

# What do you want?

By Elaine Powers

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I've been asking myself this question for a very long time, all my life really. What are you really looking for?

When I heard Marlene's message last week, I knew that God was prompting me to finish this message because I believe it is the sister message to Marlene's. She talked about how God is longing for us, desiring us, that He sees us as flawless, as His beloved (Song of Solomon). It's a love song, a love relationship, but God is telling me that we have our place in this relationship, too. I think we have abdicated our responsibilities in our relationship with God. We have narrowed our walk down to steps, or we expect Him to do everything for us. Having been a teacher for 35 years, I see this in people. We now think that it's the church's, school's, and government's responsibility to take care of everything.

However, I don't think God created us that way; in fact, I know He didn't. We long for Him, too...to hear Him, to please him, to walk with Him, to be with Him. It's like when I met my husband. How did I know that he felt the same way about me that I was feeling about him? I looked for signs along the way. He started to seek me out like I was seeking him out. He paid attention to me, listened to me, drove me home, sent me flowers, talked to me. God is like that, too. He is a gentleman. He is looking for signs that you are seeking Him, too.

Let me digress...

All my life I have been unsatisfied, looking for something that I really didn't understand or even know what it was. All I knew was that there was a deep longing in me that never got filled and never went away. I was looking for something, even though I was born again and filled with the Holy Spirit. Marriage didn't fill it, even though I have been happily married for 35 years. Career didn't do it, even though I had a good one; being a mother didn't do it, even though I loved being a mother.

Church didn't do it. I didn't find what I was looking for at church. Our church life was unsatisfying. My husband and I have attended many churches having been in the military and having travelled all over the world. Big churches; little churches; home churches. Some of the churches came close, but that was mostly because of the warm friendships that we found there, but I still wanted more. Part of that was my fault. I wanted the church/the service to give me an experience. It is not the church's responsibility to give you or me an experience.

Let me be clear. I'm not talking about being a nominal Christian. I did everything right in my life. I went to work everyday. I paid my bills. I didn't hurt anybody. I went to church on Sunday, tithed, prayed, spoke in tongues, helped the poor, gave to missions, and didn't lie or cheat or steal or break any commandments, or so I thought.

Retirement didn't do it for me either, even though I could now take art classes and learn Spanish and do some of the things that I always wanted to do because the longing in my soul still remained.

**So I asked the Lord to show me what I was looking for. What do I want, Lord?**

**This is what He showed me:**

Psalm 42:1.<sup>1</sup> As the deer pants for streams of water,  
so my soul pants for you, O God.

Psalm 63:1.<sup>1</sup> O God, you are my God,  
earnestly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you,  
my body longs for you,  
in a dry and weary land  
where there is no water.

Psalm 143:6-7.

<sup>6</sup> I spread out my hands to You;  
My soul *longs* for You like a thirsty land. Selah

<sup>7</sup> Answer me speedily, O LORD;  
My spirit fails!  
Do not hide Your face from me,  
Lest I be like those who go down into the pit.

**Do you feel like you are in a pit? Have you ever felt that way?**

We are all born with a longing for Him---for complete and total dedication and fellowship with Him. Why? Because we are made in His image, and if He is longing for US then we are longing for HIM. And He is. We may not know it at first and maybe we don't even realize it, but we are, too. We spend most of our lives trying to fill that longing with something: career, marriage, money, and negative things, too, like addictions and partying, but nothing else will satisfy.

Eccl. 3:11. [Amplified].<sup>11</sup>He has made everything beautiful (complete/fulfilled/satisfied) in its time. He also has planted eternity [a divinely implanted sense of a purpose working through the ages which nothing under the sun but God alone can satisfy] in men's hearts and minds ...

Word of Knowledge: God has shown me that many of you have a longing and a dissatisfaction that you think money or a relationship or a job will fill, but it won't. You have even said: "If only that money or that job would come through, I would be happy." But you won't. Many of you have all those things, and you are still dissatisfied. Why? Because only Jesus can satisfy the longing in your soul.

Psalm 107:9. For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with good.

I gave my life to Him 40 years ago and served Him to the best of my ability all that time. Right? Right. But I was still dissatisfied. Why?

Jer. 29: 13.<sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Because I was not looking for Him and Him alone with ALL my heart. Because I did not want Him and only Him. Because I did not want a life totally sold out and dedicated to Him. Because I did not want to change or say, "Whatever it takes, Lord, change me into your image." Because I didn't want to know Him and be with Him everyday, every moment of my life.

Because I was breaking the two most important commandments: to love the Lord my God and have no idols before Him and to love my neighbor as myself. I broke those everyday. I loved money and wanted more. I loved my free time and my TV shows and my own agenda and even though I didn't set out to hurt anyone, I really didn't love them either. I just lived in my own little world following after my own dreams and the American dream and always feeling dissatisfied and wondering why. Even to be a good person and do all the right things was an idol in my life.

The longing in my heart is finally satisfied. Why? Because I found what I was looking for. I found Jesus. Jesus is the Word. I was not living the Word. I was not being the Word. I want to be the living breathing Word of God. Just like Jesus! Real satisfaction is not in what we have or what we do. It's in Him.

Paul said, "I am content in all circumstances." This scripture used to really bother me because I could not say that. Read Phil. 4: 11-13 in the Amplified.

<sup>11</sup>Not that I am implying that I was in any personal want, for I have learned how to be content (satisfied to the point where I am not disturbed or disquieted) in whatever state I am.

<sup>12</sup>I know how to be abased and live humbly in straitened circumstances, and I know also how to enjoy plenty and live in abundance. I have learned in any and all circumstances the secret of facing every situation, whether well-fed or going hungry, having a sufficiency and enough to spare or going without and being in want.

<sup>13</sup>I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency].

Let me ask you this: Where are you right now? Are you abased or are you abounding? How are satisfied or are you still longing? Then you have not learned to be self-sufficient (satisfied) in Christ's sufficiency.

WOW! What a concept! That is not what we are taught. Let's look at what we have been taught Let's see what religion (for me, the Catholic Church) teaches us:

Catholic school had it right. We were taught as children that we were created to love and serve God as long as we are on this earth. We memorized that in Catechism class, but they didn't tell us how. I thought I was supposed to be a nun.

Let's see what our culture teaches us:

Our culture teaches us to live for ourselves and to live the American dream which is basically that we have a right to our own happiness and pleasure.

Let's see what the American church teaches us:

The American church teaches us that God wants us to be prosperous and happy, i.e. have a big house and a big car and a big bank account. I'm not a good Christian because I don't have a big house and a brand new car? Really? Because that isn't working. Look at Hollywood.

Let's see what the Garden of Eden teaches us:

Look at the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve had everything to include a relationship with God. They walked together in the cool of the day, but they, like us, looked for their satisfaction in other things besides God. They thought knowledge would do it. When they left the Garden, that's when it got hard. That is when toil came in, and striving, and dissatisfaction. How far has human knowledge gotten us today?

We still choose to find satisfaction in other things besides God. We still choose to live for ourselves, but it will never satisfy. The Lord showed me that these are all spirits: dissatisfaction, doubt, depression, anger. You let one in, and they all come in. Then you're in a mess. For example, you say, "I need more money [dissatisfaction]. It will never happen [doubt]. I am so depressed [depression]. Why doesn't God listen [anger]?" We close the door to God, and we open the door for all those other things. That is why the Lord is teaching us to stand and to close those doors.

God is just waiting in the wings to give you all those things that you are longing for, the desires of your heart. That is a promise. Ps. 37:4. "Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart." But we ignore the first part of that verse: to "delight yourself," meaning to be dependent upon God and to derive one's pleasure, one's satisfaction, from Him.

**In John 1: 38. (Amplified),** <sup>38</sup>...Jesus turned, and as He saw them following Him, He said to them, **What are you looking for? [And what is it you want/wish?]**

The two disciples who were following Him wanted to know where He was staying. Of all the things that they could have asked! Where are you staying, Jesus? Where are you going, Jesus? Why? Because they wanted to go wherever He was going. They wanted to stay where He was staying, to follow after Him. What would you have answered? What would you have wanted? What they were really doing was seeking after Him, seeking out the Messiah (v. 41). They wanted Him. They found HIM. What would you answer if Jesus suddenly turned to you and asked you: "What do you want?" Jesus IS asking you this same question. What do YOU want?

**Jesus himself yearned for Abba Father.** That is why He had to get away alone. We have a longing for the Father that is born into us because we were made in the image of God. Jesus longed for His Father just like we do. His whole life was to KNOW the Father and to SHOW the Father. It is a holy hunger. He came as a baby so that He could grow up knowing and showing

the Father and show us how to do it, too. God is asking us today to go deeper, to examine our hearts and our lives, and to want Him.

**What are you really looking for?**

Is what He told me: What you are looking for, Elaine, [put your name here], is a life totally sold out to Me, a life where you are holy, consecrated to the obedience and sacrifice of living my Word. Just as I am the Word, those totally sold out to Me will be the living Word of God. That's what you were created for. That is your destiny. That is your total and complete satisfaction.

Eccl. 12:13.<sup>13</sup> All has been heard; the end of the matter is: Fear God [revere and worship Him, knowing that He is] and keep His commandments, for this is the whole of man [the full, original purpose of his creation, the object of God's providence, the root of character, the foundation of all happiness, the adjustment to all inharmonious circumstances and conditions under the sun] and the whole [duty] for every man.

I admonish you, I encourage you today to seek after Him with all your heart, with all your might, with all your soul, to answer His call, to answer His love song to you. He is saying, "My beloved, come dwell with Me, come abide in Me, in the secret places of the Most High." He is calling us higher and deeper. He is revealing the nature and character of the Father to His beloved so that we, too, can KNOW the Father and SHOW the Father.

**Prophetic word:**

If you will be about my Father's business, I will be about YOUR business. I will take care of everything else in your lives. I am getting ready to do a new thing, to move in a mighty way, but you must be prepared for it. How? By totally dedicating and consecrating your life to Me.

When we do that, He will satisfy the longing in our hearts.

We can't do that by watching TV all day, taking drugs or drinking alcohol, or choosing self-pity and doubt. That isn't working for any of us anyway. We must choose Him above our own doubt, plans, desires, and wants.

How will you answer the call? How will you answer the question today: **What do you want?**

Always In Him,  
Elaine Powers