

West Valley Church
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Easter, 2011

Thirst

*1 Corinthians 15, John 4:14, John 7:37, Jeremiah 2:13,
Psalm 51, Luke 5, Luke 5:5, John 7:37*

Scientific conferences usually don't physically experience their subjects, but during a session on "atmospheric rivers" last December at a geophysics meeting in San Francisco, one of those very rivers was barreling down on those scientists. Like freight trains loaded with water vapor, atmospheric rivers are typically several thousand kilometers long and a few hundred kilometers wide, and a single one can carry a greater flow of water than the Earth's largest river, the Amazon River. That particular storm dumped more than ten feet of snow in the Sierra Nevadas. There are typically 3-5 of these rivers present within a hemisphere at any given time. You can't see them without satellites equipped with special cameras; that's why they weren't discovered until the 1990's. Atmospheric rivers have a central role in the global water cycle. On any given day, atmospheric rivers account for over 90% of the global north-south transport of water vapor. When they decide to unload, the resulting rain causes severe flooding along the West Coast of North America, western Europe, and the west coast of North Africa. (*Science News*, February 26, 2011, "Rivers in the Sky")

Right now, in this place, there is a spiritual river that is ready to rain down on you and flood your life with God's love, if you are willing to see it.

Let me pray for us: "God, I pray that you'll pour an Easter blessing on every family, every individual, every young person here. And I pray that sometime in this service heaven would touch earth, that there would be a resurrection in the lives of people who have lost hope, that some folks who have wandered will come home, that the confused will get some answers, that the despondent will be encouraged, and that fired-up people will get fired up even more to live in the name of the Risen One. We pray this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen."

In 1 Corinthians 15, the apostle Paul says it like it is. He says that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the absolute center piece of the Christian faith. It is the hinge point of all of history. If Christ did in fact rise from the dead, it affirms his identity as the Messiah. It affirms his promise that he died for the sins of the world, and it sets the pattern for a resurrection for all of us who follow him; it is the centerpiece of the Christian faith. And as the body of Christ, we're here to celebrate that today. Many of you have gathered, I think, because you really believe in the resurrection of Christ, and it gives you hope and it gives you a future. You hang onto the promises of Christ. Some of you are investigating those promises and we'll be

talking about that shortly.

I mentioned that the church is the Body of Christ, and I want to ask you some questions about the human body in general, about how resilient our bodies are. Let me ask you, how long, do you think, can the average human being go without food before they die? The average is about thirty days. You can go about 30 days without food before starvation sets in. So any of you who right now are saying you're starving, you're not. Come see me in two or three weeks; we'll talk about it. But you're not starving.

How long do you think a human being can go without sleep? You're thinking, "it depends on who's preaching." How long can a person go without sleep before going loony? The record for going without sleep is 10 days. It can be done. So you can hang on for the next half hour or so, can't you?

The human body is amazingly resilient in a lot of ways, except for when it comes to water. We're wimps when it comes to water. Do you know how long we can go without water? Three days. If you are in an arid climate it will be even less. After that, you die. We are very, very dependent and vulnerable when it comes to this thing called water.

The geographic area where most of the Bible stories take place is a very arid land, parched and barren. People in Bible days when Jesus lived, they knew that water was a life and death deal. People died of thirst. So sometimes when Jesus taught, he used the metaphor of water to make a point.

For example, he says to a woman who was standing by a well: Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. (Well that caught the attention of the people in that dry land!) It will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life (John 4:14, NIV). The water metaphor there meant a lot to an arid area and parched people.

Then there's Jesus, and he simply says, If anyone is thirsty, (in that land, everyone was thirsty almost all of the time) let him come to me and drink (John 7:37, NIV).

What were people thirsting for in Jesus' day? What are people thirsty for today? This first icon represents the great existential questions of life. Where did I come from? What am I here for? What is the meaning of life? A lot of people thirst to understand who created them, why they are here, what they are supposed to be doing with their one and only life. They thirst to understand the meaning of life.

Awhile back I got hit with some kind of awful bug that kept me within a certain perimeter of my restroom. I was ugly sick. When I wasn't sitting, if you know what I mean, I only had energy to lay down. So I'm watching TV and one of those infomercials comes on about a collection of old music from the 60's and 70's. I grew up with some of that music, and that got me thinking. In the '60s there was a

big hit by Bob Dylan called “Blowin’ in the Wind” (by Bob Dylan; © 1962, renewed 1990, Special Rider Music.) The lyrics said, “How many roads must a man walk down / Before you call him a man? / How many times must the cannon balls fly / Before they’re forever banned?” He was asking people to think about the insanity of war in the ’60s.

Then “How many years can some people exist / Before they’re allowed to be free?” He’s talking about racism. He asks all these important questions.

Then you say, “Okay. Tell us, Bob, what’s the meaning of life? What’s the answer to all these probing existential questions? And he goes, “The answer, my friend, is ___? ___ blowin’ in the wind / The answer is blowin’ in the wind.” Thanks, Bob. That really helps.

There’s another song that all of us older folks will remember. Simon and Garfunkel did a song called “The Sounds of Silence” (written by Paul Simon; © 1965 Paul Simon Music/BMI). The song starts “Hello, darkness, my old friend / I’ve come to talk to you again.” Is there anyone else to talk to? Apparently not. Just the darkness. If there’s no God, then I’m talking to darkness.

The last verse says, “And the people bowed and prayed / To the neon god they made.” They’re talking about the insanity of materialism. They make a good point: if you think the meaning of life is the accumulation of stuff, you’re going to be sorely disappointed. It’s just all going to be silence, nothingness for you. The songwriter was pushing to find the meaning of life and all he got was silence.

And then, of course, one of the top-selling songs of the ’60s was the Rolling Stones’ “(I Can’t Get No) ___? ___ Satisfaction.” But not because they didn’t . . . try, because they tried, and they tried, and they tried. And for all their trying, for who knows what else the Rolling Stones were doing, they still couldn’t find satisfaction. At the end of the day, it wasn’t there. Sad isn’t it? Still, you have to respect that people in the 60’s were searching and trying and trying to find answers to the great questions of life.

I was making some of the most important decisions of my life in the late ’70s, and I tried and tried. I was getting toward the end of high school and thinking about college. I was thinking through those very same questions. At the end of my life, will I be bowing down to a neon god? Will I be in some kind of race to get to the end of my life before I run out of money? Will I stop long enough to find the deafening sound of nothing – just silence? And then someone introduced me to Christianity, more specifically, in the middle of my thirst, somebody introduced me to the person of Jesus Christ. Not some set of rules or some kind of religious hoops that I had to jump through, but a relationship with a God who loved me as if I was the only one in all the world to love. A conscious friendship with God and a

dialogue with him through the course of every day for life. A feeling of his strength and power in my life. A God who lovingly created me with a specific purpose in this life to fulfill – a difference to make in this world. So I took the greatest risk in my life to that point and I opened my heart to him and said, “I want that.” And Jesus answered my thirst for the questions of the meaning of life. I didn’t sort it out in one experience, but Christ helped me fit it all together, gave me a sense of doing life with God. Over time (I don’t want to say it happened overnight) over time I figured out who I came from, why I’m here, and the plan that God wanted my life uniquely to take. My thirst for the meaning of life began to be satiated.

Some of you are in church today because you’re thirsty to understand the meaning of life. You thirst for an answer to the great questions of life. And you might not like the answer I’m presenting to you, but I present it fearlessly – because I’ve personally experienced this. If anyone thirsts for meaning in their life, come to Jesus and he will quench that thirst. He’ll give you the answers. Christ says he can help you with that. When we get to the end of the service you will have an opportunity to allow him to help you.

Well, what else do people thirst for? This next icon is something you’ve probably seen in a lot of places. This represents people’s thirst for community, thirst for connection, thirst to know and be known and to love and be loved. You’ve probably seen this in different stores. Usually it’s ceramic and has a candle in the middle of it. But this is a replica of a 6th century sculpture. Sixth Century! People have always thirsted for community, for relationship. It’s a really, really significant thirst in every human’s life. We find ourselves searching for where we will find the love and relational connection we’re looking for.

We saw this up close and personal when we moved here from Idaho just over a year ago. Our boys were in the middle of their ninth and eleventh grades. The school they left had all their friends that they’d known since kindergarten. We moved them to a new town and a new bigger school with no one they knew—just a couple of teens they’d met at church. We prayed hard for our boys as they were confronted with their own desire for community. They worked hard to make new friends. It wasn’t easy, but they made it and are doing well. But making a move like that reminded us how much we need those relationships in our lives.

In Bible times, people would make a collection system of gutters that would allow rain water to run off their house and flow into a “cistern” so they could use it. It’s still done in many arid parts of the world today. In the Bible, Jeremiah 2:13 has kind of an interesting metaphor about water and these cisterns. Jeremiah tied together these ideas of cisterns, thirst, God, and relationships. You were built with

a cistern—a chamber for collecting God’s love. You have a thirst for him. Jeremiah says “Here’s the deal with the cisterns in your heart: if you resist the downpour of the love of God into that chamber in your life that needs his love, if you close yourself off from that, then the only love that you’re going to seek out and eventually find to one degree or another is human love, which is a beautiful thing. But that bigger, more significant cistern for love and acceptance will never be filled. And you think you can be filled up with human love, but there’s a leak in that cistern and you’ll always feel a little empty. You’ll keep thirsting.”

I remember a time in my life where this became really clear for me. I’d been a Christian for a little while and was learning and growing. I was in college and dating a lovely brunette who was also a Christian. I thought she was really smart, but one night after a date that I thought was good, she kind of went mentally crazy, because at the end of the date, she said “I don’t want to date you.” She wanted to start dating other guys. I’m thinking, you want to go from business class to economy? You think you’re going to find someone better than me? And apparently she did, because that was her decision. I drove away and realized, “I just got dumped!”

I joke about it now, but I was extremely disappointed. So I’m heading back to my dorm, and I turn on the radio and there’s a song where the key line of the lyrics was “There goes my reason for living / ... / There goes my everything” by Mickey Gilley. (There Goes My Everything by Dallis Frazier). So I crank it up, and I’m singing along. Yeah - there goes my reason for living; there goes my everything. If I’d been in a pickup with dog and a gun rack and stopped at a bar, I could’ve written a country song of my own. But I was singing along with that song, crying and praying. Well, I was already a Christian and was putting some things together and I sensed God whispering to me: “Mike, she is *not* your reason for living. She is not your everything. She’s a cute brunette, and if you confuse who your reason for living is, you’re going to live with a beat-up heart the rest of your life.” God said, “If you expect from human beings the kind of connection that only I can provide for you, it’s deep trouble the rest of your life.”

So I decided to try and get it right. I determined that God would be my reason for living. That he would be the fundamental connection in my life. Basically I said “I will open the chamber of my heart to the downpour of your love and let you fill me up with your love. I will try to love other people and allow them to love me, but I’m never going to expect from human relationships what I can only depend on from you. It’s you and me, God. You’re my fundamental connection.” I’m glad I got it straight, because then along came this beautiful blonde cheerleader. She had her priorities straight, too, because she and I got married.

Now we've got our oldest son in college and our middle son Ryan is getting ready to leave for college in the fall. We'll still have Brenden, our youngest, at home for two more years before he leaves. I'm not looking forward to that –I love my boys so much. I would love to have them around all the time. Some of you are ready for your kids to leave; I understand that, it's just not that way with us. When they go, it'll be hard for sure, but I know that they're not my reason for living and they're not my everything.

Some of you need to sort this out just like I did. You need to get this straight and you need to get it straight today. You're expecting way too much from what human beings can provide for you, because I'm telling you ultimately no one can do this for you except God.

I sit through so many counseling appointments where all I hear is the disappointment in them because they've tried to get people to fill up that cistern that can only be filled by God's love, and yet they still won't open up the lid to God.

You've got two chambers in your heart, friends. One chamber needs to be filled up with the love of God. He will keep filling it up and that will provide your stability, your security, in all of life. The other chamber ebbs and flows with human love. It's a beautiful thing; it's a wonderful thing. I'm not denigrating it at all. But you've got to know the difference and you have to keep them straight. We'll help you do that in just a few moments.

I love this icon of a showerhead. This represents the human thirst to be clean, to be cleansed. You have a need to be clean.

Right as I was graduating from high school, Mount St. Helens erupted, spewing ash and soot and debris from deep inside that mountain for hundreds of miles. I got a job working with a company that cleaned that ash off of the roofs of warehouses and large buildings. The ash was everything from very fine – finer than flour – to very coarse like sand. But it was extremely dense – so heavy that it didn't take much and an entire roof would cave in. So we cleaned it off the roofs at Swan Island Industrial Park in Portland, Oregon. In the summer time in Oregon it's hot and humid, and you'd sweat and that ash would fly up and cake your skin. It would be in your clothes and you wouldn't know it until you hit it and clouds would come out of it. It was a good job—really hard work. I would work 10-12 hour days during the summer, on top of roofs that were tar black so it was probably 20 degrees hotter up there. Sometimes I would be in a cloud of dust and 90-degree humid heat most of the day.

By four o'clock in the afternoon, I wasn't dreaming of brunettes or blondes. I was dreaming of a shower. And when it was quitting time I'd take that hour drive to my

home in Salem, and I'd race straight to the shower. I felt the blissful feeling of getting cleansed. And when you're really dirty and you get clean ... man, that's a powerful feeling.

You were built by God to want to be clean physically. We were built by God with an aversion for dirt if it stays on us too long. But it's not just physical dirt that we thirst for cleansing from. There's something else that we long for, and that's to get rid of the moral dirt that accumulates through our wrongdoing and sin. Every one of you knows what I'm talking about. You've said something awful. Or you've done something dreadful. You've intentionally hurt someone. You are involved in an immoral relationship. You've allowed yourself to view self-destructive things. And you just go, "Oh man, what have I done? I wish I could get a shower." You feel morally dirty. You wish you could just stand under a showerhead and wash away your moral dirt like you wash away your physical dirt.

But getting a shower for moral dirt is way more complex than physical dirt. It involves more than water – it involves what Easter is all about—Jesus Christ and what he's done. Maybe you've attended church for years, but you are here right now thinking, "Oh, man, I *still* foul up; and then I have to come into church feeling this way. I just got in a fight with my wife or my husband or my kids – on the way to church – and I said some hurtful things." Or, "I'm going to see that person at church that I know I cheated out of a job or some money or gossiped or lied about." There've been times in my life that I needed a shower. Sin does that to us – it makes us dirty. Worse, the Bible describes sin as kind of a cancer. It just eats and eats and eats away at you. So we slowly get consumed internally by this poisonous, cancerous sin. Some of us ignore it, keep pushing it down. Some of you have lived with it for so long that you don't even know if it's possible to be clean again. But there is a shower for you.

King David wrote Psalm 51, after he had an affair with a married woman and then murdered her husband to cover it up. David cried out to God: "God, would you wash away my wrongdoing? Would you cleanse me from my sin? Would you wash me so I can be whiter than snow?" (Ps 51:2, 7)

He's no different than us. There's not a person here that hasn't had the desire to be washed clean from their moral dirt. So listen – if you forget everything else, remember this next minute: The sin, the cancer of moral dirt is something God can't and won't tolerate. He can't ignore it. But he also knows that you can't cleanse yourself of it. So the Bible tells us that God took all of the moral dirt, and placed it on the life of His son, Jesus Christ. He didn't have any dirt of his own. He took the mound of dirt in your life and the big mound of dirt from my life and put it on his own shoulders, assuming your sin and mine. Took it all on his

shoulders and paid for it. *He died*. Which is why his last words were “It is finished.” He’d done it. Totally, completely. Buried that filth in the grave. Finished. Then he rose from the dead on the third day and he said, “Okay, here’s the deal. I can wash you clean through what I did. Do you want it? Do you need a shower?” The Bible is very clear – the only way you can be cleansed is through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross and his resurrection. That’s why his resurrection is so important. He left all that moral dirt in the grave.

Have you done that? Let me tell you, if you’ve been washed by the shower of God’s love and forgiveness, you would remember. If you are thinking, “I don’t know if I’ve ever done that.” If you can’t remember, it probably hasn’t happened. Because when you finally admit that you are morally dirty, that you need his shower, and you humble yourself and accept his death on the cross for your sin alone, and allow his resurrection power of love and forgiveness to wash over you, my friends, you will know!

You can try, try, try anything else. It won’t work. Nothing but the death, the sacrifice, and the resurrection of Jesus.

How far are you going to go before you get cleansed? How long are you going to try to do this life feeling dirty? You can be cleansed today through the person and work of Christ. He extends a rain, a downpour of forgiveness for you to stand under. We’ll give you a chance to do that in just a moment.

But there’s one more thing that human beings thirst for is, and it’s like fish. How do you thirst for fish? I can explain.

One of the great things about being a youth pastor, which I was for 14 years, is that I’ve watched some kids grow up. For some of them I’d say, “What is going to be ‘it’ in your life? Do you have any idea what the best thing in your life would be?” And they would say, “Well, if I could get into that college, that would probably be ‘it.’” They got into college and would come back from school. I would ask, “Well, you’re in that college now. Is that ‘it’?” “It’s good, but maybe it’s not ‘it.’” They’d graduate, and I’d say, “Well, was that ‘it’?” They’d say, “No, but when I get my first job, that’ll be ‘it.’” But the job wasn’t it. They’d say “when I get married, that’ll be ‘it.’” Then they’d get married and about three or four months later, I’d say, “Is that ‘it’?” “Well, you know we love each other. But maybe that wasn’t ‘it.’ But when we have a kid ...” And I’d say, let me tell you that’s *not* going to be it!

So many people have this thirst for a vision or something beyond their own little life. They think the next achievement, the next purchase, the next this, the next that, is going to do it. And it’s always just out there a little bit, and they thirst for something beyond their life, but they don’t quite know what it is.

In Luke 5, Jesus was speaking to a fairly large-size crowd; and the longer he spoke, the more people came. I never seem to have that problem. It's usually the opposite.

But Jesus was by the Sea of Galilee and the crowd is getting bigger and he sees Simon Peter, whom he hadn't really met before that. Jesus tells Simon Peter that if he'd row him out a little bit in the boat, he could get a little distance from the gathering crowd and people would hear him better—the sound would reverberate off the water and everyone could hear.

So Peter rows him out a little bit. Jesus finishes his sermon, and the crowd disperses. When they get back to the beach, Jesus says, "You're a fisherman, right? You and your friends here, you're fisherman?" Peter said, "Yes, but it hasn't been good lately." Jesus said, "Well, why don't you go out right now and lower your nets."

Peter knew that Jesus was not a commercial fisherman and knew it was the wrong time of day, but then Peter says, "I'm inclined not to do this, but because you say so, I will let down the nets" (Luke 5:5). I've remembered that many times: "because you say so, I will" So Peter and his buddies go out and they have this amazing catch of fish. So many fish it almost swamps the boat. They return to the beach and they're happy and amazed. And they're wondering if this, in fact, really could be the Son of God, this man who could arrange a miracle like that.

But they're also really excited to get the fish to the market where they can get a lot of money for their catch. Jesus says to them, just as they're ready to leave and cash in—and I'm paraphrasing it—but he says, "As exciting as that huge catch of fish was, as exciting as it's going to be for you to get all that cash at the market for those fish, would you consider one thing for just a moment? How would you like to join me and try to catch bigger fish? How would you like to join me as we spread the Father's love and the vision of restoring a broken world, a vision for the transformation of human lives? Answering *their* existential questions, filling up *their* cistern with God, washing *them* in God's shower of grace. What if you engaged with me in a grander vision? Nothing wrong with fish; it's just that we could go after the hearts of men and women. Are you interested in trading in destinies instead of dollars? It will give you the greatest thrill your life could ever imagine." And the Bible says Peter and his friends got it right there. They dropped their nets and walked away from all that cash and went with Jesus to pursue a grander vision. And they changed the history of the world.

Some of you only know about fish or law or construction or real estate or homemaking or education or government or banking. That's all you know. You still think there's an 'it' out there. You thirst for a vision beyond your own life; you just don't know what "it" is. But I'm telling you there is something you can give your

life to that will quench that thirst for 'it.' When you find the purpose of God for your life beyond just your own little thing and you get on board with God's thing, that's 'it,' friends. There's nothing wrong with what you do but dollars will never satisfy your thirst. They never will! That's why Christians don't have to worry during this economy because we deal in destinies not dollars.

I've got a good friend who thought if he could become a doctor, that would be "it." Then he thought, "If I can make more money, that would be 'it'." Then he got married to a wonderful wife and had a son. Then they couldn't have more kids, so they adopted a daughter. None of those things were it for him. So he gave it all to God and said, "It all belongs to you." he became the most generous guy I know, and he's a millionaire by a long shot.

Then his wife—who was filling that relational cistern of his—got Leukemia. And all his energy, and a bunch of his resources went to taking care of her. She always told him, "As long as I'm alive, I'm going to make sure everyone knows about the love of Jesus." Two years ago, his wife died. Shelly and I flew out and I helped officiate the funeral, and there were a bunch people there who didn't know the risen Jesus but by watching her live for God *as she was dying*, they were introduced to the truth of the resurrection. And now my friend is doing mission trips for medical missions. He's grieved her loss, but she's not "it." He's dated a little bit, but his "it" is the difference his wife made and the difference he makes in the world for God. He knows, because of the resurrection, he'll see his wife again. While he's still here, he keeps carrying out his "it."

What's your 'it'? Some of you are shooting too low. You're content with catching just fish. Well, you won't be content the rest of your life with that because God built you to thirst for a vision beyond yourself.

I'm going to shoot as straight with you as I know how: you thirst for this. You thirst for your life to make a difference bigger than yourself. You want your life to matter. You want "it."

How do you figure 'it' out? You humble yourself before God and you say, "God, I'm giving up on just fish—give me a grander vision." Then you start going places where you see God working. You say, "God, speak to me." And when he does, you say, "Because you say so, God, I will do it."

You do a little trial and error, and eventually you wind up with something beyond yourself—a grander vision. You give of your time and your talents. It might be medical missions. It might be volunteering with Upward Soccer or at the senior center or in our children's ministry. It might be giving to missions or to our foyer renovation. It might be *all* of those. But when you're doing that, friends, that's 'it.' You're making a difference in the world and that's as good as 'it' gets.

So here we are. Some of the fundamental thirsts in the human soul: the thirst for the meaning of life; the thirst for connection and community; the thirst for cleansing of our moral guilt and stain; the thirst for a vision beyond ourselves. And Jesus said, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink” (John 7:37, NIV). He will rain down love that will fill you up. Forgiving grace. A grander vision.

Anybody interested? Anybody thirsty?

Let me say a prayer for you.

God, here we are on Easter, and the resurrected Savior is making us a promise. He’s promising that he will rain down meaning, he will rain down love, he will rain down forgiving grace, he will rain down a grander vision that will satisfy that thirst for something beyond our own little lives.

So now, God, the choice is ours. Do we humble ourselves? Do we look your way? Do we believe by faith that you can satiate our thirst? Give us meaning. Answer our questions. Fill us. Cleanse us. Give us a grander vision.” Pour out your love like rain in our lives.

“Send Your Rain”

Up here you see and hear this little drizzle we’ve got going. You can tell your friends it rained in church on Easter. Because it represents the continual downpour of God’s love into your life. You can put a lid over it. You can pull yourself out from under it. But he is so good, and loves the person in your chair so much that he wants something better for you. We’re going to sing an adaptation of Amazing Grace that you will love. We’re going to have to stand to do it, but don’t stand yet, because I want to have you stand in two shifts. The Bible says it’s really important, when you come to a defining moment in your life that you mark it in some way. And some of you while I’ve been talking or while these people have been singing you’ve decided you will trust God for something in your life. You opened up to him in one of these four ways we’ve talked about—answers to the questions, fulfilling your need for love and community, for cleansing, and for a purpose. Friends, the truth of the matter is God’s been sending his rain your whole life long, through Christ. It’s just the question of whether you’re open to it. Will you stand under it? Will you receive it?

This isn’t about the person you came with. This isn’t about anyone around you. This is about you and God on Easter. If you’re thirsty for meaning and you want Christ to help you, if you’re thirsty to be filled up with his love instead of just human love, if you’re thirsty for a cleansing or thirsty for a grander vision, I want you to stand. Anybody thirsty for this? Just stand to your feet. If you’ve made a decision, that God touched your life, and you are deciding something here, I want

you to stand. Boldly stand right now. I applaud you! You will remember Easter 2011. Not because it rained in church but because God rained his love in your life and quenched your thirst in a significant way.

I'm here to tell you, friends, God will deliver on this. He's said it in his Word. Millions of people have received the refreshing rain of God in their lives, and I'm one of them. I've needed every one of God's promises and I will in the future. And those of you who are standing, you're in a trust-filled mode. You're saying you're depending on God now. You're looking to him.

As you leave in a few moments and you walk out in faith, hang onto the promise that you're claiming here. Hang onto it. Trust God for it. Read about it in the Bible. Get to a church that teaches it. Find some Christians who believe it and who can support you in this. And you'll live with a lot less thirst. You'll live the way God wanted you to live, in resurrection power.

Now will the rest of you stand please and let's sing this together.

Adapted from a sermon by Dr. Bill Hybels