

Seeking after God

"In The Ring" Series- Part 2

Connect:

Share the best and worst experience from this past week?

Tell us about something in life that you pursued after hard and how did you feel when you obtained it.

Hook: This is a very beautiful psalm of devotion to God. Matthew Henry wrote that, *"Just as the sweetest of Paul's epistles were those sent out from a Roman prison, so some of the sweetest of David's Psalms are those that were penned, as this one was, in the wild desolation of the Dead Sea desert."* It is generally believed by most scholars that David composed the superscription of this psalm as he fled through the wilderness of Judea during the revolt of Absalom. David has been betrayed by his son, ousted from his throne, is running for his life, and despite these calamities, wrote a song (psalm) during his ordeal. Before we read our text for this study, discuss the following questions:

When you are in trouble or painfully confused, what personal actions or behaviors follow suit?

What will you try to do first to bring balance and certainty back into your life?

What must happen before you seek out God for His help and assurance?

Book:

A psalm of David, regarding a time when David was in the wilderness of Judah.

1. *O God, You are my God; I earnestly search for You. My soul thirsts for You; my whole body longs for You in this parched and weary land where there is no water.*
2. *I have seen You in Your sanctuary and gazed upon Your power and glory.*
3. *Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise You!*
4. *I will praise You as long as I live, lifting up my hands to You in prayer.*
5. *You satisfy me more than the richest feast. I will praise You with songs of joy.*
6. *I lie awake thinking of You, meditating on You through the night.*
7. *Because You are my helper, I sing for joy in the shadow of Your wings.*
8. *I cling to You; Your strong right hand holds me securely.*
9. *But those plotting to destroy me will come to ruin. They will go down into the depths of the earth.*
10. *They will die by the sword and become the food of jackals.*
11. *But the king will rejoice in God. All who trust in Him will praise Him, while liars will be silenced.*

-Psalms 63

Look:

There are five divisions in the psalm, the first four with two verses each, and the fifth taking in the last three verses. Let's look at the five divisions and the scripture text again, and together discover what David felt in his attempt to seek after God.

1. Psalms 63:1-2

"O God, You are my God: I earnestly search for You." There are three statements made in this short passage...what does each one mean to you?

What has brought on a thirst, hunger, or longing for God in life?

2. Psalms 63:3-4

King David lists difference actions caused by his seeking after God:

- My lips shall praise You.
- I will praise You while I live.
- I will lift up my hands to you and pray.

Can you give testimony that doing these kinds of things has caused you to feel that *"God's unfailing love is better than life itself"*?

3. Psalms 63:5-6

An old remedy for insomnia was to drink a glass of milk before going to bed. In these two verses, describe David's remedy for insomnia due to worry or fret.

4. Psalms 63:7-8

In these two verses, which analogy speaks to your heart best? The Helper, the Wings, or the strong Right Hand? Why?

5. Psalms 63:9-11

Sadly, Absalom and his followers were doomed to fail and David's words of prophecy both came true and broke his heart. Are there any truths in these last 3 verses that bring comfort when we seek after God?

Took: Which of the five divisions in this Psalms speaks strongly into your life today?

What area of your life do you need to trust God with so you can sing for joy under the Shadow of His Wing?