

## Psalms 42:1

**As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for Thee, O God.**

The deep inner longing that David is crying out for here, is a longing that comes from within the depth of our soul. It is not a casual or emotional event; rather it is recognition that without God's intimacy, you'll die. Unless you have ever given the Lord your heart completely, then I am confident that this is almost impossible to understand. Many people are quite happy and comfortable to keep God at either arms length, or at a more controllable distance. Perhaps their fear is that they might become, or be perceived, as too radical, or over the top. Still others are deceived into believing that religious traditions are enough. These people are satisfied with the dos and don'ts. To think of an intimate relationship with the Living God, far exceeds their comfort zones. But, to fully understand what David is experiencing here, those thoughts of what others are thinking are dwarfed, or most likely they don't even exist. Because the longing and need for God's presence and intimacy, means more than life itself. For most of my adult life, I have attended church, paid my tithes, and would often have a daily devotional. But, this longing and desire far exceeds meeting the elementary or basic aspects of our faith. This longing comes only after one sells out completely to God! The Apostle Peter understood perfectly what David was talking about here, when Peter spoke to Jesus in, **John 6:68, Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.** Here Peter was responding to the question that Jesus had asked after many of the disciples had walked away from Christ; because Jesus wanted to know if any of those who had remained, wanted to leave as well. For those of us who have made Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, I'm sure that our response would be exactly the same as Peter's. If you have ever pursued all that the world promises to satisfy, then you know that pursuit is not only empty; but the promise is a lie. The only thing that has ever brought me lasting happiness and inner peace is Jesus Christ!!

Many of you understand perfectly what I am talking about here. Perhaps you find yourself waking in the middle of the night crying out to God, for more of Him. Bob Sorge, in his book, "The Fire of Delayed Answers", says, "It's the crying out to God day and night that qualifies God's elect to enter His fuller purposes. To quit is to forfeit." Yet, in order to gain that intimacy, each of us must sell out completely. Because God demands that for us to draw closer to Him, then we must surrender and repent of everything else! He must be first! **Deuteronomy 4:24** says, "**For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.** Anything that gets closer to fire becomes warmer or hotter as it draws nearer. God is no different; for us to draw closer to Him, then the impurities or sins must be burnt away, the same way dross is removed as gold is purified in an oven. You might ask, "Is this process painful"? It absolutely is; yet the outcome far exceeds anything you may have endured in the process. Far too often though, people quit or back off before God is finished working in their lives. Church, I want to exhort you today by the Mercies of God, don't quit! There is so much more that Jesus Christ wants to offer, that some of you have never tasted. Many in trying to juggle the things of this world, as well as the things of God, are missing the best that God has to offer you. My prayer is that your heart will pant for the Living God, as a deer pants for water.