

## **Connect Group notes 30 June 2025**

Chris continued our current sermon series 'Living in a Spiritual World' on Sunday. He spoke to us about the importance of desiring God – particularly through prayer.

He highlighted the fact that we have *strong desires*; (professional success, physical image, sexual and romantic encounters) which can often be superficial, *deep desires*; (to be heard and seen, to achieve) and our *deepest desires*; (awareness - or not - of a desire to be in complete union with Jesus).

Chris encouraged us that we need to recognise our deepest desire and reorder our lives around this.

One of the ways we do this is through prayer – not just asking God to fulfil our desires, but to reorient ourselves to desiring God first and foremost before all else.

Chris commented;

“So the question today is not *how's our prayer life?* The better question is: Do we truly desire Jesus. Because when we desire Him — really desire Him — our prayers change. Our habits change. Even our view of life changes.”

## **Discussion Points**

Read Psalm 63:1-4

1. God seems to come where he is wanted, in particular to those who continually cry out to him.
  - How does understanding this encourage us to persevere in prayer?
  - Why do our hearts need to genuinely desire God and personal renewal?
  - How can our comfort, scepticism or cynicism prevent God's renewal in our lives?

- How can we prevent our hearts from becoming hardened towards prayer and desiring God?
2. God initiates, and our human desire is the conduit for his continual outpouring.
    - What are the things that stop us from desiring God more deeply?
    - How can we reorder our lives to make room for desire for God to grow?
  3. Psalm 63:4 says 'In your name I lift up my hands'
    - How can our body posture (lifting our hands, kneeling, prostrating ourselves etc) reflect our prayers and our desire for more of God?
    - How can we continue to pursue prayer and the 'lifting of our hands' when prayer has lost its 'excitement', or we feel disheartened?
    - Chris spoke about fidelity in prayer like in relationships. Why might this be important?
  4. The apostle Paul exhorts us to 'pray continually'
    - How do we pray continually in our full daily lives?
    - Share as a group ideas and ways that have helped us keep in contact with God during the day

Some ideas for continual prayer throughout the day...

- Gratitude; thanking God during the day as things arise
- Pray when we're waiting (in the car, at the shops, school pick up, Doctors etc)
- Talk to God when we're doing household chores
- Turn the radio, TV or phones off
- Pray as a response to worry

### **PRAY and Apply**

- Ask God to increase, or renew, our desire for him.
- Ask him to show us where we are pursuing our strong desires more than our deepest desire for union with God.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help us reorder our lives regarding what God shows us.

