

# The Soul-thirst of Desire

...a well springing up eternally... John 4

**The Pursuit of God is the well-spring of fulfilled desire.**

**1. The pursuit of God begins with a \_\_\_\_\_.**

**John 4:1-14**

*Give me a drink...*

❖ **Desire is \_\_\_\_\_.** Psalm 42 and 63  
*As the deer pants... so my soul pants... soul thirsts for God...  
I seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for  
You... better...*

❖ **Desire is spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.**  
*...the path of life... fullness of joy... pleasures forever. Psalm 16:11  
O taste and see that the Lord is good... Psalm 34:8  
Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your  
heart. Psalm 37:4*

**What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you?**

James 4:1-6

*...your pleasures... You lust ...You are envious your pleasures... You  
adulteresses...*

❖ **Sensual desires are either \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ of  
godly delight.**  
*Two evils: ...forsaken... living waters, to hew... broken cisterns...  
Jeremiah 2:13*

**2. The pursuit of God leads to \_\_\_\_\_ (full-time) \_\_\_\_\_.**

**John 4:15ff.**

**All of life is an expression of \_\_\_\_\_.**

❖ **Worship is not primarily a matter of \_\_\_\_\_.**  
*...neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem... 20*

❖ **Worship is not primarily a matter of \_\_\_\_\_.**  
*...in spirit and in truth... 23*

❖ **Worship is the living enjoyment of \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
we \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ above all.  
...I have food to eat... 31**

**Challenge: How is your \_\_\_\_\_ pursuing you this week?**

How are you pursuing \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ is pursuing?

## Discussion Guide: The Soul-thirst of Desire

**Freewheeling:** In response to what you've heard and thought in our study of "desire," what makes you go:

*\* mmm I don't know? \* Oh yeah! \* I really wish... \* Is this even appropriate?*



**Alternate:** In your opinion, what's the significance of the messages of the New Age Evangelists? (clickable links in electronic version)

- Bruce Springsteen "Hungry Heart"  
<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=everybody%27s+got+a+hungry+heart+youtube+W+LYRICS&qvrt=everybody%27s+got+a+hungry+heart+youtube+W+LYRICS&view-detail&mid=2196F122BBE1B2810CB92196F122BBE1B2810CB9&FORM=VRDGAR>
- Rolling Stones "Satisfaction"  
<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=%20can't%20get%20no%20satisfaction&qs=VI&form=QBVDMMH&sp=1&pg=%20can't%20get%20n&sc=8-13&cvid=A0B4ECCDDF8B43F5B57E0C885A120B21>

### 1. The pursuit of God begins with a thirsty heart.

When you think of "the pursuit of God" do you gravitate toward you pursuing God or God pursuing you? Do you think it makes any difference where we start?

### 2. Mike said, "Desire is spiritual wooing."

- What do you think that means?
- Do you think it is possible for God and Satan to use the same love gifts?
- How do you feel, when you hear that God is jealous for you?  
If you need to check whether that's even true:  
 The Old Testament: Deut. 4:24, 6:15, 32:21; Exodus 20:5, 34:14  
 The New Testament: James 4:5; 1 Cor. 10:22; 2 Cor. 11:2
- Do you think of jealousy as a positive or negative character trait?
- In OT times, what seemed to be the primary provocation of God's jealousy for His people? Is that described differently in the New Testament? (i.e. What "false lovers" were the OT Hebrews drawn to and what false lovers are we, NT believers seduced by?)

### 3. Agree, disagree, discuss:

- *Sensual desires are either foretastes or toxins of godly delight.*
- *There are legitimate, sensual desires intended by God to draw us into relationship with Him and the worship of Him.*
- *When the desire is too much to bear, we often bury it beneath frenzied thoughts and activities or escape it by dulling our immediate consciousness of living.*
- *Most people have abandoned the pursuit of their true heart's desire – they have lost their heart. They are camped in places of resignation or indulgence or trapped in prisons of despair.*

N.A. Evangelist Version: Shawshank redemption "Institutionalized"

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=shawshank+redemption+youtube+these+walls&&view-detail&mid=08F5F3D621B718D9984F08F5F3D621B718D9984F&FORM=VRDGAR> (:48-1:10 Beware of language on either side!)

Do we institutionalize our relationship to Jesus?

### 4. Imagine someone you'd never met before, wanted to write your biography, and followed you around for two weeks.

- What would they say you are "passionate" about?
- What would they learn about the nature of your God (or gods)?
- What would they see in your life that would make them exclaim: "Wow, this person has a passionate love for Jesus!"

**Prayer Target: Hearts that passionately hunger and thirst after Jesus.**

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❖ **Desire is universal.** Psalm 42 and 63

*As the deer pants... so my soul pants... soul thirsts for God...*

*I **seek** You earnestly; My soul **thirsts** for You, my flesh **yearns** for You... **better**...*

❖ **Desire is spiritual wooing.**

*...the path of **life**... fullness of **joy**... **pleasures** forever. Psalm 16:11*

*O taste and see that the Lord is **good**... Psalm 34:8*

*Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4*

***What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you?***

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*...your **pleasures**... You **lust** ...You are **envious** your **pleasures**... You **adulteresses**...*

❖ **Sensual desires are either foretastes or toxins of godly delight.**

***Two evils:* ...**forsaken**... living waters, to hew... broken cisterns...**

Jeremiah 2:13

### 2. The pursuit of God leads to living (full-time) worship.

John 4:15ff.

***All of life is an expression of worship.***

❖ **Worship is not primarily a matter of where.**

*...neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem... 20*

❖ **Worship is not primarily a matter of how.**

*...in spirit and in truth... 23*

❖ **Worship is the living enjoyment of who/what**

**we desire and value above all.**

*...I have food to eat... 31*

**Challenge: How is your God pursuing you this week?**

How are you pursuing those that God is pursuing?