

## Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled” (Matt 5:6). “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price” (Isa. 55:1).

A. W. Tozer (1897–1963) read the great Bible students until he could write as a Bible student himself with ease. He challenges us: “Come near to the holy men and women of the past and you will soon feel the heat of their desire after God. They mourned for Him, they prayed and wrestled and sought for Him day and night, in season and out, and when they had found Him, the finding was all the sweeter for the long seeking.”

The writer of Psalm 42 had the kind of longing for the Lord that Tozer spoke about. Feeling separated from God, the psalmist used the simile of a deer panting with thirst to express his deep yearning for a taste of the presence of 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” (vv.1-2). The heat of his desire for the Lord was so great and his sorrow so intense, he did more weeping than eating; “My tears have been my food day and night” (v.3). But the psalmist’s longing was satisfied when he placed his hope in God and gathered with other righteous people to praise Him for His presence and help (vv.4-8).

O that we would have a longing and thirsting for Him that is so intense that others would feel the heat of our desire for Him!

“Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern... 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself” (Phil 3:17, 20-21).