

Friday, July 3, 2020

Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

**"As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?"**

Psalm 42: 1-2

The Psalm writer is speaking on behalf of all of humanity. He may not have thought of it that way, and "all of humanity" may not see it that way, but it's true, nonetheless. Every human being is "thirsty" for God. Every person is searching for a relationship with God. The only difference between the Psalm writer and much of humanity is that the Psalm writer KNOWS that God is what he is in search of. Many people don't know that they are in search of God. They only know that they are looking to fill a void in their lives.

You and I pretty much know when we are thirsty. We can sense it. Our mouth becomes dry. The sight of water produces the desire to drink it. How interesting it is, however, to note the difference between thirst and severe dehydration. Dehydration goes beyond what you and I would call "thirst." When I'm thirsty, I know I need water.

But a person who is dehydrated is not often aware of their problem. The need has gone beyond just the sense of feeling thirsty. In fact, dehydration has more widespread systemic symptoms than just a dry mouth. In fact, severe dehydration can even affect one's bodily organs and functions. The diagnosis of dehydration tends to be more involved than diagnosing simple thirst.

Our society is dehydrated. Society has been too far from God for too long. In fact, many people in society do not even know that God is what they are in need of. They are spiritually dehydrated. The problem has become more systemic than a basic thirst for God. When a person is simply thirsty, they know they need to drink some water. But when a person is dehydrated, the symptoms have become much more complex.

The writer of Psalm 42 was not dehydrated. He was thirsty. We know this because he knew he was looking for God. He knew what the solution to his need was. You and I become thirsty for God on a daily basis. Every day we need to be in contact with God through His Word and prayer. But we are able to recognize that need and do something about it. We can read His Word. We can pray. We can (under normal circumstances) go to church. But when we feel generally empty and don't know why, perhaps we have become spiritually dehydrated. The problem becomes more systemic and it begins to affect every area of our lives.

We can be thankful that God has made it so that we don't need to become spiritually dehydrated. Thirst is a normal, everyday occurrence. And all it takes to remedy thirst is to drink a glass or two of water. In fact, you would probably agree that drinking a nice cool glass of water when you are really thirsty is a very pleasant experience.

So, stay thirsty ... but don't get dehydrated. Stay close to God and to your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

God's peace!
Pastor Jim