

DESIRE AND LONGING FOR GOD

As the deer earnestly desires the fountains of water,
so my soul earnestly longs for Thee, O God.

My soul has thirsted for the living God...

Psalm 41:1. LXX

The capacity of the human heart is so profound that the whole universe cannot fill it. The good people and things of the world can bring us only partial happiness. In a way, they whet our appetite for the experience of even greater goods. All the good things we experience in this world point to an ultimate Good.

C.S. Lewis wrote:

Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for these desires exists. A baby feels hunger; well, there is such a thing as food. A dolphin wants to swim; well, there is such a thing as water. Men feel sexual desire; well, there is such a thing as sex. If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. (*Mere Christianity, Bk. III, chap. 10, "Hope"*)

This desire, this longing for the ultimate good, is itself an indicator that Someone who is greater than all creatures truly exists. God is the ultimate Good and the Source of all Goodness. Anything and anyone less than God cannot satisfy human desire.

"There is another inward kind of *prayer without ceasing*, which is the desire of the heart. ... For that very desire of your heart is your prayer; and if your desire continues uninterrupted, then so does your prayer." St. Augustine of Hippo