

“Longing”

- I. God’s longing for us.
 - A. When Adam & Eve were created, God began to love and long for all of us. **Jeremiah 31:3**
 - B. God’s longing for us intensified as the time for our birth drew near. “When my bones were being formed, carefully put together in my mother’s womb, when I was growing there in secret, you knew that I was there—you saw me before I was born. The days allotted to me had all been recorded in your book, before any of them ever began.” **Psalms 139:15&16** TEV
 - C. God’s longing thoughts toward us can’t be numbered. **Psalms 139:17&18**
- II. Our longing for God.
 - A. God’s longing for us creates in us a longing for Him, since we were created in His image. **Genesis 1:27**
 - B. Our heart is the point of contact with God, is directly open to God, and is subject to God’s influence.
Proverbs 4:23
 1. Our heart speaks to God. **Psalm 27:8**
 2. Our heart trusts God. **Psalm 28:7**
 3. God’s word is hidden in our heart so that we might not sin. **Psalm 119:11**
 4. Faith resides in the heart. **Romans 10:10**
- III. When sin came into the world, our knowledge of sin hardened our hearts.
 - A. We lost our awareness of our heart’s longing for God and His presence.
 - B. We lost our awareness of God’s purpose for us.
 - C. We lost the sense of who we really are: God’s naked yet much-loved children.
- IV. God’s longing for us, in our desperate condition, results in Him sending His Son to be with us.
Matthew 1:23
 - A. Seeing Jesus in the flesh was man’s best opportunity to see and understand the love of God.
John 14:9
 - B. The longing of God toward men was manifested in the life of Jesus as He drew people to Him.
John 6:44
 - C. Jesus came to heal the brokenhearted. **Luke 4:18**
 - D. Why were Peter, James and John always given special favors? **Matthew 17:1&2**
Perhaps this was because their longing to be with Jesus was stronger than the rest?
 - E. Those who are serious about being with Jesus will have their hearts set on fire with a longing for Him.
Luke 24:28-32

