


Understanding the Thirst of Your Soul

The Lord says, "All you **who are thirsty, come and drink**. Those of you who do not have money, come, buy and eat! **Come** buy wine and milk without money... **Why** spend your money on something that is not real food? **Why** work for something that doesn't really satisfy you? **Listen closely to me**, and you will eat what is good; your soul will enjoy the rich food that satisfies. **Come to me and listen**; listen to me so you may live." – **Is. 55:1-3 (NCV)**

 **Goal of this Class:** to show how you are wired within, expose your profound thirst and explain what it means to come to the Lord, listen and drink.

I. WHY AM I TEACHING ABOUT THIS AND WHY YOU SHOULD CARE?

A. I want you to understand the art of “beholding”. Because you are beholding all the time, every day, at every moment. Comprehending *beholding* will enhance your capacity to Behold God’s Majesty”.

B. Truth is, your affections will burn for something or someone, your heart is not neutral. You must experience *life*, and you will... at any cost... due to your passions within—they are like mighty rivers of longing that won’t relent in their search for an outlet. God must be your ultimate “outlet”.

II. The Core Human Dilemma: Unquenchable Thirst

"If **anyone thirsts**, let him **come to Me and drink**. He who **believes in Me**, as the Scriptures said, out of his heart **will flow rivers** of living water. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given," – **Jn. 7:37**

A. From Genesis to Revelation the invitation is the same: *if you thirst, come to the waters*. On the last day of the feast of tabernacles, Jesus brilliantly summed up the human dilemma (thirst) and established five stages toward life: *thirst awareness, come, drink, believe and overflow*.

B. The first stage is to comprehend your deep longings and how you are wired within. Once you're aware of your *thirst*, you can identify all the personal strategies, mechanisms and systems (i.e. broken cisterns) that you use to find satisfaction

III. THIRST AWARENESS—WHY YOU CRAVE FOR EXPERIENCE

A. Here is something few people understand: deep within our hearts we live and yearn for experience—all of us crave for it—it's not really "things", "status" and "success" we desire, it's the experience those things provide we are after, the way they make us feel inside.

B. You desire to be known and loved. You dream with beauty, romance and fulfillment. You yearn for adventure, thrills and fascination. You long for lasting friendships, approval, financial security and success in ministry.

C. Why? Why do you want those things?

D. Because they feel great—every longing of your soul anticipates a specific experience. In fact, experience is the concealed driving force behind every human pursuit.

E. Unfortunately, the same longings are the root of our addictions. What's more, the entertainment and advertisement industry understands our cravings (and profits from them). They prey on our 'emotional' shopping behaviors and cash on our hunger for fascinating stories. Have doubts? Think about your favorite form of entertainment and ask: Why is it so attractive and appealing? What's the emotional exchange? And why at times I find myself over doing it?

F. The reason we get drunk with entertainment is rather simple: we have a profound need for mental engagement. We need to engage and be engaged, we hunger for new discoveries and fresh encounters—it is how we are wired. The problem is that every form of entertainment ever invented becomes old— no matter how exciting, ingenious, amusing and thrilling; we are always left wanting, always longing for more.

G. Something similar happens with sin, which feasts on our misguided longings. Have you ever wondered why the prohibited seems so attractive and appealing? What lies do we choose to believe when we abandon reason and agree to sin?

H. When we cross boundaries and taste the forbidden, we are irrationally searching to quench our thirst. Every time however, after the sinful pleasure vanishes our emptiness grows, leaving a painful trail of consequences and that revived ‘aroma of death’.

I. I have lived long enough to know that everything within the created order comes short. Be it virtuous or evil, nothing created can cure my thirst—my craving for experience never goes away. Even thrilling ministry trips become old—they fade away, they lose their charm. On every count, I keep silently longing for more... I found my soul forever thirsty.

J. After we are aware of our THIRST, Jesus revealed (Jn. 7:37) we must “be willing” to come to HIM (know Him as the Fountain of living waters).

IV. COME TO ME—POSITIONING OURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD

A. The second stage is the discipline of positioning ourselves before the Lord. Managing schedule, environment and lifestyle (i.e. discipline of prayer).

B. Coming to Jesus is the act of the will, exercising that virtue we use all the time: CHOICE—when boredom and temptation hits, you choose to either “come to Jesus” or not.

C. Reviewing Jesus’ sequence: first we thirst, second we come to HIM, and third we “DRINK”. Referring to the Water He gives.

V. DRINK—THE ENGAGEMENT OF YOUR HEART AND MIND

A. What did Jesus mean by “drinking”? Well, metaphorically speaking, drinking implies the engagement of the heart and mind—drinking is “focused attention”, conversation and intimacy.

B. (Keeping a disciplined schedule is not enough; you may go through the motions but be absent in heart). For example: you can “be in the prayer room” and waste your time longing for the waters of this world (if that’s the case, you are actually “drinking”—thinking, imagining, beholding and desiring—but not about the Lord).

C. We now move to the fourth stage: “Believe in Me”.

VI. BELIEVE IN ME (A FIVE DIMENSIONAL EXPERIENCE)

A. The fourth stage is “believing in Jesus” (who He is and what He says). Believing is the combined effort of 5 parts of your being (thoughts, imagination, feelings, confession and actions -- Prov. 23:7/ Prov. 4:23/ Rom. 12:2/ 2 Cor. 10:5/ Gen. 2:7/ Mark 11:24/ Rom. 10:8-11/ James 2:15-22).

1. **Thoughts**—the constant conversation within your mind. You are always generating opinions, formulating (and answering) questions about you, others, life, the past, the future, God, the devil, etc.

2. **Mental Images**—your imagination (the faculty of forming mental pictures). You are always watching your internal movies, and you are the producer and main character in them.

3. **Feelings**—your emotions are the expression of what you believe at any given moment: they are the product of your thoughts and images. Your feelings reveal your resonance, in scientific terms: your vibrational faith frequency.

4. **Confession**—your words have creative power, but only when they are backed by your thoughts, images and feelings. Confession without the first three dimensions is empty air and does not bring results.

5. **Actions**—what you do; your works. Most of the time, your actions are the confirmation of your faith—what you truly believe.

6. **Overflow**—out of your heart will flow rivers of living water—the overflowing heart (the Word abiding in you). Also, a picture of anointed ministry, overflowing with the life, power and revelation of the Spirit.

VII. How I Encounter Jesus in the Word (My Three Step Formula)

“But you do not have **His word abiding in you**, because whom He sent, **Him** you do not **believe**. You **search the Scriptures**, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they **which testify of Me**. But you are **not willing to come to Me** that you may have life” -- **Jn. 5:38-40**

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A. As you search the Scriptures, **look for His witness**, how the ‘logos’ testify of Jesus (the ultimate Rhema Word). To do this consistently, you have to be “willing” to come to HIM (as you meditate and study).

B. My formula for Bible Study: Fellowship with the Holy Spirit + Fasting + Five Dimensional Prayer Reading (engaging 5 parts of your being: *thoughts, imagination, feelings, confession and actions*).

C. During a prophetic experience the Lord showed me how “*you see what you hear*” and said: “*Every word I’ve spoken (in the Scriptures) is a doorway into my Kingdom*”.