



Presence!
Who Can Satisfy My Soul?

Hebrews 4:14-16

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

NKJV

The promise of the gospel is that we can come boldly into God's presence to obtain mercy and grace to help in our time of need.

The help that God will provide is sufficient for whatever we need.

One of our greatest needs is relationship. God said it is not good for man to be alone. (Genesis 2:18).

Our souls need relationship with those of like kind to accomplish His purpose for our existence. (Genesis 2:18; Eccl. 4:9-12; Hebrews 10:25).

God wants the local church to meet this need. This is one of the biblical foundations for discipleship.

There is a desire within our soul that a relationship with a man or a woman cannot satisfy!

We are created in the image of God. (Genesis 1:26-27).

Because we are created in the image of God, our soul and our flesh longs for a relationship with God.

David said...

Psalms 42:1-2

As the deer pants for the water brooks,
So pants my soul for You, O God.

2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When shall I come and appear before God? NKJV

Psalms 63:1
63 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.
NKJV

Psalms 84:1-2
84 How lovely is Your tabernacle,
O Lord of hosts!
2 My soul longs, yes, even faints
For the courts of the Lord;
My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.
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Psalms 84:10
A day in Your courts is better than a thousand.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
NKJV

After the fall of man, it was this longing for God that caused men to begin to call upon God.
(Genesis 4:26).

It was this longing for God that caused Noah to be a preacher of righteousness and to keep
himself undefiled by the world. (Genesis 6:9).

It was this longing for God that caused Abraham to leave his family and his country to find
the city of God. (Genesis 12:1-3).

Hebrews 11:10
10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.
KJV

It was this longing for God that caused Moses to approach a bush that burned but it was not
consumed; to climb mount Sinai to receive God's law; to build a tabernacle for God to meet
with His people. (Exodus 3-20).

It was this longing for God that caused King David to bring the ark of the covenant to
Jerusalem and then pitch a tent for it near his residence. (2 Samuel 6:1-19).

It was this longing for God that caused King Solomon to build his own tabernacle for God in Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 3:1).

It was this longing for God that caused 12 men to follow Jesus. (Matthew 4:19).

It is his longing for God that caused Paul to say that he was willing to lose everything to know Christ. (Phil. 3:7-8)

It is very important that you are aware that in your soul there is a longing for God. When you become aware of this longing for God in your soul, you experience a spiritual awakening.

Having a spiritual awakening is only the beginning of your spiritual journey. Having a spiritual awakening is what motivates us to begin to search for God. That search can lead to the wrong conclusions apart from faith in the absolute truth of the bible.

After you become aware of your longing for God, it is very important that you only seek to satisfy your longing for God with the God of the bible!

The first commandment that God gave the nation of Israel after their deliverance from Egypt was...

Exodus 20:1-6

20 And God spake all these words, saying,

2 I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
KJV

When they broke this command, and sought to satisfy their longing for God with graven images, God called their sin idolatry. (Lev. 19:4).

He also called it adultery. (Jeremiah 3:8).

Idolatry and adultery is seeking to satisfy the longing for God in your soul with someone or something other than God!

For the Jews, Idolatry always had the same consequences.

- Foolish decisions
- Painful oppression
- Disappointment and despair

What they thought would make them free led them into slavery and oppression.

This will happen to us if we seek to satisfy the longing in our soul for God with someone or something else besides God.

This occurs if we turn to the wrong religion. This occurs if we turn to someone or something other than the one true God.

C.S. Lewis said, "We are half-hearted creatures, fooling around with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

The fortunate thing for Israel was that God longed for relationship with them. His longing is not based on His need to be loved. His longing is based on His nature to love. Because God is love, God would send them a deliverer to save them from their oppression and set them free. Their deliverer would urge them to repent of their idolatry, turn to God, and satisfy their longing for God in God and God alone.

Because God is love, God, in His Word, has made it clear that He loves you. Even though you have rejected Him and tried to satisfy the longing of your soul for God with other things. He sees you. He loves you. He wants you to repent and satisfy that longing in your soul with Him. He has sent you a deliverer to urge you to repent of your idolatry, turn to God, and satisfy your longing for God in God and God alone.

Your deliverer is Jesus.

Jesus said...

[John 7:37-39](#)

[37 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. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. NKJV](#)

[John 14:6](#)

[6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. NKJV](#)

It is only through Jesus that you can satisfy your longing for God. Jesus created a way for each one of us to enter the personal presence of God. Jesus atoned for our sins.

To receive Jesus, you must repent of your sin and follow Jesus.

After you receive Jesus, you must avoid the temptation to satisfy your longing for God with someone or something else.

You must learn to live a Spirit filled life.

The Holy Spirit dwells in every follower of Jesus. We are filled with the Spirit when we come boldly before the throne of grace and satisfy our longing for God with God. This is called being filled with the Holy Spirit.

John Piper calls being filled with Spirit, Christian Hedonism. Piper says,
"God is most glorified in us, when we are most satisfied in Him."

We quench and grieve the Holy Spirit by falling back into idolatry and trying to satisfy our longing for God with something or someone other than God.

The happiest people I know are Spirit filled Christians who satisfy their longing for God with God!

God is wanting to pour out His Spirit on His church. When this occurs in a local church, it is called revival.

Revival will occur in any local church when the majority of the members begin to satisfy their longing for God with God!

Will you satisfy your longing for God with God?

Some of you have never received Jesus. You cannot begin to satisfy your longing for God until you receive Jesus.

Will you receive Him?

Many of us that have received Jesus are like the Jews after the exodus that chose idols to try and satisfy the longing for God in their souls.

Will you turn away from every idol and turn to God to satisfy your longing for Him?

Revelation 3:20 Jesus says...

[Revelation 3:20](#)

[20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.](#)

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