

SPIRITUAL THIRST AND DIVINE GOODNESS

BIBLE TEXT : [Psalm 42:1-11](#); [63:1-11](#); [65:1-13](#).

LESSON 447 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple" (Psalm 65:4).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Psalm 42:1-11

¹ As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

² My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

³ My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where *is* thy God?

⁴ When I remember these *things*, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday.

⁵ Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and *why* art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him *for* the help of his countenance.

⁶ O my God, my soul is cast down within me: therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar.

⁷ Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.

⁸ *Yet* the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song *shall be* with me, *and* my prayer unto the God of my life.

⁹ I will say unto God my rock, Why hast thou forgotten me? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

¹⁰ *As* with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me, Where *is* thy God?

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I David's Spiritual Thirst and Trust in God

1. The Psalmist's heart cries out for God, Psalm 42:1-4.
2. When his soul was cast down his hope was in God, Psalm 42:5, 6.
3. Through the waters of affliction God will comfort him, Psalm 42:7-9;

Isaiah 43:2

² When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

4. When his enemies reproach him God will help, Psalm 42:10, 11;

Matthew 5:10-12

¹⁰ Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

¹² Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

II David's Desire for God's Service in the Sanctuary

1. He will seek God, His power and glory, Psalm 63:1, 2;

Psalm 27:8

⁸ *When thou saidst*, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.

2. He will rejoice and praise God for His help and blessings, Psalm 63:3-8;

Psalm 91:4

⁴ He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth *shall be thy* shield and buckler.

3. The wicked will not always stand, Psalm 63:9-11;

Psalm 101:7

⁷ He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.

III God's Goodness

1. Prayer and praise are offered to God; He purges away sins, Psalm 65:1, 2.
2. Blessed is the one whom the Lord chooses and who approaches to God, Psalm 65:3;

John 15:16

¹⁶ Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

3. His might and power causes people to fear Him, Psalm 65:4-8.
4. God visits His goodness and blessing upon the whole earth, Psalm 65:9-13;

Acts 14:17

¹⁷ Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful

¹¹ Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, *who is* the health of my countenance, and my God.

Psalm 63:1-11

¹

O God, thou *art* my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

² To see thy power and thy glory, so *as* I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

³ Because thy lovingkindness *is* better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

⁴ Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.

⁵ My soul shall be satisfied as *with* marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise *thee* with joyful lips:

⁶ When I remember thee upon my bed, *and* meditate on thee in the *night* watches.

⁷ Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

⁸ My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.

⁹ But those *that* seek my soul, to destroy *it*, shall go into the lower parts of the earth.

¹⁰ They shall fall by the sword: they shall be a portion for foxes.

¹¹ But the king shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by him shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped.

Psalm 65:1-13

¹

Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Sion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed.

² O thou that hearest prayer, unto

seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness..

NOTES:

Spiritual Desire

The Psalmist, in desiring God, was doing what man was created to do. Man was created for God's pleasure. He was to have fellowship with his God and the fulfilment of his purpose upon this earth was to be realized in the joy of God's presence and in His wonderful provision for man's every desire for good, and his every need. The joy and fellowship that Adam and Eve had with God in the Garden of Eden knew no bounds. And ever since that fellowship was lost through their fall, all mankind has had something within that makes them know they need God whether they acknowledge it or not. To those who follow that desire comes the sweet fellowship with their Maker that He intended for all men everywhere to enjoy. The one who knows Him the best has the deepest desire to know Him better. The one who spends most time with Him in prayer has the more desire to pray and finds the ultimate of joy when in His presence. This communion and fellowship with Him here is only a foretaste of what one will enjoy when one enters into His presence to abide forever in Heaven.

It has been noticed in all generations that they who cultivate a spiritual hunger have obtained God's best. They who leave their spiritual development in a state of disinterest and unconcern soon suffer from a lack of growth; and they die a spiritual death unless they begin to concern themselves with the things of God and seek for the things of God. We do have desires of one kind or another and it behoves us to cultivate the spiritual desires which will leave no room for the worldly interests that entangle many and leave them destitute in their soul.

The Psalmist rejoiced in his privilege of going to the house of God. He rejoiced there and kept hope before him even in times of trial. He said in Psalm 122:1, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD." We are commanded in God's Word to attend services, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

The spiritual desires that God wants to keep in all our lives will cause us to rejoice in the privileges that we have to meet with God's people and to fellowship with them. One with such a desire will not have to be prompted to be in meetings but his heart's desire will be to hear God's Word, to hear the praises of God coming from the lips of God's redeemed and to have the opportunity to pray with people who have a like spiritual desire.

Trust in God

Even in affliction, when the waves rolled high, the Psalmist was assured that God would not forsake him. He would be with him in the day, and in the night He would give him a song. He said in Psalm 91:7-11: "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." Such promises are far beyond human power, and serve to show us how merciful our God is and how desirous He is of doing us good.

Job is one of the best examples of trusting God that we have in the Bible. When he had lost everything, he said: "The LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the

thee shall all flesh come.

³ Iniquities prevail against me: *as for our transgressions, thou shalt purge them away.*

⁴ Blessed *is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.*

⁵ *By terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea:*

⁶ Which by his strength setteth fast the mountains; *being girded with power:*

⁷ Which stilleth the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people.

⁸ They also that dwell in the uttermost parts are afraid at thy tokens: thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice.

⁹ Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, *which is full of water: thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it.*

¹⁰ Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly: thou settlest the furrows thereof: thou makest it soft with showers: thou blessest the springing thereof.

¹¹ Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness.

¹² They drop *upon* the pastures of the wilderness: and the little hills rejoice on every side.

¹³ The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing.

LORD" (Job 1:21). He was later afflicted with boils from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet, but in all his trials he "sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." God rewarded him for his trust and brought him out with greater blessings than he had had before, and with his simple trust in God unchanged.

The Psalmist knew the same trust and victory even though the circumstances were different. Just so does each Christian today find the same joy and victory in putting his trust in the promises of God. What Jesus did when He walked the shores of Galilee, He will do today. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8).

Divine Goodness

It is impossible for mere man to comprehend the goodness and greatness of God. He can but praise Him in prayer, song, and worship. Many of the best-loved hymns of all ages have spoken of God's goodness and mercy to the children of men, and many of them have been paraphrases of the praises that the Psalmist wrote.

In the Psalms we read of the Saviour and of His forgiveness of our sins. What greater manifestation could there be of God's love for us! In fact, the whole Bible, of which the Psalms are only a part, speaks of God, His love and concern for man and His desire to do him good. If man rested on his own merits none could save himself, but because of God's love in sending Jesus to die in man's stead he can find peace with God and reconciliation through His Son Jesus.

Even though any sin against a Holy God is enough to damn a soul and is awful to think of, it is wonderful to know that any troubled soul can find peace of mind and heart through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The sinner realizes his guilt when he looks upon Jesus, but through Him finds forgiveness and has as clean a slate as though he had never sinned. He is then conscious of God's continual goodness to him and is kept by the power of God. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3).

We can safely trust the keeping of our souls in God's hands. Even those who rise up against us, God will judge. We need not trouble ourselves nor defile our hearts with a spirit of revenge. He sent His Son to die for them also. Our part is to love them and to look upon them as those for whom the Lord died. God will bring judgment upon them not only because they fight against God's people, but also because they continually refuse the mercies He offers them.

"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord" (Romans 12:19). In the beatitudes in the first part of the 5th chapter of Matthew, we read: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you", (Matthew 5:10-12).

The blessings of God are showered upon even the most unthankful. All the living have every reason to praise God for His benedictions. If they could only see that they are coming from God's hand! Life is a blessing, and God holds the brittle thread of life in His hand. So the joy we have with our friends and loved ones is possible only because God has given us this life to live and to enjoy. Health is a blessing. It should be a greater blessing to enjoy God's goodness through good health than to be healed of a

terrible disease after Satan has sent it our way. After all, he, the devil, desires to do his worst but God controls or limits his actions. Satan can go only so far. That is a blessing even to the unsaved, but the blessing has to be seen to be appreciated so the child of God who knows all these things and thanks God for them, in this very thanksgiving has an added blessing. It delights his soul to glorify and praise the name of the Lord.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the promise to the hungry soul?
2. How did man lose that sweet fellowship with God in the first place?
3. Why does everyone have a yearning to know God?
4. How does one increase his interest and depth in spiritual things?
5. Why would the Psalmist be happy at the thought of going into God's house?
6. What are some of the things for which we all have to thank the Lord?
7. Do the good things come to us as our right? Why?