

Psalm 42:1,2
THIRSTING FOR GOD

- I. Its meaning.
 - A. David likens the spiritually thirsting soul to a panting deer who has been long pursued.
 - 1. A doe (feminine gender) and thus the weaker member of the species is likened to our soul (also feminine in Hebrew).
 - 2. She escaped immediate danger, but now faces another dangerous condition: thirst.
 - 3. It utters a cry, peculiar to the hart, facing imminent death.
 - B. The Holy Spirit uses this figure to express the experience of a soul which thirsts for God.
 - 1. It is to hunger and thirst after righteousness (Matt. 5:6), i.e., a longing for what is essential to one's life.
 - 2. The object of the thirst is God, the living God, and loving communion with Him.
 - C. Implications.
 - 1. The presence of this thirst indicates that we are spiritually alive with the Spirit making us desire God.
 - 2. This thirst puts to shame the times we are indifferent to Him or when we are smugly satisfied with the things here below.
- II. What caused this thirst?
 - A. Negatively and immediately, the cause is a real and constant sense of sin and sinfulness, guilt and shame.
 - B. Positively and deeply, the cause is God's love.
 - 1. The born again David had the Spirit giving him living water so he had a living soul.
 - 2. But sometimes the living water seems to cease flowing and is not always plentiful and the child of God suffers.
 - 3. When our spiritual life is low or severely tried, then he thirsts for the living God.
- III. How is this thirst quenched?
 - A. David, in the Old Dispensation, sought the quenching in the "house of God" (4).
 - 1. It was in the tabernacle/temple that God revealed Himself with His presence and communion.
 - 2. David was far from Jerusalem when he composed this song, so he longed to appear before God in Jerusalem.
 - B. In the New Dispensation we have Jesus, crowned with honor and glory, wherever the pure doctrines are preached.
 - 1. We long for Jesus and for communion with God through Him.
 - 2. The Word and the Spirit are the means to convey to us the living water of God's blessed relationship with us.
 - C. No one ever thirsted for God like Jesus did when He took our place.
 - 1. Jesus sang Psalm 42 like no one ever did or will: "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"
 - 2. And so do we.