

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 11-24-13 PM  
"GOING DEEPER WITH GOD"  
PSALM 63:1-11  
(Non-Series Message)

**2 Samuel 15:23 (NKJV)** "And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people crossed over. The king himself also crossed over the Brook Kidron, and all the people crossed over toward the way of the wilderness."

**Job 5:7 (HCSB)** "But mankind is born for trouble as surely as sparks fly upward."

**Exodus 33:11a (NKJV)** "So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his **friend**."

**Isaiah 41:8 (NKJV)** "But you, Israel, *are* My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the descendants of Abraham My **friend**."

**John 15:15a (NKJV)** "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you **friends**..."

**1 John 1:3b (NKJV)** "...truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ."

**Micah 6:8 (NKJV)** "He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"

**Philippians 3:10 (AMP)** "[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly], and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection [which it exerts over believers], and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed [in spirit into His likeness...]."

I. We Must Surrender to God (v. 1a)

**Genesis 1:1 (NKJV)** "In the beginning God [Elohim] created the heavens and the earth."

**Psalms 77:13b (ESV)** "What god [E] is great like our God [Elohim]?"

*El Elyon*—The God Most High

**Genesis 14:20a (NKJV)** "And blessed be **God Most High**, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand."

*El Roi*—The God Who Sees

**Genesis 16:13a (NKJV)** "Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, 'You are the **God Who Sees**...'"

*El Shaddai*—The God Who Is Self-Sufficient

**Genesis 17:1a (ESV)** "When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, 'I am **God Almighty**...'"

**Psalms 100:3 (NKJV)** "Know that the Lord, He *is* God; *it is* He *who* has made us, and not we ourselves; *we are* His people and the sheep of His pasture."

**Deuteronomy 6:15a (NKJV)** "for the Lord your God *is* a jealous God among you..."

II. We Must Seek God (vv. 1b-2)

A. Seek His Person (vv. 1-2)

**Psalms 42:1-2 (NKJV)** “<sup>1</sup>As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. <sup>2</sup>My soul **thirsts** for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?”

*Once it was the blessing, now it is the Lord;  
Once it was the feeling, now it is His Word.  
Once His gifts I wanted, now the giver is known,  
Once I sought for things, now Himself alone.*

—A. B. Simpson

“O God, I have tasted [Your] goodness, and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more. I am painfully conscious of my need for further grace, and I am ashamed of my lack of desire. O God, the triune God, I want to want [You]; I long to be filled with longing; I thirst to be more thirsty still...” —A. W. Tozer

B. Seek His Power (v. 2a)

**Psalms 105:4 (NKJV)** “Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face evermore!”

C. Seek His Glory (v. 2b)

**1 Corinthians 14:25 (ESV)** “the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.”

III. We Must Be Satisfied With God

A. The Root of Our Satisfaction (v. 3a)

Lovingkindness—God’s love, mercy, and grace

B. The Response Because of Our Satisfaction (vv. 3b-6)

1. We Praise Him (vv. 3b-5)

**Psalms 63:5 (NIV)** “My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.”

2. We Ponder on Him (v. 6)

**Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV)** “You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose* mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.”

IV. We Must Be Secure In God (vv. 7-11)

A. Secure In His Pattern (v. 7)

B. Secure In His Provision (v. 8)

C. Secure In His Protection (vv. 9-11)

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The introductions to the Psalms are not inspired by God. They were added later, but most Bible scholars believe that they are generally accurate. The heading or introduction to Psalm 63 says, “A Psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah”. This is likely referring to one of two times in David’s life. It could have been during that horrible time of David’s life after he had been anointed as the next King by Samuel, but before Saul had left the throne. Saul, insane with jealousy, sought to kill David and David had to flee for his life and live in the rugged country called the wilderness of Judea. That could be the setting of this Psalm, but I lean toward the second possibility. It could have been during the time described in 2 Samuel 15 when his son, Absalom rebelled and tried to steal away the kingdom of Israel from his Father. Absalom’s attack (from a human viewpoint) came close to succeeding. David had to leave Jerusalem, the place of his throne, the place where the Ark of the Covenant was kept, and the place of corporate worship. The scene is summarized in **2 Samuel 15:23 (NKJV)** “And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people crossed over. The king himself also crossed over the Brook Kidron, and all the people crossed over toward the way of the wilderness.” Eventually Absalom’s rebellion was stopped and Absalom was killed, but I believe that it was in the time of exile from Jerusalem, from the place of corporate worship that David wrote this Psalm.

David was going through some really bad times and yet in his trial, he went deeper with God. Have you discovered yet that it is in times of trouble, disappointment, and heartache that we either become bitter toward God or go deeper with God? When going through trials, we seldom remain the same! David chose to go deeper instead of becoming bitter. Some of you are in the middle of a trial right now that is breaking your heart. Some of you are headed into such a trial, but you don’t yet know it. I don’t say that because I have some kind of ability to predict the future; I say that because that is just a fact of living on a fallen planet. We’re told in **Job 5:7 (HCSB)** “But mankind is born for trouble as surely as sparks fly upward.” Some of our troubles are of our own making but some of them are simply troubles allowed by God and they are tied into nothing specific that you have done. My longing for you is that you grow deeper with God in your trials – that you draw close and that your fellowship with Him deepens and you come to know Him more accurately, see His love for you more clearly, and become aware of His goodness even in your trial.

Growing deeper is something that the Father desires for you. Allow me to put some Scriptures together to show you that desire. **Exodus 33:11a (NKJV)** “So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his **friend**.” **Isaiah 41:8 (NKJV)** “But you, Israel, *are* My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the descendants of Abraham **My friend**.” **John 15:15a (NKJV)** “No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you **friends**...” I find those verses “jaw dropping”! The galactic God who spoke galaxies into being, who is all knowing, all powerful and present everywhere calls Moses and Abraham “friend”. That’s hard enough to comprehend, Jesus – God in flesh – said to His disciples (including those who are His disciples today) that He calls us friend! Surely that Greek word means something radically different than our English word “friend”. I looked it up; it means one who is dear or one for whom you have fondness. There are two Hebrew words translated “friend”. They have virtually the same meaning – to be fond of, to delight in, to be like a part of the family. God uses another word to describe the relationship He seeks for us is in **1 John 1:3b (NKJV)** “...truly our **fellowship** *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.” That word translated “fellowship” refers to the closeness and communion of two who are partners in a common cause. Another phrase that describes this growing deeper with God is given in **Micah 6:8 (NKJV)** “He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” We are growing deeper with God when we are walking with God. The Apostle Paul used the word

“know” to describe that ever deepening relationship. Listen to the Amplified version of **Philippians 3:10a (AMP)** “[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly], and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection [which it exerts over believers], and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed [in spirit into His likeness...]” So we see that growing deeper with God is described as being God’s friend, walking with God, deepening in fellowship with God and knowing (experientially) God.

Do you want to go deeper with God? I believe that this is one of the evidences of genuine salvation. If you have no desire to go deeper, I would say that you’re either deeply backslidden and headed for God’s discipline or you have never really been born again. In Psalm 63, we see how David grew deeper in his time of trial.

### I. We Must Surrender to God (V1a)

This is where going deeper with God starts. There are two Hebrew words used here that are translated “God”. This first phrase in Hebrew is, “O Elohim, You are my El.” Elohim is a plural word. It is the first name used for God in the Bible. **Genesis 1:1 (NKJV)** “In the beginning God [Elohim] created the heavens and the earth.” The fact that Elohim is plural doesn’t prove the trinity (one God in three persons) but it certainly implies it and leaves room for it. Elohim is the name for God that emphasizes His creative power. El is used as a more general word for God. It is not really a personal name. It is used in Scripture to refer to the one true God, but it is also used to refer to idols. What the psalmist is saying in Psalms 63:1 is that the triune God [Elohim] is the true God [El]. We read in **Psalms 77:13b (ESV)** “What god [El] is great like our God [Elohim]?” There are many personal names for God that begin with El. For example, El Elyon means “The God Most High”. It is used in **Genesis 14:20a (NKJV)** “And blessed be **God Most High**, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” Another personal name for God is El Roi, “The God Who Sees”. **Genesis 16:13a (NKJV)** “Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, You-Are-**the-God-Who-Sees...**” One last example is El Shaddai. It means “The God Who Is Self-sufficient”. **Genesis 17:1a (ESV)** “When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I am **God Almighty...**’” A person’s God [El] is what or who they worship, what or who rules them and what or who they turn to when they are in need. Anyone or anything that we worship, allow to rule us, or that we turn to in need other than the one true God, (Elohim, Yahwah, Jehovah) is an idol. As God, He (Elohim) is to be surrendered to. This God who created all that is, is the only true God and our response is to surrender completely to Him. **Psalms 100:3 (NKJV)** “Know that the Lord, He *is* God; *it is* He *who* has made us, and not we ourselves; *we are* His people and the sheep of His pasture.”

If you would go deeper with God, it starts with a confession that this God revealed in Scripture is indeed your God. It is the renouncing of all idols and a renewed surrender to this one who made you for Himself. He is the one that you worship; He is the one that that you treasure supremely; He is the one that you turn to first in time of need. He is not your last resort; He is your first response. I am planning an AM series in February on idols that can creep into your life. Set aside some time to examine your heart to see if you are honest before God when you say “O God you are my God”. The Bible says in **Deuteronomy 6:15a (NKJV)** “for the Lord your God *is* a jealous God among you...” That doesn’t mean that God is insecure. He is jealous when anyone takes His place in our lives because He made us for Himself and only when He is our God with no rivals do we glorify Him and experience genuine joy and godly pleasure.

### II. We Must Seek God (V1b-2)

The phrase, “early will I seek You” is one Hebrew word. It means to be up early to earnestly search painstakingly for something or someone. It means that finding something or someone is our first priority. Are you seeking God or are you satisfied with your level of communion and fellowship with Him? It is interesting that in “third world” or “majority world” countries there is much more evident seeking of God than by Christians here in America. Why is that? For many believers in those countries, God is all they

have! Material prosperity tends to put out the fire of genuine seeking of God. A leading Pastor in a country that persecuted Christians shared that he prayed for Christians in America because being a Christian here is more difficult than it was in that country where Christians are mostly impoverished and persecuted. He said that when it comes to persecution, there is a one time decision to be willing to die for Christ and the Gospel. But with prosperity, there is the constant temptation to draw away from seeking God. Sometimes material prosperity can be a curse rather than a blessing when it comes to eternal things.

What exactly does the Psalmist seek?

#### A. Seek His Person (V1-2)

Six times the Psalmist uses the pronoun “You” or “Your”. He is not primarily seeking God’s hand, God’s action, God’s deliverance; he is seeking God Himself! Notice the passion with which He seeks God. Look at the words, “thirsts”, “longs”, and “looked”. In the Psalms, the word “thirst” is often tied to a craving for something. **Psalms 42:1-2 (NKJV)** “<sup>1</sup>As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. <sup>2</sup> My soul **thirsts** for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?” The word “longs” is translated “faints” in the ESV. In other words, these words are words of desperation. What we have is a picture of a person who is in the desert without water. His thirst is all consuming and dominates his thinking. There is nothing that he wants more than water. I read a description of this kind of thirst in an account by Major V. Gilbert from his book “The Last Crusade”. It was the account of his men in the Palestinian desert in WW1. “Our heads ached. Our eyes became bloodshot and dim in the blinding glare ... Our tongues began to swell ... our lips turned to a purplish black and burst. Those who dropped out of the column were never seen again, but the desperate force battled on to Sheria. There were wells at Sheria...” [Quoted in John MacArthur, *Kingdom Living Here and Now*, p 92-93]. Are you **that kind** of thirsty for God? I desperately want to be! I’m not talking about a thirst, a deep desire for God to do something for you – to heal a loved one, to enable you to get the job you applied for, to have Him bring your prodigal home. It is certainly appropriate to pray for all of those, but if you would grow deeper with God, there must be a hunger like that for God Himself! Is there an earnest seeking of God and His pleasure, His plan, His way?

A. B. Simpson said it well in a hymn entitled “Once It Was the Blessing”:

*Once it was the blessing, now it is the Lord;*

*Once it was the feeling, now it is His Word.*

*Once His gifts I wanted, now the giver is known,*

*Once I sought for things, now Himself alone.*

We don’t grow deeper with God when we come to Him with a self-centered attitude that says, “Lord, this is what I want you to do for me, to give me, to change in my circumstances.” We grow deeper when we come to Him saying “Lord I want to know You; I am desperate to know You and please You.” We don’t really hunger and thirst to go deeper with God because we are full with the scraps that the world has thrown us and the polluted water from the world’s polluted well. A. W. Tozer in the book, *The Pursuit of God* expressed my heart in this prayer: “O God, I have tasted [Your] goodness, and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more. I am painfully conscious of my need for further grace, and I am ashamed of my lack of desire. O God, the triune God, I want to want [You]; I long to be filled with longing; I thirst to be more thirsty still...”

#### B. Seek His Power (V2a)

Once you have experienced God Himself and have been in fellowship with Him, you will never be completely satisfied with what the flesh can accomplish. **Psalms 105:4 (NKJV)** “Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face evermore!” I long to have a life that cannot be explained apart from God. I long for this church to be unexplainable apart from God’s powerful working. I long for the day when every time we gather corporately we see lives changed by the power of God. Do you long for this? Are you praying – seeking God for this? I long for marriages to be supernaturally restored, prodigals to return to the Lord, bitterness to be repented of and rooted out of lives. I long for people in the bondage of addictions to be set free – permanently set free!

#### C. Seek His Glory (V2b)

Oh that we would hunger and thirst to see God and His perfections put on display, especially in our corporate worship services. We must seek Him to so fill our worship services with Himself and the proclamation of His Word, that when an unbeliever comes in, they would experience what Paul described in **1 Corinthians 14:25 (ESV)** “the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.”

### III. We Must Be Satisfied With God (V3-6)

We should hunger and thirst to come to the place that God is the sole source of our highest satisfaction.

#### A. The Root of Our Satisfaction (V3a)

The root of the Psalmist’s satisfaction was what is translated in verse 3 as “lovingkindness”. Exactly what is that? This Hebrew word translated “lovingkindness” is one of the most important words in the Old Testament. It is almost impossible to translate this word with one English word. The best way I can describe this word is to say that is a combination of love, mercy, and grace. As the Psalmist meditates on this word, he concludes that having it is better than life. Remember where David was when he wrote this Psalm. He was in a desperate trial where his own son was trying to take his life and steal the kingdom. He says to the Lord, “Your mercy, love and grace are better than life.” David was not treating lightly his trial. His heart was broken! This whole circumstance didn’t turn out well by human standards. David’s son Absalom actually ended up in battle with David’s men and was killed. David grieved deeply over the loss of his rebellious son, but even in the heart-breaking circumstances, he found comfort and satisfaction in God and His grace, mercy, and love. In times of trial, you see that God is sufficient and you go deeper with Him.

#### B. The Response Because of Our Satisfaction (V3b-6)

##### 1. We Praise Him (V3b-5)

As David praises the Lord with his lips, his hands get involved. In Old Testament worship, raised hands were a common posture of prayer and worship. The uplifted hands primarily signified two things. It signified humility. The opened raised hands signified emptiness, being without merit, reaching out to God for His supply because we are empty. There is a line in the great old hymn “Rock of Ages” by Augustus Toplady that says, “Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to Thy cross I cling”. The raised hands were also signifying adoration and gratitude for God’s lovingkindness in our meritless life!

It is out of a life of praise that we go deeper with God and find satisfaction. Verse 5 in the NIV says: **Psalms 63:5 (NIV)** “My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.” God’s lovingkindness is to the soul what the best and richest of food is to the taste buds. It satisfies the deepest longings and need of our hearts.

##### 2. We Ponder on Him (V6)

At night, David would meditate on the lovingkindness of God. Setting our minds on God and His perfections is the way that we can have internal peace in difficult times. The word used here for meditate means to mutter or whisper. It is the thought of going over a passage as you murmur the passage to yourself while you think on it. **Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV)** “You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose* mind *is* stayed *on* You, because he trusts in You.” As we meditate on, rehearse, muse (think deeply) on the word of God in those quiet times when sleep eludes us, we will discover a peace that the world doesn’t understand.

### IV. We Must Be Secure in God (V7-11)

#### A. Secure in His Pattern (V7)

David is secure because he has a past with God and a pattern he has seen is that God is faithful. God has already brought him through so much! This rebellion coming from his own family is not the first heartbreaking and perplexing thing that he has faced. There was the lion and the bear when he was young and watching his father’s sheep; there was Goliath; there was the whole jealous Saul stuff, and so much more. The more we go through trials while walking with God the more confident we become in His

pattern of faithfulness. The result is that there is security in trials because we know God and that He is faithful.

**B. Secure in His Provision (V8)**

That phrase “follows close behind You” means to be glued to. David is determined in trials to have his soul glued to God. God’s right hand is used several places in Scripture to represent God’s power. The hopeless looking situation with Absalom was not beyond God’s power. His provision was and is sufficient.

**C. Secure in His Protection (V9-11)**

Even in the midst of horrible trials, when you are in the center of God’s will you are invincible until such time when God chooses to take you home. Neither Satan nor all the demons of Hell could stop God’s sovereign plans. There is such security in walking with God.

**CONCLUSION**

Is there a desire in your heart to go deeper with God? If you are going through a trial, that is probably God’s means of bringing you to the end of self until God is all in all. This growing deeper starts with surrender. That’s where I want us to start tonight.