

---

# Donald Whitney

## DO YOU THIRST FOR GOD?

Have you ever seen an elderly Christian for whom the things of God have not diminished their magnetic pull on his or her heart's aspirations? Even as their body decays, their longings for God display the growing strength of their soul. The Apostle Paul must have similarly impressed others in his day. Despite all his maturity in Christ, all he had seen and experienced, late in life (in Philippians 3:10) Paul wrote of the passion that propelled him: "that I may know Him." He wrote this despite the fact that he already knew Jesus more closely than perhaps anyone else ever will. The more he knew Jesus, the more he wanted to know Him. The more Paul progressed in spiritual strength, the more thirsty for God He became. With a similar thirst, the writer of Psalm 42:1-2 prayed, "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?" Does this describe your thirst for God? If so, be encouraged: whatever else is transpiring in your Christian life, your soul-thirst is a sign of soul-growth.

### I. Three kinds of Spiritual Thirst

Though it is not every moment felt, in some sense there is a thirst in every soul. The difference between people is the *kind* of thirsty longing in their soul

- A. The Thirst of the Empty Soul
- B. The Thirst of the Dry Soul
- C. The Thirst of the Satisfied Soul

### II. The Blessing of Spiritual Thirst

"How blessed are all those who long for Him," declared the prophet Isaiah (in 30:18, NASB). "Blessed are those," reiterated Jesus, "who hunger and thirst for righteousness" (Matthew 5:6). A thirsting desire for the Lord and His righteousness is a blessing. How so?

- A. God Initiates Spiritual Thirst

- B. God Initiates Spiritual Thirst in Order to Satisfy It

### **III. Practical Steps for Thirsting After the Thirst-Slaker**

If you possess a true thirst for God, you will long to long even more. As Edwards insisted, “true and gracious longings after holiness, are no idle ineffectual desires.”

- A. Mediate on Scripture
- B. Pray Through Scripture
- C. Read Thirst-Making Writers