

Dry Times and the Sovereignty of God

"O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; my soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, in a dry and weary land where there is no water."

Psalm 63:1



"God promises to fill those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, yet the sign that He is doing so is that they go on hungering and thirsting."— **JOHN BLANCHARD**

DISCUSSION: Ask yourself...

- What am I truly *hungering* and *thirsting* for in my life right now? Write down the two of the greatest desires in your life right now. Be honest. (Example: a new job, freedom from fears, a companion, etc.)

Will obtaining these things really fulfill what only Jesus can satisfy deep in your heart?

David wrote in Psalm 37:4,

"Delight yourself in the LORD; and He will give you the desires of your heart."

To delight yourself in God means to rejoice in reverent awe of who He is. It means to be captured by His love. It means to be raptured in His grace. It means to be swept away by the unmeasurable worth of His being. It means to be stilled by the unlimited power of His nature.

To arrive at this place of delight, Eliphaz exhorts us in Job 22:21-26:

²¹ "Yield now and be at peace with Him;
Thereby good will come to you.
²² "Please receive instruction from His mouth
And establish His words in your heart.
²³ "If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored;
If you remove unrighteousness far from your tent,
²⁴ And place *your* gold in the dust,
And *the gold of Ophir* among the stones of the brooks,
²⁵ Then the Almighty will be your gold
And choice silver to you.
²⁶ "For then you will delight in the Almighty
And lift up your face to God.

You could sum it up in this way:

1. Yield now.
2. Receive His Word.
3. Return to Him.
4. Remove unrighteousness.

The promise that *"He will give you the desires of your heart"* does not mean that *God will give you what you want*, but rather, *He will place into your heart a desire for Himself*—the all-satisfying, thirst-quenching God.

- Dryness makes us keenly aware of our need for life-giving water.
- Hunger makes us internally aware of our need for life-sustaining food.

In Jesus, we have both. Are you aware of your need right now? In John 6:35 we read,

"Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.'"

APPLICATION: Making it work in life

- Describe a time when you were delighting in God.
- Retrace, as best you can, what robbed you of that delight.
- Look at Eliphaz's counsel again and conduct a personal self-examination. Which of these instructions do you need to follow today?
- Why do you believe that Jesus can both satisfy your hunger and quench your thirst?

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