

Desperately Seeking God

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Years ago a correspondent for *The London Times* ended his articles with the question, “What is wrong with the world today?” Finally, the Christian writer and apologist G. K. Chesterton wrote this reply: “Dear Editor, What is wrong with the world? I am. Faithfully yours, G.K. Chesterton.”

Chesterton’s words effectively summarize the source of America’s problems today. It is not leadership, abortion, drugs, or pornography. It is not relativism, liberalism, or the media. It is not even a lack of Bible-believing Christians. It is me, and perhaps you!

According to George Barna’s research, 41% of Americans consider themselves born-again Christians. If that is true, should not America be wonderfully transformed by now? Remember how a small group of believers turned the world upside down centuries ago? But instead, much of American Christianity is so anemic that missionaries from other countries are being sent here.

If our world is to be transformed, something has to change! Personally, I must cultivate a holy hunger for Him, a desperation that can be fed only by His Spirit working in me. I believe God wants to transform America and the state of Washington. But this I know with certainty: God longs for me to become desperate for Him, an empty vessel ready to receive the bounty of His loving presence. My prayer must be, “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.” (Psalm 63:1)

Usually this intensity of desperation—this total dependence upon God for the essence of life—is fostered only in times of severe persecution. It is primarily during those times that God chooses to perfect Christians and thereby bring transformation to the culture. Today in countries where persecution is extreme, the Christian church is multiplying at an unprecedented rate. Ironically, human desperation appears to be the precursor of spiritual growth. If we are to grow, we must become desperate!

By God’s grace, I plan to implement the following steps. I intend to daily plead with God to saturate me with an unquenchable desperation for His presence and power. I intend to fast at least one day each week. I intend to be more devoted to prayer than sermon preparation, trusting the Holy Spirit more and myself less. I intend to provide a much greater emphasis for prayer in our church. I intend to pray regularly with other pastors in our county. I intend to be more proactive in sharing my faith and in helping others do the same.

Will you allow God to stretch you, too? I am thoroughly convinced that God has not given up on Thurston County, that He desires to bring a revival to the city of Olympia, just as He is transforming other areas throughout the world. Therefore, I long to prepare for all God may want to do in and through me. I ache to desperately hunger for His presence and leading. I yearn for the following verse to be answered in me: “For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.” (2 Chronicles 16:9)

What a tragedy it would be if God by-passed Olympia because He could not find those whose hearts were “completely His.” Are you willing to join me in desperately seeking God, desperately seeking to be used for His glory? Our desperation and total dependence on Him can open the doors to all that God wants to do in and through us!