

*From Where I Sit . . .*

## **Renewing my Passion for God**

"As the deer pants for the water brooks,  
So pants my soul for You, O God.  
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
When shall I come and appear before God?"  
(Ps. 42:1-2, NKJV)

Have you ever been thirsty, really thirsty? The kind of thirst that demands relief? Israel knew what it was to have very little water available. When was the last time you were "thirsty" for God? When being close to Him, meeting with Him, listening to Him, was an immediate demand? It is so easy at times to forget what we have right before us, to take for granted that God is always there, always cares, and to have no need for Him. Just like a marriage or any relationship can grow stale, so our love and thirst for God can grow dull over time.

There are some things we can do to enhance this closer walk with God. For example, we can **START PAYING ATTENTION TO GOD**. It is amazing how we often ignore God until we need Him. Our passion and feelings die as we remove ourselves from God. I don't think we intend to get away from God; we simply drift unconsciously. Desperate circumstances lead us to God; we have no one else. Abraham Lincoln is reported to have said: "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go."

It is reassuring to remember that God can do things men cannot. We draw close to God by making Him a priority in our lives everyday. This we can do through: Bible study: 1 Pet. 2:1; prayer: 1 Thess 5:17; private devotions: (James 5:13). Good relationships are worked at everyday; they are made.

Secondly, we need to **COUNT OUR BLESSINGS**. We mustn't lose sight of the blessings of the past. It is easy to lose touch with the significance that God saved me from sin, delivered me from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of His beloved Son. It is easy to take our focus off the cross, the pain He suffered for me. It's easy to forget the answered prayers, the Scriptures of hope and comfort, and the strength God has given us through the years. I need to counting the blessings of my present (Phil. 4:8). When we concentrate on the negative, we lose sight of God. When we concentrate on the positive, we grow more thankful of God.

The energy I give to distractions takes away from God. It's hard to be a good spouse in a marriage if you allow everything else to rob your time from the marriage. It is hard to be a good parent if the children are low in our priorities. Its difficult to be a good Christian if God is preempted by our whims and desires. Remember the lesson of Luke 8:14. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. Is there anything in your life that keeps you from being with God? Is there anything in your life that robs your energy and time, so that you are so overly tired you don't have time for Him? God loves you and wants to give you an abundant life (John 10:10). Don't allow your passion for Him to drain, so that you miss the joy He wants you to know.

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