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Our Longing

By Terry Kountz on March 14, 2024

TODAY'S READING: Psalm 42

Psalm 42 begins with a powerful image: "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God" (Psalm 42:1). Just as a deer longs for water to quench its thirst, our souls long for the presence of God. We yearn for His refreshing presence, His comforting embrace, and His guiding hand in our lives.

In verse 2, the psalmist expresses the depth of this longing: "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" This is the cry of a heart that is desperate for communion with its Creator. It's a reminder that nothing in this world can satisfy the deep longing within us except for God Himself.

Yet, amidst this longing, the psalmist finds hope. In verse 5, he encourages himself: "Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God." Despite the turmoil and distress, there is an anchor of hope in the faithfulness of God. We can trust that He will never leave us nor forsake us, and that He will always be our refuge and strength.

As we reflect on Psalm 42, let us echo the psalmist's prayer: "Lord, like the deer pants for streams of water, so our souls long for You." May we find our satisfaction in Your presence, our hope in Your faithfulness, and our strength in Your love. Help us to continually seek You, knowing that You are always near.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we acknowledge our deep longing for Your presence in our lives. In times of trial and uncertainty, help us to thirst for You and to put our hope in Your unfailing love and faithfulness. May we remember Your past faithfulness and find strength in Your promises. Renew our spirits and fill us with the joy of Your salvation.

TOMORROW'S READING: Psalm 53

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