

THIRST

Areas of the southeastern United States are experiencing drought conditions.

Rainfall this summer has been sparse and temperatures have been higher than normal. Water table levels are low, in some cases alarmingly so. Communities are taking measures to preserve what is left until more rains arrive. The situation could become severe.

Our physical bodies depend on water. That shouldn't surprise anyone since 55% of the male body mass is water (51% in women). Our blood is 83% water muscles are 75%; even our bones are 22% water. Our survival depends on getting enough water, and just a 2% deficiency means we are dehydrated.

To ensure that our bodies receive adequate amounts of water, God created thirst. It's a sensation we all experience, but few can explain. All we know is that when we're thirsty we begin searching for something to drink. The craving can become intense if we ignore it too long.

While we're talking about thirst, this is a good time to raise another question: **How's your spiritual thirst?**

Jesus pointed to this reality in John 7:37, 38: "...If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" (NKJV) Those who thought Jesus was referring to physical thirst were corrected when they heard about water in one's heart. He was speaking about spiritual thirst, a craving for something vital that refreshes one's soul.

Earlier in John's gospel we read of Jesus' discussion with the Samaritan woman. After asking her for a drink of water, the Lord spoke about "living water." He then elaborated: "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:13,14).

The importance Jesus attaches to spiritual water and our desire for it is not hard to see. That priority is stated most simply in the beatitudes: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6).

What if something goes wrong with our physical sensation of thirst? How will we know when our bodies need water? And what if our spiritual thirst fades? What will drive us back to the Bible, to drink deeply from the fountains of living water?

Do you crave the righteousness of God, found in the pages of Scripture? How long has it been since you've had a drink? Is it time to be alarmed over your spiritual condition?

"As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for shall I come and appear before God?" (Psalm 42:1,2)

- Tim Hall, via *KneEmail* (Mike Benson, Editor)

Courage is fear that has said its prayers.

News & Notes

CONFESSIONS: Dennis & Lori States.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS: All on the sick and shut-in list. Bette Gentry, Crystal Spencer, and Cole Bellon (nephew of Michelle Hanlon) have health concerns and need to be especially remembered in prayers at this time.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

PANTRY: Peanut butter & jelly.

COVERED DISH DINNER: Next Sunday, Oct. 28th at Noon at the Multi-purpose Building. All are invited.

SONG PRACTICE: Instead of Bible study Wednesday, Oct. 31st.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Weirton Medical Center: Jean Larrimore. AT HOME: Ella Beagle, Helen Hornbeck, Diane Robinson, Elaine McClung, Jackie Parsons, Dan Williams (Sharon's husband), Bobby Hadley, Taylor Heinselman, Ruth Brewer, Lloyd & Virginia Ferrell, Lloyd Cowdery, Mabel Sprout, Virginia Rickerd, Bette Gentry, Fred Larrimore, Sr., Fred Larrimore, Jr., Cheryl Stackpole, Betty Dunn (Pat Wright's mother). NURSING HOMES: Fox: Ray Baker, Opal Howell (grandmother of Denise Noland). Calcutta Health Care: Virginia Clutter. Pleasantview N. Retirement & Rehab., Salem: Ruby Kenney. Weirton Geriatric Center: Edna McKittrick, Ila Plum. Aspen Manor, Wellsburg: Ione Asher.

Rules For Growing Christians

1. Don't neglect your prayer time. It is the breath of the soul (Lk. 18:1).
2. Don't neglect your Bible. It is your sword for conquest, your hammer for construction, your guiding light for dreary days (Rev. 1:3).
3. Don't neglect your body. It is the capital on which you are to do business for the rest of your life (1 Cor. 6:19,20).
4. Don't neglect your mind. It is your channel for reaching up to the very thoughts of God (cf. Phil 4:8).
5. Don't neglect your laugh. The Bible teaches that "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine" (Prov. 17: 22).
6. Don't neglect your reputation. It is the gold with which you will meet the demands of a complex civilization (Mt. 5:14-16).
7. Don't neglect your influence. It will point other people to the living God whom you serve (Prov. 11:6).

Glad Tidings of Good Things, Jacksonville, AL

Lectures & Meetings

WVSOP Lectures	----- Oct. 21-25 -----	Various Speakers
6th & Washington, Marietta	----- Oct. 28-31 -----	Clarence DeLoach
Steelton	----- Oct. 28-Nov. 1 -----	Jeff Tucker