

## Passionate Pursuit of God's Presence... that's Persistent!

### 1) Passionate

a. We need to Look to David as an example

i. Ps 63 – my life chapter

#### Psalm 63

*“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.*

*2 I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory.*

*3 Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.*

*4 I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.*

*5 My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.*

*6 On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.*

*7 Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings.*

*8 My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.*

*9 They who seek my life will be destroyed; they will go down to the depths of the earth.*

*10 They will be given over to the sword and become food for jackals.*

*11 But the king will rejoice in God; all who swear by God's name will praise him, while the mouths of liars will be silenced.”*

We are passionate people (god created us this way)

ii. Moms, Sports, politics, Garage sellers

b. Gods wants us to be passionate about Him

i. Most churches today need to hear the rebuke the churches received in Revelation. Most know and need to hear the Letter to Laodicea in

### **Revelation 3:15-16**

*I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are **lukewarm**-- neither hot nor cold-- I am about to spit you out of my mouth.*

Most church don't know but have to hear what was said a chapter earlier to the Ephesian church in

### **Revelation 2:2-4**

*"I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. 4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your **first love**.*

#### c. Verse by verse of psalm 63

David's passion/desperation for the lord: v1) *"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"*

Why is David passionate for God? v2&3) *"I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. 3 Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.*

Therefore I will Praise and Trust Him: v4-8) *"I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. 5 My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.*

*6 On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.*

*7 Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings.*

*8 My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.*

**Heb11:6b** "...because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

## 2) **Persistent**

We need to be passionate & **Persistent** not flame out

### FILL IN THE BLANK

Manna – how often did they receive it? every = **Morning**

Jesus said give us today our what kind of Bread? = **Today**

His mercies are new how often? every = **morning**

### **Do you think God is trying to show us something?**

God is persistent with his provision and faithfulness and he wants us to be persistent in our pursuit of Him.

**Luke 11:5-9** *Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,*

*6 because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.'*

*7 "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.'*

*8 I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.*

*9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.*

God wants us to be persistent with Him!

**Philippians 3:14** *"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*

- ***Tennis – Passionate, Pursuit, but KEY is Persistent***
  - ***So many great junior tennis players never made it to High School tennis.***

**Jacob – Genesis 32: 24-30** *So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak.*

*25 When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man.*

*26 Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."*

*27 The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered.*

*28 Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome."*

*29 Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.*

*30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."*

### 3) **Pursuit**

- a. Passionate about the pursuit of God. we must pursue Him!

**James 4:8** *"Come near to God and he will come near to you."*

**Isaiah 51:1-3** *"Listen to me, you who **pursue** righteousness and who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn;*

*2 look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was but one, and I blessed him and made him many.*

*3 The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing.*

**Philippians 3:10-15** *"10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,*

*11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

*12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but **I press on** to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.*

*13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,*

*14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

*15 All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.*

**1 Kings 19:11-12** *“The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.*

*12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.”*

What are you passionately pursuing? Money, respect, relationships, acceptance, positions?

Do you have a goal where you want your relationship with God to be? Are you pursuing that goal or do you think you will obtain intimacy with God by accident or it will just happen?

#### 4) **God’s Presence**

There are thousands of Christians who passionately pursue God’s Hands but never pursue his face/His Presence

**Philippians 3:10** *“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death”*

- Experience him, not just intellectually
- Are you wanting to know Him? As a real person, wanting to experience the reality of God in your life or just know facts about him.

**Psalms 34:8** *“O taste and see that the LORD is good”*

- What would our church look like if we all tasted and saw that he his good

When God’s presence comes down your life changes and a result the world changes...

- Moses on a mountain – encountered God’s presence, changed forever
- Paul on a road – encountered God’s presence, changed forever
- Our Pastor during a conference in South Carolina – encountered God’s presence, changed forever
- Myself on a bus coming back from Tennessee – encountered God’s presence, changed forever

**2 Chronicles 5:13-14** *“The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: “He is good; his love endures forever.” Then the temple of the LORD was filled with a cloud, 14 and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God.*

**How do we get there, look back at Psalm 63:2-3 what did it for David?**

*“2) I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. 3) Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.*

**First hand experience of his power & his Love**

**1 John 4:10** *“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”*

Are you stagnant in your relationship with God, have you lost your first love. Today you can start your Passionate & Persistent Pursuit of God’s Presence