

## BRIEF PERSPECTIVE ON THIRST FOR GOD

'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink'. John 7:37

Jesus' choice of words suggests that not everyone have spiritual thirst.

There are many questions to ask and I believe one of the more important questions is 'Do we have the thirst for God?' This question is vital because without the thirst, we will not come to Jesus.

The solution is a simple and yet life changing prayer. Are you ready to pray this prayer?

'Lord Jesus, put inside my heart a hunger and a thirst for you.'

For those already with a hunger and thirst for God, here are two more thoughts.

- Just as water is a daily physical need, drinking from God is a daily necessity (Matthew 4:4). Health experts tell us how much water to drink depends on how much we lose.
- Beyond a daily need, water is a lifelong need. We need Jesus in our lifelong faith journey back to our Father in heaven (John 14:6).

## BRIEF PERSPECTIVE ON THIRST FOR GOD

### WARMING UP

1. How do you quench your physical thirst? What is your beverage of choice and why?
2. What are the symptoms of spiritual thirst? What happen to people who ignore their spiritual thirst?

### INTO THE PASSAGES

**Read Matthew 5:6, Matthew 4:4 -What are we to hunger and thirst for and what are we to live on**

3. What is Jesus asking His disciples to hunger and thirst for?
4. Will this type of hunger and thirst be filled?
5. How is this type of hunger and thirst filled?

**Read Matthew 4:4 -What are we to live on**

6. Jesus declared that we need both physical bread and spiritual Bread. What does it mean to live on every word that comes from the mouth of God?

### MOVING FORWARD

Some of us are spiritually dehydrated because we go on for days without drinking. This is not life as Jesus intended it to be.

When we faithfully meet God in His Word, something wonderful happens. My personal testimony is that The Spirit quickens my spirit so that the Word of God comes alive. I receive wisdom for everyday living and try my best to apply the wisdom. I find strength to overcome sin. In short, God transforms me.

Determine in your heart for the new normal – spend time with God daily and reap the benefits.

### LIFE TOGETHER

Bert alluded to one of the missions of the church, which is to partner with Jesus in the Great Commission.

In the 2011 census, England and Wales population was approximately 56.1 million. Of these, 59.3% of the population (33.2 million) professed to be Christians.\* However, a cross-check with the Church of England website revealed a different picture. Average attendance on a Sunday in Church of England is around 1 million†. 1 million out of 33.2 million is 3%. The attendance figure rose to 3 million (10%) during Christmas. [I used the CoE figures as representative of the spiritual condition of the country]

Transformation precedes multiplication. We are not to win converts, but to make disciples (Matt 28). Only disciples can make disciples. Our discipleship journey starts when we follow Jesus (Matt 4:19)

\* <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/index.html>

† <http://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/facts-stats.aspx>

## BRIEF PERSPECTIVE ON THIRST FOR GOD

These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Most of them are my own thoughts, so take that with a grain of salt. Let the Word of God lead you to truth, not these notes.

### INTO THE PASSAGES

**Read Matthew 5:6, Matthew 4:4 -What are we to hunger and thirst for and what are we to live on**

3. What is Jesus asking His disciples to hunger and thirst for?

**We are to hunger and thirst for righteousness. There is only one righteousness that is acceptable to God the Father and this righteousness is found in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, we can paraphrase the sentence to 'we are to hunger and thirst for Jesus'.**

4. Will this type of hunger and thirst be filled?

**When Jesus said that beatitude, He knew that for that promise to be fulfilled He would have to go to the cross. The fulfilment of righteousness was paid in blood. The reality is that Jesus died to fulfilment all requirements and He rose again. Everyone who wants a living relationship with God will get it. Everyone who wants to live their lives in the Spirit will find it.**

5. How is this type of hunger and thirst filled?

**We meet God in reading His Word and in prayer. There is a presupposition when we read His Word and we pray - we have faith in Jesus and trust that the Holy Spirit will lead and guide us. Beyond reading, our faith will lead us to obedience to the Word of God.**

**Read Matthew 4:4 -What are we to live on**

6. Jesus declared that we need both physical bread and spiritual Bread. What does it mean to live on every word that comes from the mouth of God?

**John 8:31, John 15:4. The mark of a disciple is one who remains in Jesus and His Word and does not leave. How else are we to know what our Lord is saying to us save the Word of God and we being guided by the Holy Spirit to understand the truth correctly.**