

Sacred

THUMBprint

What is God doing to get your attention?



Thirst

7 Day

Devotional

Rick Carlson

*My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?*

Psalm 42:2

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rickcarlson56@gmail.com

Introduction

There is an interesting science that has developed in recent years that studies ancient fingerprints left on pottery and other objects. Obviously, the scientist cannot tell us who the people are who left those prints but we can be assured by today's scientific methods that these people were as unique as you and me.

There are hand and foot prints in Egypt that date back 4,000 years. There is even a ridged print that could date as far back as 10,000 years.

The ancient Babylonians and Chinese used thumbprints like signatures in official documents and business transactions. Scientists don't know if they understood the uniqueness of each print or if they thought that the touch of the document had some kind of mystic spiritual connection.

Not until about 100 years ago did the science of fingerprinting come to the forefront. Now it is an accepted science used especially in law enforcement.

Take a look at your thumbs. The characteristics of fingerprints include nine patterns with names like "loops and whorls" that are consistent in all humans. The combination of these nine patterns gives each person their own unique set of fingerprints. Reading and pondering the THUMBPRINT Devotionals will certainly affirm the uniqueness of your own spiritual identity but more importantly we will drill deeper into the question, "What is God doing to get your attention?" by exploring how to respond to God's advances.

The truth is, lots of us go along through life just minding our own business when all of the sudden, something happens. It may be bad or good. Either way it is significant, and makes us aware of the circumstances or events that have gotten our attention. It's kind of like a wake-up call. Sometimes we are really shaken up and we want to blame some one or get even or quit.

The purpose of this devotional series is to:

- drill deeper to the awareness of God's presence
- enlighten you by what the Bible says about God's work in your life
- challenge you to authentically respond to God

Throughout the Bible God took action to get people’s attention in as many unique ways as there are thumbprints. God inspired people, warned them, confronted them, saved them, fought for them, fought against them, taught them and loved them. God had his reasons and purposes for taking action in people’s lives.

The six THUMBPRINT profiles are based on the acronym T.H.U.M.B. plus O. Here is how the individual profiles correspond to the letters in the acronym:

Profile	Letter	Description
Pilgrim	T	Thirst: Thirsty for God, longing for the truth
Philosopher	H	Hunger: Hungry for meaning and significance in life
Warrior	U	Undercurrent: Up against unseen forces in life, undercurrents that threaten to carry you away
Prophet	M	Mystery: Curiosity about the mysterious, the awesome works and actions of God
Saint	B	Brokenness: God gets our attention through illness, disappointments, devastation, pain and grief
Observer	O	Observer: Low or no awareness of God’s presence in the circumstances of life but you are watching and waiting

The “T” represents “Thirst.” Thirst is the longing for truth and the eternal, a desire to know God. The Pilgrim profile indicates that you are on a journey to discover all that God has for you to see and know about him. This does not mean that you have everything all figured out or that you do not have doubts or struggle with sin. It means that you are aware of a divine presence and you are in process.

When God has your attention, things that you thought were once important no longer have the same hold on you. When God gets your attention, your life will never be the same.

Day 1: Thirst



The human body is made up of mostly water. 60% in adult men and 55% in adult females. Newborns can be as high as 70% water.

If you are dehydrated by 1% you will be thirsty.

If your level of dehydration goes to 2% you will feel anxiety, your appetite will go away and your capacity for work will be reduced by 20%.

If dehydration goes up to 4% there will be nausea, dizziness, emotional instability and fatigue.

6%, your coordination will go and speech will be slurred.

At 10% your body is overheated and your cells are dying.

11%, you are in real trouble because the delicate chemical balances in the body are now out of whack.

As you approach 20% dehydration, unless you get immediate medical intervention, you may die.

The human body needs water. It craves water. And if it doesn't get enough water it will let you know with increasingly painful and dramatic signs. Ignoring those signs is dangerous and potentially deadly.

Most of us are pretty tuned into what is going on with our body when, say for instance, you are nauseated, light headed, or get a fumble-causing, game-ending, crippling leg cramp. Thirst gets our attention. We may not know that the root cause of our issues is dehydration but the signs cannot be ignored.

The Bible talks a lot about thirst and clearly compares the thirst of the human body to the thirst of the soul. Just as there are signs of dehydration when your body does not get enough water, there are signs of dehydration of the soul. Spiritual thirst longs for the satisfaction of what you need for life, in this case it is a thirst for the eternal. As the Psalmist declares in Psalm 42:2:

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?

PRAYER

*Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;
in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.*

I remember the days of long ago;

*I meditate on all your works
and consider what your hands have done.*

I spread out my hands to you;

I thirst for you like a parched land. (Psalm 143:1,5,6)

Amen.

Day 2: Thirst



Unfortunately, as humans, we are prone to drinking anything and everything that looks good to us, whether or not it actually is. To follow the metaphor, we may think that we want to drink from the fountain of wealth, fame, sex, entertainment, academics, athletics, adventure or anything else. Even though you guzzle one or more of these pursuits, gallon after gallon, they may fill you up for a time and even give you some pleasure. But they will not satisfy the deep longing in your soul for the eternal.

You've probably heard people say that the reason they don't like religion is because of all the rules. I agree. I have the same problem with religion. When religion is nothing more than a list of don't drink this sin, don't drink that desire, don't drink this kind of thinking or don't drink that kind of action, and offers nothing to drink for the soul that is satisfying, it leaves you completely dry.

The prophet Zechariah describes religious people like this as "*prisoners of a waterless pit.*" (*Zechariah 9:11*) Nobody wants to live like that but we keep drinking what Zechariah said does not satisfy because no one has offered us water, living water for the soul.

That's what is different from religion and what Jesus came to do. For the first time in the history of the world, he stood up and said, "*I have exactly what you are craving. What I give you will satisfy the deepest longings of your soul. Just as cold flowing water from a mountain stream will satisfy your physical thirst, I offer you pure, thirst-quenching living water for the soul. Be satisfied.*"

Wow! I want some of that. I really want some of that. How about you? Are you tired of drinking the artificially sweet Kool-aid of over-spun marketing ploys, the recycled dregs of empty philosophies, the tepid coffee of the ol' traditional ruts and the empty-calorie fizz coolers of popular culture that promise to make you happy. But when you look honestly at yourself, you may have lots of friends, family, education, money, health and everything else after drinking what you thought looked good, but your soul is still thirsty for the eternal.

Ask yourself, are you a prisoner in a waterless pit? God invites you today to:

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters." (Isaiah 55:1)

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, forgive me when I choose to be a “*prisoner of a waterless pit*” by drinking the lies of the world and ignoring the thirst-quenching truth of your word. Lead me today to the fresh, cool, living water that Jesus offers. Invite me to drink freely and know the satisfaction of the presence of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Day 3: Thirst



In John 4:1-26, Jesus had an important conversation with a woman at an old water well. This woman was not really anybody special, in fact, she went out of her way to avoid people. As we found out in the story, she had real bad luck with men and for whatever reason, she was coming to draw water in the middle of the day when normally no one else was around. That's when she met Jesus.

Jesus was physically thirsty and asked the woman to give him some water from the well. The woman, on the other hand, did not see the signs of dehydration in her own life and was spiritually parched. She had no idea who the guy was she was talking to and that he had what she needed to quench her spiritual thirst.

When you read the story, it is obvious that the woman was pretty confused. She didn't make the connection at first that Jesus was offering her water for the soul and not just water from a stream or river. She was thirsty, really spiritually thirsty. Not until Jesus told her something about herself, that only God would know, did she start to make the connection Jesus was making.

He was offering her a way out of her *"waterless pit."* Jesus was offering her a new relationship with God who would live inside her always, providing for her spiritual thirst like an ever-flowing stream. She would never be thirsty again.

I want that too. I need that. I don't know about you but it is exhausting chasing a religion that is based on the ritual of drawing cups of stagnant water from an old well. I long for the thirst-quenching flowing stream of God living inside of me. How about you?

If you can admit that your soul is thirsty and that you need living water, Jesus will give it to you, just like he gave to the woman that day. The result? She was changed. In fact, she was completely changed. She no longer needed to hide out from people. She was so excited that she ran into the village and told everyone she could find, anyone who would listen to her, to come and meet the guy sitting at the well. She told them that her soul was no longer thirsty.

For the first time in her life she was satisfied. Her enthusiasm alone motivated people to make their way outside the village to the old well to meet Jesus. I'm sure they were thinking, *"Whoever this guy at the well is, if he was able to make a difference in this woman, then maybe he can make a difference in me too."*

PRAYER

Jesus, I long for the living water you offer. My spiritual thirst is real and, like the woman at the well, I am slow to understand how life-changing drinking in your truth is for me. I am thirsty, Jesus, please give me a drink of your living water. Amen.

Day 4: Thirst



Proud antlers bowed low as the deer grazed on the sweet forest grass. The morning dew glistened as the sun broke over the horizon. It was good to be alive.

Suddenly, with a single alarmed motion the buck lifted his head high above his shoulders and did not move. His ears stood straight to capture any sound wave. His eyes looked straight ahead to detect any movement. His nostrils flared in search for the scent of danger. Something or someone had disturbed the safety of the morning putting the animal on high alert. Its heart beat fast. If there was another sound, movement or smell to confirm the alarm, the deer would take flight.

A young hunter flinched. It was all the mighty buck needed to trigger his instinct to run. In an instant he was at full speed running the same trails that he normally walked. The pursuing hunting party had set up a trap to corner the deer. The young hunters were to chase the deer and make noises that would direct the frightened animal to a clearing where the older, experienced hunters laid in wait.

Panicked, the deer turned and fled each noise and threat as the hunters presented themselves. But with each turn, his territory became smaller and smaller as the circle of hunters closed in on their prey. As the circle tightened, all that was left in the chase was the kill.

The panicked buck caught sight of an opening. It was small and would not be easy but it was his only chance to escape. The hunters did not expect such a quick and bold move by the deer. They were in awe of such daring. The move triggered a yell from the hunting party leader.

Arrows and spears flew as the mighty buck leapt over a large old dead tree that was assumed by the hunters to be a natural fence in their perimeter. They were wrong. None of the deadly arrows or spears hit their mark and within seconds the deer disappeared into the morning shadows. A few of the young hunters gave chase for a while but they would never catch him.

The buck kept running and did not stop until there was no doubt that danger was far, far away. At last the sprint slowed to a medium gallop and then to a slow walk. At last, the exhausted animal made his way on to the pebbly shore of a mountain stream. Steam vented from his nostrils with each pulse of hot breath as he exhaled into the cool mountain air.

The deer panted for, longed for, water. He was thirsty. Very thirsty. The proud antlers once again bowed low as he drank until satisfied.

As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God? (Psalm 42:1,2)

PRAYER

Lord, in my efforts to avert the pursuit of temptations and unhealthy thinking, I get thirsty for you. Lead me today to streams of quiet waters to drink deeply of your wisdom. Love and care for me today. Amen.

Day 5: Thirst



Like a deer fleeing a hunter, is your soul panting because you are exhausted from the chase? Maybe you have felt the pressing in of danger in your marriage, with your children, or with other people? Is your soul panting because you are afraid of the potential consequences of an out of control addiction, or secrets that could be exposed?

Sometimes you are being chased and sometimes you are chasing after something. Either way, you are exhausted. Whatever it is, stop! Stop now. If your soul is panting, let it pant for God. If your soul is panting it is a sign that you are thirsty for God, for the living God.

A sure sign of spiritual dehydration is that when your soul is thirsty you long for that which has eternal significance. You find yourself wondering, what difference does it make?

Are you tired of all the substitutes for living water that you drink because nothing seems to satisfy?

The truth is, your soul is thirsty for God.

Maybe you have known God for a long time but you have to admit to yourself that you have been going through a long, dry spiritual desert and you are thirsty, very thirsty for God.

Jesus' disciples were finally able to admit that their souls were thirsty. Jesus said,

"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." (John 7:37,38)

PRAYER

Lord, I am chased by so many things that could destroy me. But I also chase after things that are chains around my mind and heart. Both exhaust me. It is no wonder I am spiritually thirsty. And so I'm done chasing and ask you to protect me from whatever chases me. Lead me today to a quiet stream of your living water. Amen.

Day 6: Thirst



“Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.

Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.

Give ear and come to me;
listen, that you may live.
Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.
Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the Lord.

“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

so is my word that goes out from my mouth:

It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.

Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.
This will be for the Lord's renown,
for an everlasting sign,
that will endure forever." (Isaiah 55:1-3a,6-13)

PRAYER

Lord, just as creation applauds your glories, my heart leaps for joy at all that you have done for me. You have led me to your thirst-quenching streams of living water. You have filled my mind with thoughts that are stretched by the unreachable height of your thoughts and your ways that always are an adventure to follow. Let me sing your praises today from a heart overflowing with thanksgiving. Amen.

Day 7: Thirst



What is God doing to get your attention? Are you a prisoner in a waterless pit? Are you in an empty place where you have never known God? Are you asking, *“Is there something beyond this life? If there is, then God needs to show up because I am dying of thirst here.”*

Is God trying to get your attention because you are in a dry desert of the heart? You may have known God for a while but for some reason your soul is parched. You know that your soul is thirsty for God.

Are you being chased or are you chasing after something? In your exhaustion, do you find yourself panting for the living water that Jesus offers? Is your soul panting for a life-changing relationship with God?

Sit with Jesus. Tell him why you are thirsty. Be open to receive what he is willing to do in your life, to tell you the truth about yourself and to give you his Holy Spirit. It is the only way to quench the thirst of the soul.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, my soul is thirsty for you. I need the living water Jesus offers. I am exhausted from being chased and exhausted from chasing after things that do not satisfy. Forgive my sins. Change my wrong ways of thinking. Like the woman at the well, tell me everything that I need to know.

Let me live my life with the assurance that I do not ever have to be spiritually thirsty again. I am thankful that you are here with me and promise to always stay with me. I am thankful that my thirst for the eternal is filled by knowing you. Help me know what it means to have you quench my thirst. Lead me in your way and through prayer to know you deeper and broader and higher. I pray this as a follower of Jesus, Amen.