

August 2011

From the Pastor



Thirsty for God

It is hot! As I write to you it is being predicted that we will be experiencing record high temperatures this week. This heat has an effect on animals. We have been privileged to see a lot of deer around our home. In this heat I can imagine these deer getting very thirsty. As I think about these thirsty deer I am brought to Psalm 42:1.

... As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.
(Psalm 42:1 NIV)

What does it take for us to be that thirsty for God? I think a look at the rest of Psalm 42 will answer that question.

Psalm 42:1-11
(New International Version)

¹ For the director of music. A *maskil* of the Sons of Korah.

As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, O God.

² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?

³ My tears have been my food
day and night,
while men say to me all day long,
"Where is your God?"

⁴ These things I remember
as I pour out my soul:
how I used to go with the multitude,
leading the procession to the house of God,
with shouts of joy and thanksgiving
among the festive throng.

⁵ Why are you downcast, O my soul?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and ⁶ my God.

My soul is downcast within me;
therefore I will remember you
from the land of the Jordan,
the heights of Hermon--from Mount Mizar.

⁷ Deep calls to deep
in the roar of your waterfalls;
all your waves and breakers
have swept over me.

⁸ By day the LORD directs his love,
at night his song is with me—
a prayer to the God of my life.

⁹ I say to God my Rock,
"Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I go about mourning,



(over)

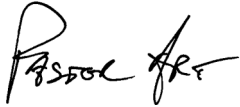
oppressed by the enemy?"
10 My bones suffer mortal agony
as my foes taunt me,
saying to me all day long,
"Where is your God?"
11 Why are you downcast, O my soul?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.

The only hope the writer has is hope in God. He is depressed. Depression has overcome him like the waterfalls and waves of water God created. It seems like God has forsaken this person. The pain is not only emotional but also physical.

In this time that the writer pants for God, the writer is overcome with thirst for God. The only hope is God. Since he knows God is his only hope, praise wells up within this person and springs forth praise for God.

It is in the hard times that we learn to pant for God. If you desire to know God deeply and to pant for God in a deep, deep way, with your soul crying out to God, then be willing to suffer. For it is in the heat of the crucible of suffering that we truly develop thirst for God.

In Him and for His Glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Aré". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial letter.