

## Waiting On God Series: 3

### Deep Calls Out to Deep

#### Psalm 42.1-11

“As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. <sup>(2)</sup> My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? <sup>(3)</sup> My tears have been my food day and night, While they continually say to me, "Where *is* your God?" <sup>(4)</sup> When I remember these *things*, I pour out my soul within me. For I used to go with the multitude; I went with them to the house of God, With the voice of joy and praise, With a multitude that kept a pilgrim feast. <sup>(5)</sup> Why are you cast down, O my soul? And *why* are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him *For* the help of His countenance. <sup>(6)</sup> O my God, my soul is cast down within me; Therefore I will remember You from the land of the Jordan, And from the heights of Hermon, From the Hill Mizar. <sup>(7)</sup> Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; All Your waves and billows have gone over me. <sup>(8)</sup> The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, And in the night His song *shall be* with me—A prayer to the God of my life. <sup>(9)</sup> I will say to God my Rock, "Why have You forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?" <sup>(10)</sup> As with a breaking of my bones, My enemies reproach me, While they say to me all day long, "Where *is* your God?" <sup>(11)</sup> Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.”

This psalm expresses the desperation of a man to meet with God. We read here of a man who is so in touch with God that he longs to be in His presence. Although he has found the reality of spiritual depth he needs to meet with God afresh. He portrays himself like a deer that is thirsty and panting for fresh water – he is hungry and thirsting for the presence of the Lord.

We are reminded in the Scriptures that when the people of God were traversing the wilderness, God supplied them with Manna everyday (except the Sabbath). They were told to gather in fresh supplies sufficient for that day and not to keep any over for the next. Anyone that did try and keep some of the Manna found that it stank and bred worms.

What does this teach us about God:

- The Bible tells us Jesus is the Living Bread
- We need to come to Him and feed on Him daily
- What we received before is not sufficient to sustain us today. In the natural we do not normally go days without eating – we eat at least once/twice every day. If that's the case in the natural, how much more we need to with our spirit

#### John 6.31-35, 48-58

“(31) Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'HE GAVE THEM BREAD FROM HEAVEN TO EAT.'" (32) Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. (33) For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." (34) Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." (35) And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and

he who believes in Me shall never thirst..... (48) I am the bread of life. (49) Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. (50) This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. (51) I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." (52) The Jews therefore quarrelled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us *His* flesh to eat?" (53) Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. (54) Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. (55) For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. (56) He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. (57) As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. (58) This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.""

We come to Him, we abide (stay/remain) in Him – that's waiting on the Lord.  
This is where we get our life (vs 57)

In verse 7 the psalmist writes: "Deep calls unto deep...". What he is expressing here is that we all need to learn how to reach into the depths of our spirit and into the heart of God. This is not talking about waiting on God during a church service or even in our personal prayer time – this is much deeper. This is where our heart touches the heart of God. As if we are standing directly before the throne of God and meeting with Him who is Lord of All.

The ISV (International Standard Version) reads like this: "*Deep waters call out to what is deeper still*"

Waiting on God draws us deeper into Him where we no longer become stimulated by external things (which can become our foundation if we let them) but by God Himself. Many Christians lack this direct sense of God – He is our Source, not our experience, ideas, ministries, doctrines or methodologies. While these things may be valid to a certain degree we must learn to go deeper.

We do not learn to swim in shallow water – it's ok to begin with but we need to go deeper where we become out of our depth and into His depth.

We can only do this by the Spirit of God – it was the Spirit that took Ezekiel through the depths of the river (Ezekiel 47)

1 Corinthians 2.10-11

"But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God."

"For us, however, God has drawn aside the veil through the teaching of the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, *including the depths of the divine nature*. For, among human beings, who knows a man's inner thoughts except the man's own spirit within him? In the same way, also, only God's Spirit is acquainted with God's inner thoughts."  
(Weymouth)

John 16.13-15

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.”

Waiting on God is like those people who abseil into underground caverns, or go deep sea diving. They know how to get safely right into the depths, and to explore where few have gone before.

Most of us have a mechanical approach to our Christianity – we read somebody’s book or hear someone’s testimony, we might get to know of some method that a church uses, and we follow these ideas and try and programme them into our life. That’s just religion, following a set of rules, ideologies – we need to go deeper and hear from God directly. These things are good but should not form the foundation of our faith. We need to plummet the depths of God, wait on Him.

This is what the psalmist was searching for – thirsting for God. He asks ‘when can I appear before God?’

“My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?”  
(Psalm 42.2)

All of our prayers, speech, writings, songs, everything we do ought to be an expression of something deeper, where we have met with God. That’s the problem with a lot of the modern so called ‘worship’ songs – they are written to meet a need, or to fit a theme and not from the depths of waiting on God.