

Satisfied in God Alone **Psalm 63**

This morning we are going to be looking at Psalm 63. Some have said that Psalm 63 is one of the most beautiful and touching of all the Psalms. In this Psalm, David expresses his deep longing for God and trust in His provision. In this passage, we see that David finds his satisfaction in God alone. Our outline this morning is simple, yet the passage is so rich. In verses 1-4 we see “God my desire”; In verses 5-7 we see “God my delight”; and in verses 8-11 we see “God my defense”. It is my prayer this morning that we would find satisfaction in God alone as we look at Psalm 63 together.

Before we dive into the text, please note the title of the Psalm. “*A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.*” David spent a lot of time in the Judean wilderness. He spent some time fleeing from Saul in 1 Samuel. **1 Samuel 23:14** says, “*David stayed in the wilderness in the strongholds, and remained in the hill country in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand.*” **1 Samuel 23:24** says, “*Then they arose and went to Ziph before Saul. Now David and his men were in the wilderness of Maon, in the Arabah to the south of Jeshimon.*” **1 Samuel 24:1** says, “*Now when Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, saying, “Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi.”*” **1 Samuel 25:1** says, “*Then Samuel died; and all Israel gathered together and mourned for him, and buried him at his house in Ramah. And David arose and went down to the wilderness of Paran.*”

David also spent time in the wilderness fleeing from his son, Absalom. This is most likely the time when Psalm 63 was written. Absalom’s story is told in 2 Samuel 13-19. Here is a summary of those chapters.

“The first recorded event defining Absalom’s life also involved his sister Tamar and half-brother Amnon. Tamar was beautiful, and Amnon lusted after her. When Tamar rebuffed Amnon’s advances, he arranged,

through subterfuge (deception or trickery), to have her come to his house, where he raped her. After the rape, Amnon put Tamar out of his house in disgrace. When Absalom heard what happened, he took his sister in to live with him. For the next two years, Absalom nursed a hatred of his half-brother. Then, using some subterfuge of his own, Absalom invited Amnon to his house for a party. During the festivities, in the presence of David's other sons, Absalom had his servants kill Amnon in cold blood.

Out of fear of his father, Absalom ran away to Geshur, where he stayed for three years. During that time, Scripture says that David "longed to go out to Absalom," but we're never told that he actually did anything to reconcile the relationship. David's general, Joab, was ultimately responsible for bringing Absalom back to Jerusalem. However, even then, Absalom was not permitted to enter David's presence, but had to live in a house of his own. He lived this way, presumably never contacting or being contacted by his father, for two years. Finally, once again by way of Joab's intercession, the two men get back together, and there is a small measure of reconciliation.

Unfortunately, this peace did not last. Possibly resenting his father's hesitancy to bring him home, Absalom began to stealthily undermine David's rule. He set himself up as judge in Jerusalem and gave out promises of what he would do if he were king. After four years of this, he asked to go to Hebron, where he had secretly arranged to have himself proclaimed king.

The conspiracy strengthened, and the number of Absalom's followers grew steadily, such that David began to fear for his own life. David gathered his servants and fled Jerusalem." – www.gotquestions.com

Again, this is most likely the time when Psalm 63 was written. David's circumstances are not good. He is fleeing for his life. His own son is trying to have him killed. He is in the wilderness. He is distressed, exhausted and thirsty. He is feeling distant from God. Have you ever

found yourself in circumstances like this? What did you do? What would you do? What did David do?

Charles Spurgeon says, “David did not leave off singing because he was in the wilderness, neither did he in slovenly idleness go on repeating Psalms intended for other occasions; but he carefully made his worship suitable to his circumstances and presented to his God a wilderness hymn when he was in the wilderness. There was no desert in his heart, though there was a desert around him.”¹

Let’s look at Psalm 63...

A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah. *1 O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water. 2 Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. 3 Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise You. 4 So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. 5 My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth offers praises with joyful lips. 6 When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches, 7 For You have been my help, And in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy. 8 My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me. 9 But those who seek my life to destroy it, Will go into the depths of the earth. 10 They will be delivered over to the power of the sword; They will be a prey for foxes. 11 But the king will rejoice in God; Everyone who swears by Him will glory, For the mouths of those who speak lies will be stopped.*

Do you find yourself in wilderness type circumstances this morning? Are you in a season of life that is difficult? Are you tired? Are you weary? Are you overwhelmed? David was. And this is what he did. He trusted in God and acted in faith as he prayed.

¹ C. H. Spurgeon, [*The Treasury of David: Psalms 56-87*](#), vol. 3 (London; Edinburgh; New York: Marshall Brothers, n.d.), 65.

I. God my Desire vs 1-4

In the midst of his wilderness experience, David desires God. **Look at verse 1** again... *“O God, You are my God”*. David’s desire is personal. He has an intimate relationship with God. It’s not just head knowledge about God. *“Oh God, You are my God.”* Can you pray that prayer this morning? Is God your God? The God who created the heavens and the earth. The God who made you and made me. The God who redeems. The King of kings and Lord of lords. Do you know Him? David did. God is David’s desire. And in verse 1, David prayed, *“I shall seek You earnestly.”* Have you ever had a deep longing for something? That which is longed for will be eagerly sought. To seek God earnestly is a reflective search for God for the purpose of wisdom in ones’ own life. Some translations have said, *“Early I will seek You”*. That is the idea of seeking God first thing in the morning at dawn. So David sought God eagerly with attentive anticipation. This kind of seeking takes initiative. One must be intentional. David seeks God because God is his desire.

In the next part of verse 1 David says, *“My soul thirst for You, my flesh yearns for you, In a dry and weary land where there is not water.”* I don’t know if you have ever been to the Holy Land. I was able to go back in 1990. It was hot. They made a big deal about making sure we stayed hydrated. We would buy bottles of water that were partially frozen and within 10 minutes they would be bath temperature. It was that hot. We would attempt to drink the water while it was still cold. David was in a dry and weary land where there was no water. This wording gives us a picture of David’s thirsty soul. He had a “powerful, longing desire for the near presence of God.” Charles Spurgeon says, “A weary place and a weary heart make the presence of God more desirable.” **Psalm 42:1–2** says, *“1 As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God?”* **John 7:37** says, *“...Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.”* John MacArthur speaks of the words “thirsty,”

“come,” and “drink” in his study Bible. He says, “These 3 words summarize the gospel invitation. A recognition of need leads to an approach to the source of provision, followed by receiving what is needed. The thirsty, needy soul feels the craving to come to the Savior and drink, i.e., receive the salvation that Christ offers.” Look back at verse 1. Notice the words “soul” and “flesh.” These two words together speak of ones entire being. David is saying, “with my entire being I thirst and yearn for you.” God was David’s desire.

In Verse 2 David writes, “*Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory.*” David is now reflecting on a time when he had been in the sanctuary back in Jerusalem. He remembers the power and glory of God. David knows that God’s power and glory are not confined to the sanctuary. Spurgeon writes, “It is a precious thought that the divine power and glory are not confined in their manifestation to any places or localities; they are to be heard above the roaring of the sea, seen amid the glare of the tempest, felt in the forest and the prairie, and enjoyed wherever there is a heart that longs and thirsts to behold them.”² When you are going through difficult seasons or circumstances, do you meditate on the power and glory of God? David did. Because God is David’s desire.

Look at verse 3 and 4... “*Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise you. So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.*” Remember, David’s life is in danger. And he praises God for His lovingkindness, which is better than life. David seeks God’s love more than self-preservation. Notice the verbs of praise in these two verses. “My lips will praise You.” “I will bless You.” “I will lift up my hands.” David’s worship in the dessert is a very public display. During David’s wilderness experience, He focused on God’s lovingkindness. Why? Because God is David’s desire.

² C. H. Spurgeon, [*The Treasury of David: Psalms 56-87*](#), vol. 3 (London; Edinburgh; New York: Marshall Brothers, n.d.), 66.

II. God my delight vs 5-8

In verse 1 we saw that David's soul thirsts for God, but in **verse 5** we see that God is David's delight. Verse 5 says, "*My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness.*" David is the king. He is used to having amazing royal banquets with the richest of foods. We are not talking about David's belly. We are talking about his soul. The wilderness has sharpened David's appetite for God. Spurgeon says "There is in the love of God a richness, a sumptuousness, a fulness of soul-filling joy, comparable to the richest food with which the body can be nourished."³ David's soul is satisfied because God is his delight. Look at the end of verse 5... "*And my mouth offers praises with joyful lips.*" God has satisfied David's soul and David responds with praise from his joyful lips. When you are in difficult circumstances, do you find your delight or satisfaction in God? Do you, as David, offer praises to God with joyful lips? God is David's delight. Is he yours?

Look at verse 6... David says, "*When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches,*" David's life is in danger. Does he lie in his bed at night and dwell on his current circumstances? No. He meditates on God. If he can't sleep, he thinks about God. Why? Because God is his delight. **Psalm 119:148** says, "*My eyes anticipate the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word.*" "The night watch" is when guards would have night duty that was changed every four hours. When David would wake up, his first thoughts whether morning or night was on God. He delighted in God.

Verse 7 says, "*For You have been my help, And in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy.*" When David is awake at night, what is he thinking about? He is thinking about how God has been his help. He is also thinking about how God protects him. "In the shadow of Your wings" is speaking about acts of fellowship and protection. **Psalm 17:8** says,

³ C. H. Spurgeon, [*The Treasury of David: Psalms 56-87*](#), vol. 3 (London; Edinburgh; New York: Marshall Brothers, n.d.), 67.

“Keep me as the apple of the eye; Hide me in the shadow of Your wings.” Psalm 36:7 says, “How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.” Psalm 61:4 says, “Let me dwell in Your tent forever; Let me take refuge in the shelter of Your wings.” Psalm 91:4 says, “He will cover you with His pinions, And under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.” Once again we see what happens when David delights in God...he sings for joy. Is it possible? Can one sing for joy in the midst of the hardest seasons of life? David did. Because God is David’s delight.

Look at verse 8... *“My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me.”* My soul *clings to You* or *holds fast to You*. This verse shows how much confidence David has in God. It shows David’s total commitment and trust. We see this verbal expression used in other parts of the OT...**Deuteronomy 4:4** - *“But you who held fast to the LORD your God are alive today, every one of you.”* **Deuteronomy 10:20**— *“You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve Him and cling to Him, and you shall swear by His name.”* **Deuteronomy 11:22**— *“For if you are careful to keep all this commandment which I am commanding you to do, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and hold fast to Him,”* **Deuteronomy 13:4** — *“You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.”* **Deuteronomy 30:20**— *“by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”* **Joshua 23:8** — *“But you are to cling to the LORD your God, as you have done to this day.”* Why does David cling to God? Because God is David’s delight.

Notice the last part of verse 8... *“Your right hand upholds me.”* My soul clings to God. God’s right hand upholds me. That is why David can have confidence. God’s right hand upholds him. **Isaiah 41:10** says, *“Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your*

God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” Steve Lawson writes, “While David was clinging to God, God was upholding him.” That is why David had confidence. God was upholding him. David trusted God and was fully committed to Him. Again, God is David’s delight.

III. God my defense vs 9-11

We have seen that God is David’s desire and that God is David’s delight. Third, we see in verses 9-11 that God is David’s defense. David knows that God is going to protect him from his enemies. And remember, his son, Absalom, is leading the charge to have David killed. David’s enemies are going to be destroyed, devoured and devastated.

Look at verse 9... *“But those who seek my life to destroy it, Will go into the depths of the earth.”* David’s enemies seek his life to destroy it. But what is David seeking? Look back a verse 1. *“I shall seek You earnestly.”* David is seeking God. During a very scary time in David’s life, what does he do? He seeks God. And David has confidence that God is his defense. He says, *“But those who seek my life to destroy it, Will go into the depths of the earth.”* David’s enemies seek to destroy him, but it is David’s enemies who will be destroyed. David knows this because God is his defense.

He continues in verse 10... *“They will be delivered over to the power of the sword; They will be prey for foxes.”* Again, David confidently believes that God will do this. Look at the first part of verse 10, *“They will be delivered by the power of the sword.”* David’s enemies are going to suffer a violent death. David is God’s anointed king. Those who are enemies of David are enemies of God. David knows that God will protect him. Those who resist him will ultimately die. And they will die a horrible death by the sword. And not only that...**look at the second part of verse 10...** *“They will be prey for foxes.”* The bodies of David’s enemies will be unburied and unhonored. A proper burial will be denied to the wicked. Their dead bodies will be left exposed to be prey for foxes

or jackals. Their bodies will be life in the battlefield to be eaten by scavenging wilderness animals. David's enemies will be devoured. David has confidence that God is his defense.

Look at verse 11... *“But the king will rejoice in God; Everyone who swears by Him will glory, For the mouths of those who speak lies will be stopped.”* This morning we have seen the horrible circumstances that David found himself in. Yet God was his desire. God was his delight. God was his defense. It is no wonder that David could confidently say, *“But I will rejoice in God.”* David finds his satisfaction in God alone. When anxiety hits, David seeks God. When David is overwhelmed, he seeks God. When his relationship with his family is strained, David seeks God. When he feels alone, he knows God is with him. In all these circumstances David is able to say, *“But I will rejoice in God.”* The second part of verse 11 says, *“Everyone who swears by Him will glory.”* *“To swear by God in this Old Testament context is to fear him, to worship him, to trust him.”* (Pastor Don Green) David feared God. David worshiped God. David trusted God. Do you? The last part of verse 11 says, *“For the mouths of those who speak lies will be stopped.”* David's own son was trying to undermine him. He and others would lie against David. **Psalm 89:13–15** says, *13 “You have a strong arm; Your hand is mighty, Your right hand is exalted. 14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Lovingkindness and truth go before You. 15 How blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! O LORD, they walk in the light of Your countenance.”* Spurgeon says, *“See the difference between the mouth that praises God, and the mouth that forges lies: the first shall never be stopped, but shall sing on forever; the second shall be made speechless at the bar of God⁴”*

This week I want to give you some homework. I want you to pray through Psalm 63 every day this week. I want you to see how you can be satisfied in God alone. Pray the following...

⁴ C. H. Spurgeon, [*The Treasury of David: Psalms 56-87*](#), vol. 3 (London; Edinburgh; New York: Marshall Brothers, n.d.), 68.

Vs 1 O God, You are my God I will seek you earnestly.

Vs 1 God let my entire being thirst for and yearn for you

Vs 2 God, You are the God of all power and glory

Vs 3-4 God, because your lovingkindness is better than life, I will praise and bless You as long as I live with lifted hands and joyful lips.

Vs 5 God, You are the God who satisfies my soul.

Vs 6 God, I will meditate on you and your word both day and night.

Vs 7-8 God, You are my helper and protector.

Vs 9-10 God, you are my defense.

Vs 11 God, you are the God of truth and justice.

Vs 8 God help me to cling to You all the days of my life

In Psalm 63 David expresses his deep longing for God and trust in His provision. David was confident in God- God his desire, God his delight, God his defense and God his only satisfaction. Is God your desire, your delight, your defense, and your only satisfaction in all circumstances of your life?

Let's Pray