

# EARNESTLY I SEEK YOU

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Many people would say they believe in God, but only ever have an intellectual understanding of Him. It is possible to know about God, but it is just a head knowledge, which does not reach any other part of our lives. Even Satan himself believes in God! As followers of Christ, we can know God in a personal way. God desires us to be in a relationship with him which affects not just our intellects, but our hearts, emotions and decisions. We can then say with certainty that "He is MY God!"

David was a man who knew God intimately throughout all of the seasons of his life. The psalms he wrote are a reflection of his heart, of him pouring out his worship, thoughts and feelings to God. (Psalm 55).

## Psalm 63 – A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.

*O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So, I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So, I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied, as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth, they shall be given over to the power of the sword; they shall be a portion for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by him shall exult, for the mouths of liars will be stopped.*

## Background

David wrote this Psalm whilst in wilderness on the run. He wrote it whilst his life was in danger, and he was facing one of the hardest seasons of his life. The words of the Psalm portray not only the hard physical

place he was in, but also the difficult emotions he was also experiencing. The first two verses show that David understood his desperate need for God during this time.

## Psalm 63 – Verse 1 Hebrew Words and Definitions.

- *O God you are my God...* Hebrew word for God = Elohim - Translation - The one true God, Jehovah.
- *My God,* Hebrew word for God = El.
- *Earnestly I seek you* - Early, diligently, eagerly.
- *My soul thirsts for you* - To suffer thirst.
- *My flesh faints for you* - Longs for you.
- *In a dry and weary land* - Desert, parched, no life, desolate.

## Seeking God Earnestly

David was in a life and death situation when he wrote this Psalm. He understood that he needed to be earnest in seeking and finding God's heart and presence. Whatever season and situation we face, we should avoid complacency, and seek God above all else in our lives.

- We need to seek first to find (Psalm 14:2, Isaiah 55:6)
- We can seek God earnestly, regardless of our personality (Psalm 69:9)
- Seek God early (Mark 1:35, Matthew 6:33)
- Seek God diligently (1 Chronicles 16:11)
- Seek God eagerly (Proverbs 7: 14-15)

We can be encouraged that God promises that when we seek Him with all our hearts, we will find Him. (Jeremiah 29:13, Proverbs 8:17)

**Psalm 63 verse 2. Definitions**

*I have looked for you...* - Gazed, behold, contemplate with pleasure.

*In the sanctuary* - Most holy place, consecrated, set apart.

*Beholding your Power* - Strength, stronghold, fortress, might.

*And Glory* - Splendour, abundance, richness, able

- David had sought God earnestly in the temple previously.
- David remembered his times in the sanctuary where he experienced God's power and glory.
- Even in the desert David could still experience God's presence

*"There was no desert in his heart, though there was a desert around him."* Charles Spurgeon

**Wilderness Survival**

It is likely that at some stage we will all experience the Wilderness, just as David did. Whether it be going through a trial, or a barren season. Wilderness survival is possible however! God can sustain and strengthen us so we can come through to the other side having experienced Him in a deeper way.

- Preparation in key. Develop a close personal relationship with God before you get there. (Matthew 7: 25-27)
- Don't Panic! Allow God to allay fear and keep perspective. (Deuteronomy 31:8)
- Find shelter in his presence. (Psalm 91:1)
- Drink the living water only Jesus can give. (John 7:37)
- Find nourishment in his word. (Jeremiah 15:16)
- Fan the flames of the spirit. (2 Timothy 1:6)
- Worship in the wilderness. (Psalm 34:1-4)

*I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eyes see you.* (Job 42:5, ESV)

David walked with God closely throughout all the seasons of his life. He developed this intimacy by seeking him earnestly. Let us follow his example and seek God with all our hearts, in the good times and the bad times. God promises that we will find him and we will truly be able to say "He is my God"