

READ Psalm 63:1-4.

1 You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. 2 I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. 3 Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. 4 I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.

SPIRITUAL LONGING.

David wrote when he was in a literal desert, driven there by the betrayal of his son Absalom. Despite the pain of physical thirst and lost love, David knows that his deepest longings are for God (verse 1)—they can be met only by God's presence and by experiencing his love, which is better than good circumstances and even than life itself (verse 3). This spiritual thirst, unrecognized as such in nonbelievers (John 4:7-21), is in all of us.

Beholding God's power and glory and worship should be our first care, not only because it is right but also because only a relationship with God lasts "as long as [we] live" (verse 4)—and beyond—and satisfies our deepest need.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, when you met the woman at the well, you told her that what she was looking for in male affection could be found only in you and the eternal life you give. Let me realize that my longings for professional success, social acceptance, and even family affection are functioning the same way. Give me the love that is better than life! Amen.

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