

Sunday, 18 November 2007

Psalm 63:1-8

Ps 63:1-8 O God, you are my God, and I long for you. My whole being desires you; like a dry, worn-out, and waterless land, my soul is thirsty for you. Let me see you in the sanctuary; let me see how mighty and glorious you are. Your constant love is better than life itself, and so I will praise you. I will give you thanks as long as I live; I will raise my hands to you in prayer. My soul will feast and be satisfied, and I will sing glad songs of praise to you. As I lie in bed, I remember you; all night long I think of you, because you have always been my help. In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. I cling to you, and your hand keeps me safe.

Do you long for God?

Empty, tired, exhausted, stressed-out. These are the symptoms of our time, and day. As we are getting closer to the end of the year, these just get more evident, as we are in urgent need of a re-charge. We can not wait for Christmas, and the time of rest that comes with it. All our time used just to meet targets, and finalizing projects. We are getting to be bed later, and need to get up earlier, just to get to everything that needs to be done. We do so much to please others. We drain ourselves in order to accomplish more, and please more people on a daily basis. We yearn to reach a point in life where we can just feel like we have “arrived”. A point where we could just slow down, and relax. A point where we can actually enjoy life, not having to fight for survival, and a place in the sun.

But is this not maybe a way that the devil sometimes uses to keep us from what is really important? What should we actually be working for? What should our daily goal be? We should yearn to get closer to God. We should want to get up earlier in the mornings, just to seek His presence, and feel His presence with us. When I read this scripture, I could see in my mind's eye the picture of a street kid, standing outside in the rain at night. I could see him staring into the windows of a fancy house, looking at everything going on, there where the lights were burning, and where it was dry and warm. Yearning to enter, and to find peace, love and warmth.

So often we are keeping ourselves so busy to reach all our goals in life, but at the end of the day we are the ones left empty, tired, exhausted and stressed – out. We wonder why we cannot find what we are looking for. We pray for strength and perseverance to assist us to make it through the day. But is it happening? More often than not, the answer is no!. But why?

Are we seeking the wrong things in life? Are we looking for what is really important? Our yearning should be for a closeness to God, and His presence to fill us, and uplift us every morning. But, because we are so busy, we don't spend our first few hours of the day searching for God anymore. Usually a short, well rehearsed prayer, and then we are off to work. We work very hard, and when we eventually get to slow down at night, we are so exhausted that we just want to sleep. Sometimes we cannot sleep, for our brains just would not stop calculating, and planning. But all these things are in vain, and without eternal value. Let's stand still for a while, and ask ourselves; “Can we read this Psalm and agree with David that we also feel just like him?” If not, maybe we are on the wrong road, and our set goal are not the ones with eternal value. Should we not rather seek the Kingdom of God, and believe that He would take care of the rest? Do you yearn for God?

* Should you wish to write me, and are in need of someone who would listen and pray with you... Please do. david@davidniebuhr.com

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