly, Joey Mora fell overboard and his absence was not known for 36 hours.

When it was realized that Mora was missing a search and rescue mission began, but it was given up after 24 hours. No one could survive in that sea without a life-jacket beyond 60 hours. Mora’s parents were notified that he was “missing and presumed dead.”

The rest of the story can be categorized as nothing short of a miracle.

Four Pakistani fishermen found Joey Mora about 72 hours after he had fallen overboard. He was treading water in his sleep, clinging to a makeshift flotation devise made from his uniform pants—a skill learned in most military survival training. He was delierious when the fishermen pulled him into their fishing boat. His tongue was dry and cracked and his throat was parched.

Two years later, as Mora was interviewed by Stone Philips on NBC’S DATELINE he recounted the incredible story of his will to live and survive. Mora didn’t believe it was a coincidence the Pakistani fishermen found him in that massive Sea; he believed it was an act of GOD. And he credited GOD for giving him the strength to survive until he was found.

Stone Philips asked Joey Mora, “What was the most excruciating thing of all?” Joey said, the one word that took over his body and pounded over and over again in his brain was the word “WATER.” He had an “intense thirst” unlike anything he had ever experienced in his life.
In this 63rd Psalm, David talks about the most intense thirsts he has ever experienced.

If you will notice just below the chapter heading in your Bible it tells you where David was when he wrote this Psalm.

It says: A Psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah.

David had fled to the wilderness of Judah to escape from King Saul who was out to kill him.

Now, I want you to think about something. What things would David lack the most in a barren wilderness?

-First and foremost, he would lack water.

-He would also lack food.

-He would have lacked the comfort of his bed to sleep in.

-He would have lacked shade to protect him from the blistering sun.

-And he would have lacked protection from the predatory animals that roamed the wilderness scouring for food.
But I want you to notice something. When David found himself in this barren, deserted wilderness, he didn’t **cry out for water or food**. He didn’t yearn for his nice comfortable bed or a shade tree or protection from the wild beasts.

David “thirsted for GOD.” He “thirsted for his Maker.”

v. 1  O God, You are my God; early I will seek You; (now listen)

    MY SOUL THIRSTS FOR YOU, MY FLESH LONGS FOR YOU in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.

Oh brothers and sisters, sometimes I wonder if many in our Churches today have no thirsts for GOD. I wonder just how many who claim to be Christians are searching for GOD like a thirsty man seeks for water in a barren desert.

    How thirsty are you for GOD? How thirsty are you to KNOW HIM?
    How thirsty are you to BE NEAR TO HIM? Where is our passion?
    Where is our zeal? Where is our “hunger to know CHRIST and Him crucified?”

How thirsty are you brother? How thirsty are you sister?

(P A U S E )

******************************************************************************

TRANSITION INTO THREE MAIN POINTS
******************************************************************************
The Bible speaks of THREE KINDS OF SPIRITUAL THIRST. And this is what I would like to focus on for the remainder of the message.

First of all, the Bible speaks about........

I. THE THIRST OF THE EMPTY SOUL

1. The unsaved man or woman has an empty soul. Devoid of GOD in their life, the unsaved man or woman is in a constant pursuit to fill the emptiness in his or her life.

The unsaved man or woman tries to fill that emptiness with things like money.....or material things.....or sexual pleasure.......or power.....or entertainment.....or recreational pursuits.

2. But what every unsaved man or woman continues to experience is a gnawing, nagging emptiness in their soul that just won't go away. Augustine described that emptiness of the soul this way: “Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee.”
3. Remember that *Samaritan woman at the well* in *John 4*? Remember how she had tried to satisfy the thirst of her soul by jumping from one relationship to another with men? Five in all! And yet that day as she stood there talking to Jesus at the well her soul was as empty as could be.

4. At one time that was you and me. Before we accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we experienced the thirst of an empty soul.

Paul describes us this way in *Ephesians 2:1-3 (NKJV)*

1  And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

5. Brothers and sisters, aren't you thankful you found the One Who could satisfy the emptiness of your soul? Aren't you thankful you found "the living water" that only Christ can give?
Perhaps there is one sitting here tonight who doesn’t know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Perhaps you have been wondering through a dry, barren desert your whole life trying to find something to quench the thirst of your soul. There is only one Who can satisfy that thirst. There is only One who can take away the EMPTINESS. And that is JESUS CHRIST.)

The Bible speaks of a second kind of “spiritual thirst” and that is:

II. THE THIRST OF THE DRY SOUL

1. What is the difference between the thirst of the EMPTY SOUL and the thirst of THE DRY SOUL?

The thirst of THE EMPTY SOUL is experienced by the unbeliever who has never accepted Christ; while The thirst of THE DRY SOUL is experienced by the Christian who is either out of fellowship with GOD or has grown lukewarm in their relationship with the LORD.

2. Every Christian experiences “seasons of dryness” in his or her spiritual life. It doesn't matter if you are a preacher.....a Sunday School teacher.....an Elder.....a Deacon.....a young Christian or an old Christian, all of us go through times where it seems that our spiritual passion and enthusiasm and fruitfulness are “all dried up.”
3. Perhaps that is exactly where you feel you are at this time in your spiritual life. Perhaps you feel as though your soul is “as dry as the desert sand.”

If so, ask yourself these soul-searching questions:

a. Have I been neglecting to study God’s word and spend time in prayer?

b. Have I been focusing too much time and attention on worldly things?

c. Have I been engaging in a sinful habit and failed to repent?

d. Have I nestled into a spiritual “comfort zone” and stopped making forward progress in my spiritual life?

e. Am I suffering from “burn out?” Have I failed to give my mind, body, and spirit the proper rest that God has commanded?

4. These are just some of the reasons we may experience a “dryness” in our souls. And when we go through these “seasons of dryness” it may be a clear warning sign that we are not where GOD would have us to be in our relationship with Him.
5. And during those “seasons of dryness” GOD may withdraw His close presence from us in order that in our intense loneliness we will literally “thirst for the nearness of His presence.”

We have considered THE THIRST OF THE EMPTY SOUL and THE THIRST OF THE DRY SOUL.

But the Bible speaks of another kind of “spiritual thirst” and that is........

III. THE THIRST OF THE SATISFIED SOUL

1. How can a SOUL that is SATISFIED be “thirsty?”

   ANALOGY: Let me give you an analogy. How many coffee lovers do we have here tonight? I love coffee. In fact, my morning is not complete until I have had my morning coffee.

   Once I taste my morning coffee, I feel a sense of satisfaction. But even though I would be satisfied with one cup, I thirst for a second cup, and a third cup, and sometimes even more.

2. The “satisfied soul” has “tasted and seen that the LORD is good” and he “hungereds and thirsts” for more of GOD. The “satisfied soul” just can’t get enough of GOD. He longs to get even closer to GOD. He longs to know even more of GOD.
3. David expressed “the thirst of his satisfied soul” this way in Psalm 63 that we read at the outset of the message.

   **Psalm 63:1 (NKJV)**  O GOD, You are my GOD; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my soul longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.

   **Psalm 42:1,2 (NKJV)**  As the deer pants for water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for GOD, the living GOD. When shall I come and appear before GOD?

4. Don't you get the sense that DAVID couldn't wait to get up each and every day so he could spend time with GOD? He simply couldn't get enough of GOD.

5. Could the same be said of you and me? Do we look forward to getting out of bed each and every day so we can spend time with GOD? Has your soul been so satisfied with GOD that you just want more and more of Him?

6. That is the kind of thirst GOD wants us to have for Him. He wants us to thirst for Him more than anything else in this world. He wants us to LOVE HIM, and WANT HIM, and to DESIRE TO BE NEAR TO HIM. He wants us to WALK WITH HIM, and TALK WITH HIM, and PRAY TO HIM.
The story is told of a young man who went to his minister one day and asked: “Preacher, how can I truly find God?” The preacher asked the young man to accompany him to the river which ran by the village, and he invited the young man to go down into the river.

When they got to the middle of the stream, the preacher told the young man to immerse himself under the water. When the young man went under, the preacher put his hands on the young man’s head and held him under for the longest time. Fearing he was going to drown, the young man wildly thrashed and beat the water. Still the preacher wouldn’t let him up.

Finally the preacher removed his hands from the top of the boy’s head and he shot up out of the water and desperately gasped for a breath of air.

Looking into the young man’s tear-filled eyes, the preacher said, “Young man when you desire GOD as much as you desired to breathe the air you just breathed—then you shall truly find GOD.”

Brothers and sisters, may we desire GOD as much as we desire our very next breath.