



Thirsting for God Philippians 4:4-7

Jesus used two familiar things, hunger and thirst, to _____ us how God looks at righteousness (Matthew 5:6). When was the last time you were _____ for God? When were you last hungering to be _____ to God? When was the last time reading the Bible or hearing a sermon from God's word was an immediate _____. Some people take for granted that God is always there, always cares, and is always available when they _____ Him; but they don't seem to go out of their way to find God. Many _____ God until some real need arises. Christianity is a heartfelt, _____ relationship with the Lord.

If you want a relationship with God that is vibrant and living and full of love and joy, you have to _____ beyond having God around only when you need Him. When Jesus was tempted by the devil He quoted from Deuteronomy 8:3, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every _____ that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Many people _____ themselves out of a real life by focusing on everything around but God. By pushing the _____ away, they are pushing life away. The Bible is no ordinary book; it is God's book and God's way of teaching and training us to _____. The Word of God is what gives us new life and causes us to be _____ again (carefully read 1 Peter 1:22-25). No other book can _____ your past, and no other book can give you the _____ of living forever.

People don't intend to get away from God; they simply _____ away unconsciously (Hebrews 2:1-3). A person can slowly just stop reading the Word of God, stop praying, and stop going to church, and before long he's drifted away from the God who _____ him. Desperate circumstances sometimes happen to _____ us up and lead us back to God, and we finally realize that we have no one else. Though it is not politically correct to say it, there is really only one _____ God who can hear and answer prayer, and that is the God of the Bible. We _____ God; there is simply no other way.

We can draw _____ to God by making Him a priority in our lives every day. Every day _____ time for God; spend time in the Bible; study it and pray. Don't simply _____ the Word of God, study it and meditate upon it (Psalm 1:1-3). God also wants you to draw close to Him by _____ your heart to Him in prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17). God is not saying pray 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but He is saying pray without _____ on prayer. God _____ us to pray, to ask, to seek, and to knock. If you want to have a _____ to be closer to God, a simple exercise every day is this, _____ your blessings. Counting your blessings is so _____ for your spirit and your attitude (Philippians 4:8). When we concentrate only on the _____, we lose sight of God. Another thing to remember about God's blessings is that He has lovingly prepared a _____ for us, one that gives us hope (1 Peter 1:3-5).

Read Hebrews 12:1-2. Is there anything in your life that _____ you from being close to God? Some things are not sinful in and of themselves, but they so distract and rob us of _____ with God, that we lose sight of the Lord who loves us. We also have to think about sin because it _____ us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). If you want to draw close to God, you have to _____ the sin out of your life. God loves you and He wants something _____ than sin will give you (John 10:10). Our Father in heaven wants us to _____ with joy and purpose. Sin may give you a _____ for a moment, but it will rob you of your soul.