

"WEEKLY WISDOM"
By Pastor Darryl Baker

For The Week of 01.25.10

"DO YOU DESIRE TO SEE GOD'S POWER AND GLORY?"

Psa. 63:1 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.

Psa. 63:2 So I have looked for You in the sanctuary,
To see Your power and Your glory.

One thing that is clearly evident about David as scripture reveals he was a man after God's own heart, and more simply stated he had a sincere desire to know and be near to God. You see this evidenced throughout the Psalms. I emphasize this because he is in this sense a great example of one who was truly hungry and thirsty for God. In today's times I come across believers all the time who express their desire to see more of the glory of God upon their life, and to experience more of who He is. I myself for many years made this same confession of how I desired to see more of God's glory, but there came a point in my life where I had to finally be honest enough with myself to realize I had the ability to do so, but even though I said I desired to get closer to God I was doing nothing to accomplish this.

James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

It became a reality in my life when I realized it was something that I thought would just happen, but woke up to the fact that until I made some changes it would not just happen. This scripture was one that hit me right between the eyes in a good way, so simple and yet so obvious as most of God's truths are. I was not experiencing more of God in, and more importantly to me upon my life because I was doing nothing about drawing more closely to God. How easy it is to go through life and miss out on what God truly desires to do with us, for us, and through us because we don't stop long enough to be honest with ourselves. This was especially true for me because I was so busy with ministry this for me was a justification that I was fulfilling God's will for my life, but what was really happening is that was the thing I used as my excuse to not spend more time with God.

I know for me the terms "hunger" and "thirst" in relating to being hungry or thirsty for God were honestly nothing more than religious talk. One thing about Christianity the more you learn the language and terminology the easier it becomes to fall prey to saying that is what you

want, but you never do anything about it. Just as David in Psalm 63:1 uses this term to thirst for God, but for him it was not just a religious phrase. Having been in places of battle before in which they had been without water for long periods of time this is what was truly coming from the very depths of his soul.

Having lived in Arizona and gone to rodeos for years in the desert I can tell you there have been times when I was so thirsty once I got to the place where I could get a drink of water I couldn't seem to get enough. When I am truly thirsty for me there is nothing that satisfies me more than water. But when you drink sodas, tea, and other things and fill up on these continually water doesn't seem so inviting. I have found this to be true with God as well. If you are truly thirsty for more of the presence of God to manifest in and through your life you will, like David, chase after Him and desire Him more than anything else. I believe like my confessions years ago that many do have within their born-again spirit a desire to experience more of who God is, and to see His power and glory in their lives. The problem is we are filling up on other things and therefore even though we say we want to get closer to God we therefore never do what it takes, drawing near to Him.

1 John 2:15 Do not love *or* cherish the world or the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him.

If you are in love with your spouse, kids, other family members you will often give up time to do things you want so that you can spend time with them. Don't shout me down just because I'm preaching good! The truth is we will never love people the way we can if we don't get to know God who is love (1 John 4:8). But as I was saying earlier when I was constantly drinking things other than water I had no desire for water, which is obviously better for us. If we love or cherish the world and the things in the world we are filling our souls with these things that will never bring more of God's power nor glory in our life. As the Amplified Bible states here in 1 John 2:15, if we love the world, then love for the Father is not in us. You are going to give your time and attention to what you are truly in love with.

Christians who have a phileo love for God, like that of a friendship, not agape that is unconditional, but a love that is based on if I have time for you or not will not make getting to know God the priority of their life. They will claim they don't have time, or some other excuse. I did this for years, yet amazingly I had no problem devoting countless hours and dollars to pursue being the best bull rider I could be. For 16 years of my life everything I did was based on whether I had a bull riding to go to. I would put off paying bills if there was a rodeo that I did not want to miss. Yet I never back then made paying my tithe more important than paying bills. I would do whatever it took to pursue my dream, which by the way even if I would have become a world champion it would have had no eternal value. It could do nothing to help me become closer with God. I am not saying have a desire to do other things is wrong, but when they

are more important to you than God you are not going to get closer to Him.

Then God began to change my life after getting saved and showed me my calling as a pastor. I actually then allowed the "work" of the ministry to still keep me from drawing near to God. I just replaced my bull riding with something else. It is true that ministry is hard work, but when the "work" of the ministry is now taking the place of drawing near to God you will be no more anointed than doing something else with your time. So I had to finally learn that I had to begin to stop filling my life with things that were in fact keeping me from truly thirsting after God. Once I began to get a taste of God, His power, and His glory not only in my life but seeing God use that power and glory to help set other people free, I knew something had to change. My first real encounter with the presence of God came as I had put aside everything that had been consuming my time and focused fully on Him, which this was a life-changing event.

Heb. 2:1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

It is just as easy today if I do not watch what I am filling my time with that I can begin to drift away from what I know truly is the desire of my heart, the same as David's. "Lord, I desire to see your power and your glory that You may touch lives through me". This won't happen without a hunger and thirst for God. If we are waiting on God we are waiting in vain. We can watch the years, months, and days go by declaring we want to draw near to God, but if we remain where we are doing what we have always done this will not happen. I want to close this weeks article with a prophetic word the Lord spoke through me just this last week at the start of our Wednesday night's service. I pray it will inspire you and encourage you to get what God has waiting for you in His presence.

Prophecy given on 1.20.10 at Christian Faith Fellowship:

"It's the time for my power upon my church. I have desired for you to be overflowing with all that I am. I need you to show forth My glory in this earth. I cannot work as I desire without you, and without you yielding to My Spirit. You've got to be consumed with Me, not the things of this world. Adjust your focus, adjust your time, redeem your time for the days are evil, but if you redeem your time with Me; My glory will be see upon you, and My glory will overflow from you and into this earth. It will change people's lives as I have said. I've empowered you so that you can be My witnesses. Fulfill My call, yield fully to Me everyday surrender to my presence, My Spirit says the Lord, and I will manifest My glory upon and through your life."