

# Living Water

What can satisfy the thirsty soul?

Augustine thought pleasure was the answer. As a young man, he pursued pleasure and fathered an illegitimate son. But Augustine discovered that pleasure alone cannot ultimately bring full satisfaction in life. He eventually had a profound conversion experience and became a Christian. He wrote, "You have made us for Yourself, O God, and the heart of man is restless until it finds its rest in You."

Blaise Pascal was a brilliant mathematician, scientist, and philosopher. Pascal's Law, dealing with liquids and pressure, is named after him. According to Pascal, "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."

C. S. Lewis said, "God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on....God cannot give us happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing."

The Bible says, "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in abundance" (Isaiah 55:1-2).

Real satisfaction in life comes to those who enter into a right relationship with God and then live for Him and His purposes. Oswald Chambers said, "There is only One Being who can satisfy the aching abyss of the human heart, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ." Jesus said, "The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

How can a person discover how to enter into a right relationship with God? The answer can be found in the Bible, "the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:15-17). "The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring men to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God, that they may enter into Him, that they may delight in His Presence, may taste and know the inner sweetness of the very God Himself in the core and center of their hearts." --A. W. Tozer

The Bible tells us that God is both loving (1st John 4:8) and just (Deut. 32:4). God in His love desires a right relationship with everyone, but God in His justice cannot ignore sin. Man, by his nature and deeds, is a sinner (Romans 3:23). Sin results in separation (Isaiah 59:2) and death (Romans 6:23). Man, because of his sin, is separated from a right relationship with God; man is spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1). Unless this condition of spiritual death is remedied in this life, it will lead to eternal death (Heb. 9:27, 2nd Thess. 1:8, 9), eternal separation from God. The good news is that God sent his Son Jesus to save us from death and separation and provide the way for us to have eternal life. Jesus is God the Son (John 1:1, 14, 17) and is the only way to God the Father (John 14:6). Jesus Christ came to die for our sins and provide the way back to God (1st Peter 3:18). Eternal life (salvation) is a free gift (Romans 6:23) offered to anyone who truly believes in the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:16). Saving faith is trusting in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life (Acts 4:12, John 8:24). The Bible says, "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). We can't live the Christian life in our own strength, but God has provided all the resources we need-- such as His Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19), His promises (2 Peter 1:4), and His grace (2 Corinthians 9:8)-- to live a life that is pleasing to Him.

Jesus said, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'"