



Thirst is a reoccurring theme in the Bible. In Isaiah 55:1, God invites the thirsty to come and freely drink of His water. Jesus did the same in John 7:37. He offers those who believe in him a permanent quenching of thirst (John 6:35; 4:14). In the last chapter of the Bible, the Holy Spirit offers this invitation to everyone...

The Holy Spirit says..."Come!" Let the one who is thirsty, come. Let the one who wants to drink of the water of life, drink it. It is a free gift. (*Revelation 22:17, NLV*)

Spiritual thirst is common to all human beings. It represents the deep longings in the human spirit. We all long. It's a part of what it means to be human.

THE DEEPEST LONGINGS OF THE HUMAN HEART

We will never know satisfaction unless we can identify the longing.

The deepest longings of the human heart are:

- (1) **Security**: a sense of inner well being coming from an awareness of being loved and accepted unconditionally.
- (2) **Significance**: a sense of inner well being coming from an awareness of personal competency and impact.

If these longings are not met, an inner void will exist crying out for and demanding satisfaction.

This thirst becomes the **motivation** of a person's life.

IT WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS

Originally the inner longings of humans were completely satisfied out of a deep and dynamic relationship with God, our creator.

Eden was a place of security and significance.

Adam and Eve were loved and accepted by God (Genesis 3:8) and were assured of their significance (Genesis 1:28-29).

When man rebelled, he immediately lost the security and significance, and the search for satisfaction began.

The deep longing of the human heart is really our longing for a return to **Eden**.

THREE TRUTHS ABOUT OUR LONGINGS

1. God uses our longings as a basis of his **call** to us.

John 7:37, If any man is thirsty let him come to me and drink. (NIV)

Jesus never condemns our longings

2. Whatever satisfies our longings will become our **God**.

Jeremiah 2:13, You, my people, have sinned in two ways- - you have rejected me, the source of life-giving water, and you've tried to collect water in cracked and leaking pits dug in the ground. (CEV)

3. Satisfaction found in a false god will lead to further personal and relational **conflict** and **tension**.

Proverbs 27:7, He who is full loathes honey, but to the hungry even what is bitter tastes sweet. (NIV)

ONE WOMAN'S STORY (John 4:4-30)

John 4:10-13, Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water...Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst." (NIV)