

What do I want...really?

*I love the Lord, for he heard my voice;
he heard my cry for mercy.
(Psalm 116:1)*

*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.
(Psalm 63:1)*

As we dig into our 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting, we need to revisit a question we often ask ourselves: What do we want?

The purpose of this exercise is to help us reexamine our priorities. As long as we live in this culture, our focus will be pulled in many directions simultaneously and, as this culture is under the influence of the evil one (1 John 5:19), virtually none of these directions will nurture us spiritually. This is not to say that all amusements are evil, or that we shouldn't enjoy the pleasures life affords. It is just to say that we must pay careful attention to the picture Scripture paints of the life God intends for us.

Jesus intends for us to live lives of excitement and fulfillment (1 Timothy 6:17). We are created by God to find gratification in relationship with Him (Psalm 63:3-5). To be honest, pursuing Jesus often feels like duty rather than pleasure. It's not that we prefer things of the world to spiritual things, it's just that we get caught up with doing life. So while we're living in this "dry and parched land," how do we get to the place where we "thirst" for God? How do we get past going through the motions of discipleship to the place of real passion—where "my whole being longs for you?"

First, we need to remind ourselves often of what the Lord has done on our behalf. How many times has He rescued us when we cried out to Him in desperation? His faithfulness is cause for sincere honor.

Second, we just keep coming to Him. It is in the discipline of seeking Him that we discover the pleasure of seeking Him. Let's resolve to pay whatever is required to pause every day for 21 days in acknowledgement of His lordship in our lives. He has promised to reveal Himself to those who earnestly seek Him.

Pray

Lord, we come to you today emptied of emotion. We set aside distraction to focus on Your beauty. As we wait for You, grant us the satisfaction our hearts yearn for. Amen.

DAY 2
Tuesday, January 6th

RECURRING NEEDS

Revival
Repentance
Wisdom
Marriages
Families
Sick/Grieving
Depression/Mental illness
City Church
Church leaders
Children
Youth
Singles
Senior citizens
Volunteers
Teachers and support staff
Emergency personnel
Business community
Elected officials
Missionaries
Worldwide church
The lost

REFLECTIONS
