

Thirsting for God?

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by Craig McAndrews

The Bible quotes God as saying, *“I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.”* (1 Samuel 13:14).

Do you see yourself as a man after God’s own heart? Another way to think about it is in terms of pursuit. Do you pursue knowing God more and drawing close to Him? I don’t know that I ever fully understood what that could be like until I experienced a nearness to God during a mission trip I took to a foreign country.

During the trip, I had countless experiences where I was uncomfortable, nervous, and even a bit afraid. In one specific incident, we were serving lunches at an event we were hosting, and due to the size of the crowd, we ran out of food. In this case, the timing was perfect as each of the attendees received a lunch. Myself, and several members from our group were the only ones who did not receive the meal being served. Since we had prepared our own food before we left the house, it was no big deal as we simply ate the sandwiches we brought with us. However, shortly after lunch, one of the attendees asked our team leader why we did not eat the food that everyone else was eating. He specifically asked if we were unwilling to eat the same food that was provided to those who were participating in the event.

As you can imagine, the intensity was high when the question was asked given that we did not intend to insult anyone. I remember feeling a sense of security from God that we were there for a purpose and this issue was not enough to distract Him from accomplishing His plan. We resolved the food issue by reminding the group we had run out, but more importantly, we committed to making sure we would share in the food tomorrow when it came time for lunch again. That promise seemed to remove the concern and we moved on to have a great afternoon praying and studying God's word. I experienced a closeness to God during that event which was unique, addictive, and grounded in complete dependence.

Psalm 42:1-2 says, As a deer pants for flowing waters, so my soul pants for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God, when shall I come and appear before God?

The idea of thirsting for God was a great way to describe how I felt after

my trip. I realized that the closeness I had encountered created a longing for more, and my prayer is that God will provide new opportunities to draw me even closer to Him in the day to day activities of my life. What about you? Have you taken a chance on an opportunity to serve the Lord in a way that might draw you closer to Him? Do you have a thirst for God? Do you look for ways to invest in the lives of others in a way that would suggest you are after God's own heart? You have an opportunity to make today that day.

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