



### Seeking God like Water on a Dry Hot Day

#### **Psalm 63:1**

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

If this is where you are at right now, take courage!  
You are in exactly the right place.

#### **Psalm 42:5, 11 & 43:5**

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

God will sustain us in this time of drought of worship.



#### **Psalm 42:1-4**

- I. Longing for God
  - <sup>1</sup> *As a deer* pants for flowing streams,  
***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?* (lit “see the face of God”)
- II. The Discouragement of Unbelievers
  - <sup>3</sup> My tears have been my food  
day and night,  
while they say to me all the day long,  
***“Where is your God?”***
- III. Memories of *the Multitude* Keeping Festival
  - <sup>4</sup> **These things I remember,**  
as I pour out my soul:  
how I would go with ***the throng***  
and lead them in procession to ***the house of God***  
with glad shouts and songs of praise,  
***a multitude keeping festival.***

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### Hebrews 11:39–40

<sup>39</sup> And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better for us, *that apart from us they should not be made perfect.*



### Jesus Praying this Psalm

### Hebrews 12:1–2

<sup>1</sup> *Therefore*, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

### Our Prayer to Jesus

I. The Assembly of the Firstborn

### Hebrews 12:22–24

<sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup> and *to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven*, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant...



A. The Assembly is the Church

1. The Assembly not the *Building*
2. The Assembly not the *Performance*

B. Local Assemblies, Snapshot of Heaven

1. **Like** the general desire for community.
2. **Unlike** it (Gospel Community)

**Matthew 18:20** (Cf. **2 Cor. 3:18**)

For where two or three are gathered in my name, *there am I among them.*" (**Church discipline**; **Heb. 12:23** above)

C. The Battle with the Word

D. With Jesus, Feeling the Drought with Hope

### Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. How has this long absence from the assembly of the Saints affected you?
2. Do you need prayer for comfort & endurance, or prayer for a godly passion for worship with the assembly?
3. What has the Lord been teaching you through this time of separation? How can you be sharing these blessings with your local church family?
4. Have you established both a daily & weekly pattern of deliberate worship? What are your plans for spiritual growth in this season?
5. Who can you ask to be praying for your particular needs in this area?