



Scripture nugget – Like the deer that longs for a running stream

As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, the living God. When can I enter and see the face of God? (Psalm 42:2-3).

Every soul is made for Christ and has a vital need for Christ. *For in Him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through Him and for Him (Colossians 1:16).* Out of love, God created us in His own image for Himself alone. Thus, our mission, our fulfillment, our joy and our rest are all centered on Him. When the love and the presence of God is not acknowledged and experienced by a soul, he will feel an inner emptiness which he will try to fill with earthly things. This is how false gods are honored through human enslavement to money, power, human esteem, beauty, ego, creature comforts, carnal pleasures, materialism, etc. God longs that His limitless love for His human children be reciprocated. Through His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, God teaches us to call Him “Father” (cf. Matthew 6:9). God is pleased to predestine us for adoption as His children through Christ (cf. Ephesians 1:5). Though mankind has been disobedient and fallen from grace, God the Father has not abandoned us. He is constantly calling us to Himself. God the Father’s greatest desire is for all of us to be safe with Him in Paradise. Jesus tells us: *For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life (John 3:16).* Through Christ’s parable of the lost sheep in which the shepherd left the 99 to look for the one stray (cf. Matthew 18:12-14), we know God loves each and every one of us as if we are His only one!

Jesus says: “Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28). Being made for God, we do not experience real joy and peace when we pursue our own self-centered will and desires. In the attempt to find inner peace and fulfillment apart from God, such souls often find themselves living unfulfilled lives or enslaved to false gods. Only God can release a soul from all bondages because God alone can forgive sins and restore a sinful soul through an infilling of sanctifying grace. Christ gives the holy Sacraments to His Church for the forgiveness of sins and as channels for torrents of graces for souls. Christ teaches us the way to true happiness is to remain in His love. *If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and remain in His love. I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete (John 15:10-11).* Christ teaches us about eternal life: *Now this is eternal life, that they should know You, the only true God, and the One Whom You sent, Jesus Christ (John 17:3).*

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, thank You for creating me out of love. I am wonderfully, fearfully made. I stand in awe of Your wondrous design in me. Only the best, the purest, the loveliest, the most precious can satisfy my inner thirst and hunger. I am loved with the most exalted, purest sacrificial love in the whole universe. I am redeemed from my sins with the most precious thing in the world, the Precious Blood of God’s only begotten Son. May every beat of my heart be an act of love, adoration, praise and thanksgiving to the Most Blessed Holy Trinity God! Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.