



What If You Had Everything You Wanted and Still Were Not Happy, Not Satisfied? - Identify and Satisfy Your Spiritual Thirst

By Karen Sue Nyquist



1. What Would Make You Truly Happy? - Have you every thought, “If I just had _____, I would be happy?” You can fill in the blank with anything - a better: girlfriend, boyfriend, spouse, relationship with parents or another person, health, income, education, place to live, job, acceptance, love, reassurance, secure retirement, more attractive appearance, etc. If you are realizing that you are not really happy, not really satisfied, you need to find out what is your deep desire that is causing this unhappiness, this dissatisfaction. Loneliness? Worry? Fear? Depression? Hopelessness? . . .

2. A Growing Gnawing Unhappiness and Dissatisfaction - During my freshman year in college, I thought I had everything I wanted. But, to my surprise, I started realizing that I was not happy. How could that be? My relationship with all my family was good. My boyfriend was nice. The educational program I was in at my university was just what I wanted. Finances weren't great, but met my needs. How could I have everything I wanted and not be happy? What was wrong? ... nothing that I could think of. This was unsettling and frightening me.

3. My Relationship with God Since Childhood - As a child, I believed in God and accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Ever since then, I had loved Him and been satisfied with my life. So, why after all these years, was I now wrestling with this new dilemma. I started praying, “God, something's not right. What's wrong? I'm not happy.” The more I prayed, the more unhappy and dissatisfied I became. Finally, I decided to visit a different church from the one I usually attended. While I was inside, I was praying again, “God, something's not right.” Suddenly, He gave me the answer! I heard myself say, “Something's not right, something's not right between You and me!” I was stunned at the revelation, but decided I should press forward. So, I continued praying, “Come into my life the way it was meant to be.” God heard me and answered! I will tell you later what happened next. . .

4. So What Had I Been Experiencing? - I had been experiencing “spiritual thirst.”

a) In the Bible, Jesus said to a woman who came to draw water from a well, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:13-14). So for years that had been true, my relationship with God had satisfied me. But now I had a thirst for ... I didn't know, I couldn't figure it out.

b) The Bible tells us that at certain times, God draws us even closer to Him. God said, “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you” (Jeremiah 31:3) During that time, we experience a new spiritual thirst, a thirst for more of God. “O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you” (Psalm 63:1).

c) Jesus spoke of a thirst for the Holy Spirit. “Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*” (John 7:37-39).

5. Are You Experiencing Spiritual Thirst? - Could it be possible that if you did get everything you think you want, that you could find out that you still are not happy, still not satisfied? Could it be that you have a spiritual thirst, a thirst for a relationship with God? When God created us, He made a place in our heart for Him to reside. Nothing else can fill that void, that emptiness. If you already do have a relationship with Him, He could be calling you to a deeper, more intimate, more powerful one.

a) **If you have not yet received Jesus as your Lord and Savior**, you may be thirsting for that **peace** that your sins are forgiven. For that **love, acceptance, and joy** that our Heavenly Father is offering you. “In Your presence is fullness of joy” (Psalm 16:11). Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). You need to confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior. “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has





raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:9-10).

b) If you did receive Jesus, but for any reason, have left that relationship, you may be thirsting for that spiritual vacuum to be refilled. Come back to Him with a new obedience and commitment. David, in the Bible, left God; this is his prayer when he wanted to return to Him. “For I acknowledge my transgressions,

And my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, ... Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the **joy** of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit” (Psalm 51:3-4, 10-12).

c) If you still have a relationship with Jesus, but are not satisfied, it could be that He is calling you to a deeper, more powerful and dynamic one with Him. “that you may know what is the hope of His calling” (Ephesians 1:18). “My soul thirsts for God, for the living God” (Psalm 42:2). “Now may the God of **hope** fill you with all **joy** and **peace** in believing, that you may abound in hope by the **power of the Holy Spirit**” (Romans 15:13), Who is called the Comforter (John 14:26).

6. That Was My Situation. - I was going to a Christian university and spending more time praying and reading the Bible. I didn’t realize God was calling me closer to Him. In that moment, when I totally surrendered and said, “Come into my life as it was meant to be,” I was filled with the Holy Spirit, which is called the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and started speaking in tongues. (This was not taught in my church nor university.) But when He welled up inside of me, I felt as though I was filled with **love** and swimming in **love**. ‘because the **love** of God has been poured out in our hearts by the **Holy Spirit**’ (Romans 5:5). It was “**joy** unspeakable and full of glory” (1 Peter 1:8). It was “the **peace** of God that passes understanding” (Philippians 4:7). “for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but **righteousness** and **peace** and **joy** in the Holy Spirit” (Romans 14:17). That was more than 50 years ago. That rich relationship with God still fills me daily, whenever I turn to Him and ask Him. So, no matter where you are with God, you can fill your spiritual thirst by seeking Him with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:13), and tell Him you are thirsty for more of Him. Ask Him to **come into your life the way it was meant to be**.

7. Suggested Prayers:

a) If you need salvation you may pray: “Dear Jesus, I repent of my sins and ask You to forgive me for all my sins and cleanse me from all my sinful ways. I repent from trying to live my life my way and ask You to be my Lord. Make me the kind of person You want me to be. Right now Jesus, I open my heart and receive You as my personal Lord and Savior. I want to have a new vibrant relationship with God. In Jesus’ name I pray. AMEN!”

b) If you need to come back to Jesus you may pray: “Dear Jesus, I am sorry that I left You. I repent of my sins and ask You to help me repair our relationship. I do want You to be the Lord of my life as well as my Savior. Help me fulfill my God-given destiny. It’s not my will, but Yours that will be done in my life. In Jesus’ name I pray. AMEN!”

c) If you want a deeper walk with God and want the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, you may pray: “Dear God, I am so thirsty for more of You. Please, fill me with your Spirit, just like You did in the Bible to the early Christians and are doing to millions of Christians around the world. In Jesus’ name I pray. AMEN!” (Acts 2:4, 10:44-46, 19:6; 1Corinthians 14:4-5).

8. Now that you have prayed, God will start revealing Himself to you more. But to steadily improve your relationship with God, spend time with Him. Start praying to Him. Read His book, the Bible, where He reveals Himself even more clearly. Daily, ask Him to become involved in your life and request His advice, direction, even correction. Obey Him when He reveals His will to you. Spend time with others who love God too. Go to a good church where you feel God’s presence, they preach the Bible and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and where you can fellowship with believers. We learn much about God from each other. God bless you!

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