

Learning to Pray in the Desert

Psalm 63 | Ryan Pfeiffer | June 26, 2022

The preface to Psalm 63 reads, “a psalm of David. When he was in the Desert of Judah.”

- Written while David was hiding out in the desert.
- His son Absalom had usurped the throne, overtaking Jerusalem
- This is one of the lowest moments of David’s life.

This Psalm TRAINS us how to PRAY when we’re in a desert place.

The DESERT represents those places in our life where we feel disconnected from GOD and lack a passion in our faith.

Deserts of Circumstances — seasons that test our faith.

- Difficult situations... challenge our faith... How could you God!?
- Distraction... busyness spreads our passion thin... lost our first love.

Deserts of the heart... where we need renewal.

- Doubts that we’ve avoided but now it’s overwhelming us.
- Disobedience that we’ve minimized/ ignored... dragging us away.

These dry areas can burden us like dead weight dragging us down. Or they can become the fuel for God to ignite a fire in our hearts.

FOCUS. Psalm 63 shows us how to re-ignite our passion for GOD.

FIRST STEP: GATHER THE DRY WOOD.

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.

David brings his thirst to God in prayer... Tells Him where he feels dry/ empty. For Prayer to be effective... it must be HONEST.

We must lay before him what is in us; not what ought to be in us. -- C.S. Lewis

WHERE DO YOU FEEL DRY? Where do YOU FEEL WEAK? DOUBT?

THIS IS YOUR DRY WOOD.

- “GOD, my faith is struggling... my faith is desperate for you!”;
- “GOD I feel so much pain in my body... I’m aching for you.”
- “GOD I feel so lost... You are searching for me”

When we're willing to be HONEST... GOD promises to send the Fire!

SECOND STEP: LIGHT THE FIRE.

2 I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. 3 Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. 5 I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

David IGNITES that fire by entering into a spirit of praise.

1. The Spirit of Praise begins with a choice... "I WILL PRAISE YOU..."
2. Bringing to mind past experiences of God's goodness. "2 I have seen you"
3. My lips will glorify you... We are going to praise God with our lips and our hearts will follow.

Ephesians 5.18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord...

Praise opens a door for the Spirit of GOD to come in and ignite our hearts.

THIRD STEP: STOKE THE FIRE.

6 On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. 7 Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. 8 I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.

Once the wood is laid out... and the fire is ignited... the third step is the most important... STOKE THE FIRE. David does that by continually bringing his thoughts back to GOD

4 verbs: *I remember you... I think of you... I sing... I cling to you.*

When we cling to GOD it means we are persevere-- we're not giving up just because we don't feel anything...

**"You didn't get dry overnight. Why are you expecting to get better overnight?"
- Bob Mackenzie**

When we cling to GOD... we keep bringing our focus back to GOD...
But in the end, David's confidence isn't in himself. His confidence to make it through this desert isn't in his seeking... in his singing... in his remembering or thinking...

8 *"My soul clings to you; YOUR RIGHT HAND upholds me."*

Jesus is GOD's right hand that holds us up.

Matthew 26.38 Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." 39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Jesus brought his dry wood... he was honest about his sorrow... and admitted he wanted so bad for there to be another way. But there wasn't any other way for him to rescue us. And so he brought his wood... he sweated blood... he agonized and then he set it on fire.

"My Father, if there is any way, get me out of this. But please, not what I want. You, what do you want?"

Jesus died to set your life on fire with passion and love for GOD... nothing in this world has the right to take that away from you.