

SPIRITUAL THIRST IS OF GOD

The "whosoever will" of Revelation 22:17 only includes those who have a spiritual longing for the water of life. Unregenerate sinners have no such spiritual will or desire, and therefore have no thirst for righteousness. God's children are "made willing" only "in the day of His power" (Psalm 110:3); that is, in the day when He exerts His power in their regeneration; at which time He gives them divine light, humble hearts, and spiritual yearnings. Prior to that time they have no desire for His company and no interest in the knowledge of His ways (Job 21:14). When we see persons showing an interest in the things of the Spirit of God we may rightly conclude that they are subjects of grace and that God, at some point, has placed His Holy Spirit within their souls. The Lord pronounces a special blessing upon those who "hunger and thirst" after righteousness (Matt. 5:6); and indeed they are blessed, for they have the precious promise that they shall be filled. They are not blessed as a result of hungering and thirsting after righteousness, but they hunger and thirst after righteousness as a result of being blessed. What wonderful blessings are the bread of God's truth, and the spiritual water of life, and a divine yearning for both! How thankful we should be if we have within our souls such a true hunger and thirst! None of those who have such desires will be sent empty away.—Elder Ralph Harris