

# **Cultivating A Hunger For God**

***“... the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.” Mark 4:19***

**“The tragedy of modern man is not that he knows less and less about the meaning of his own life, but that it bothers him less and less.”**

**– Vaclav Havel, Letters to Olga**

**“Man has always lost his way. He has been a tramp ever since Eden; but he always knew, or thought he knew, what he was looking for.... For the first time in history he begins to really doubt the object of his wanderings on earth. He has always lost his way; but now he has lost his address.”**

**– G.K. Chesterton**

***'On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." John 7:37-38 (NIV)***

***"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."***

**Matthew 13:44(NIV)**

***“You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with JOY in your presence, with eternal PLEASURES at your right hand.”***

**Psalm 16:11**

**God in the Psalms is the "all satisfying object." "...it would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak." C.S. Lewis**



**"Behind the repentance that turns away from sin and behind the faith that embraces Christ is the birth of a new taste, a new longing, a new passion for the pleasure of God's presence. This is the root of conversion."**

**“....disinterested benevolence toward God is evil. If you come to God dutifully offering him the reward of your fellowship instead of thirsting after the reward of his fellowship, then you exalt yourself above God as his benefactor and belittle Him as a need beneficiary- and that is evil.**

**The only way to glorify the all-sufficiency of God in worship is to come to him because "in his presence is fullness of joy and at his right hand are pleasures for evermore" (Psalm 16:11).**

**-John Piper, "Desiring God"**

# 1. Sense the desire God placed in your heart.

*“God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart...”* Eccles. 3:11 (NLT)

## 2. See the signs God has given of Himself.

*“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” Romans 1:20 (NIV)*

### **3. Seek the deeper heart of God now present through Christ.**

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to "me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."*

**Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NIV)**

# **Four common desires to keep us connected to God**

- (1) For meaning and purpose to life**
- (2) For love... especially a fathers  
heart and hand upon us**
- (3) For justice and peace**

**"Your services have done more for our village in a few months than all our efforts for many years. We have never been able to reclaim a single drunkard, but through your services I do not know that there is a drunkard left in the village!" Charles Darwin**



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- (3) For justice and peace**
- (4) For eternity**

**“Ever since God expelled Adam and Eve from the garden, we have lived in an unnatural environment, a world in which we were not designed to live. We were built to enjoy a garden without weeds, relationships without friction, fellowship without distance. But something is wrong, and we know it, both within our world and within ourselves. Deep inside we sense we’re out of the nest, always ending the day in a motel room, never at home.” -Larry Cribb, Inside Out**

**"Why should a man be scorned if,  
finding himself in prison, he tries  
to get out and go home?"**

**J.R.R. Tolkien**

**For me there has always been--and I count it the greatest of all blessings--a window never finally blacked out, a light never finally extinguished. I had a sense, sometimes enormously vivid, that I was a stranger in a strange land; a visitor, not a native, a displaced person. The feeling, I was surprised to find, gave me a great sense of satisfaction, almost of ecstasy.**

**Days or weeks or months might pass.  
Would it ever return--the lostness? I  
strain my ears to hear it, like a distant  
music; my eyes see it as a very bright  
light very far away. Has it gone  
forever? And then--ah! the relief. Like  
slipping away from a sleeping  
embrace, silently shutting the door  
behind one, tiptoeing off in the gray  
light of dawn--a stranger again.**

**The only ultimate disaster that can befall all of us, I have come to realize, is to feel ourselves at home here on earth. As long as we are aliens, we cannot forget our true homeland.**

**- Malcolm Muggeridge, From Houston, "Happiness,"**

**“Continue seeking Him with seriousness. Unless he wanted you, you would not be wanting Him.”**

**-C.S. Lewis, Letters of C.S. Lewis**

**‘Worship doesn’t satisfy our  
hunger for God; it whets our  
appetite’**



## **Isaiah 9:6-7**

***For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, .... And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God... who imparts the meaning of life Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.***

***[7] Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.***

***He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.***

***Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. No one who comes to me will ever be hungry again. Those who believe in me will never thirst.***

***...I am the living bread that came down out of heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; this bread is my flesh, offered so the world may live."***John 6:35, 51 (NLT)

**"That is why Jesus made himself bread, to satisfy our hunger for God. In each of our lives Jesus comes as the Bread of Life—to be eaten, to be consumed by us."**

**MOTHER TERESA**