



SATISFY  
— *my* —  
THIRSTY  
SOUL

*a woman's guide  
to deeper intimacy with God*

LINDA DILLOW

TEN-WEEK BIBLE STUDY INCLUDED

Linda Dillow is passionate about worship—not the one-hour church kind of worship, but *ultimate* worship—worship that allows us to experience deep emotional intimacy with God. She writes, “Worship is the path to experiencing the presence of God, the way to face-to-face intimacy.” With compelling testimonies and wisdom gained from her life of worship, Dillow teaches us to express our love and praise to the Lord in every facet of our daily lives. This ultimate worship is life-changing, and only in this closeness with the Lord can we truly find God’s love and presence needed to fully satisfy our thirsty souls. Thank you, Linda, for giving us this clarion call to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.

CYNTHIA HEALD, author of the *Becoming a Woman of . . .*  
Bible studies, *The Faithful Way*, and *Living Wisely*

Linda Dillow’s books always stir my desire to trust God’s love more completely. *Satisfy My Thirsty Soul* is a classic worth reading—or rereading.

JEAN FLEMING, author of *Pursue the Intentional Life*

For many years I have been on a quest to draw near to God, who seemed distant and illusive to me. Much to my surprise, He condescended and met me as I took Linda’s challenge to seek Him daily in worship. As I slowly bowed my hopes and dreams before the Lord, I was dazzled by His love and filled with awe and delightful expectation.

BEV DESALVO, author of *Return to Joy*

As I turned each page of *Satisfy My Thirsty Soul*, I realized how parched I really was. God used Linda's words to sift through some big thoughts and gaps in my own life. And ohhhh how I needed to gulp from the everlasting water only Christ can give. Throughout this entire book, Linda continues to swoop around in meaningful ways to give us a beautifully satiating drink while learning more about ourselves and our Savior. I'm grateful that she doesn't hover atop the fluff . . . but rather dives deeply into what's substantial, forcing us to jump in with her, drenching ourselves fully.

TERESA SWANSTROM ANDERSON, author of the  
Get Wisdom series

I have long admired Linda Dillow's giftedness at drawing thousands of readers into intimate relationships with God and others through her words. In *Satisfy My Thirsty Soul*, Linda takes us on a tender journey to discover the intimacy of worship as an organic part of our daily lives. Through transparently revealing her own experiences as well as the experiences of others, we begin to see the transforming power of "life as worship." You'll find deep spiritual refreshment in these pages as you awaken to the presence of God in remarkable new ways.

MAGGIE WALLEM ROWE, speaker and author of *This Life We Share*

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*Satisfy My Thirsty Soul: A Woman's Guide to Deeper Intimacy with God*

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## FOREWORD

I'VE KNOWN LINDA for twenty-five years—and when I say “know,” I’m not talking about a surface, let’s-meet-for-lunch kind of know. I’m talking about the I-know-every-quirk-you-have-and-I-can-finish-your-sentences kind of know. You only get to know someone on that level when you spend lots of time together and, as writing/speaking/travel buddies, we enjoyed *ennnnndless* hours with one another. So when Linda says she had a spiritual awakening, I testify that this is true because I saw it happen. When I first met Linda, it was as if she were a beautiful rose bud with its petals folded tightly on one another—but over the course of several years, each petal relaxed, unfurled, and gloriously opened up to God until she was in full bloom.

What caused this spiritual explosion, this awakening, this full bloom? In large part, it was God wooing her. But in equal part it was her dogged determination to relentlessly pursue God regardless of what it cost her. Linda started the day on

her knees, she often dropped to her knees throughout the day, and at night she closed her eyes with praise on her lips. She'd even get up at 3:00 a.m. and fall to her knees to worship. I know because we often shared a hotel room when we traveled together, and I'd look over in the wee hours of the morning and see that Linda's bed was empty. She was on the floor, seeking "her beloved," as she'd come to call Him. These encounters changed her. She began to think differently. She approached conflict differently. God birthed new authority and power in her life, but it was laced with such a soft humility that her actions did not call attention to herself. Still, God was causing worldwide impact through my friend's words and actions.

*Satisfy My Thirsty Soul* is a documentation of what God did in Linda's life during those years. It's a testimony of her deep longing for God and how He satisfied that. It's a summary of the books, practices, and people that urged the rose that is Linda to bloom.

Maybe you're thinking that you want this kind of spiritual intimacy but it'll never happen because God reserves that kind of closeness for "special people," or pastors, or leaders in church—not for an "ordinary" person like you. *Oh, my friend, don't buy that lie! God longs for intimacy with you!* He longs to be one *with you*, to work and play *with you*, to infuse you with everything you need so you can do life *with Him!*

God is calling you now, wooing you now through these words, just as He wooed Linda many years ago. Can you hear His still, small voice? Can you picture His outstretched hand as He asks you to come to Him? Will you say yes? Will you

FOREWORD

agree to pursue God with everything within you—no matter the cost? Right now, will you take your first step toward Him?

If so, turn the page. *Satisfy My Thirsty Soul* will teach you some of the practical “how-tos” and inspire you with real testimonies from other women who made the commitment to pursue intimacy with God.

In the end, may you, too, know what it means to call Him your beloved.

*Lorraine Pintus*  
*author, speaker, and writing coach*



PART 1

WAKING UP

— *to* —

WORSHIP







CHAPTER 1

MY  
THIRSTY  
SOUL

*O God, you are my God,  
earnestly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you,  
my body longs for you,  
in a dry and weary land  
where there is no water.*

PSALM 63:1, NIV

*T*HE SETTING WAS IDEAL for a twenty-first-century fairy tale. Hidden away from the main road in a quaint Austrian village, the four-hundred-year-old church stood next to a farmhouse with geranium-filled window boxes. Wheat stalks swayed in the fields and cows lowed in the barn, creating an intoxicating, old-world charm.

I was in this delightful setting for a family celebration: the marriage of my son Nicolai to his beloved, Christina. The wedding ceremony would take place here, in this picture-perfect stone church, and the dinner and reception would be in a castle. Definitely fairy-tale material.

As I sat in the first row of the church, I looked behind me at Christina, who was waiting to come down the aisle. Such exquisite joy illumined her face that I gasped out loud. Then I gazed at my son, waiting at the front of the sanctuary for his

bride. He was taking such delight in her that his face shone as if a neon light had switched on inside him.

Of course, I cried as the bride came face-to-face with her bridegroom. I watched my son drink her in with his eyes as she proclaimed, “I love you so much, Nic!” They were oblivious of their audience, oblivious of the flickering candles casting a glow on their faces. Only the two of them existed. Their faces expressed the sentiment of their hearts: “We have found what we were looking for.”

Don’t all women hope to feel this same way? Don’t our hearts clamor for deep soul satisfaction, for a oneness that quenches our thirst for closeness and satisfies our empty places?

I’ve talked to thousands of women, and no matter what language we speak or what country we call home, most of us yearn for face-to-face intimacy. Or as some describe intimacy: *into-me-see*.

Many women seek to find such intimacy through marriage. I certainly did. I was twenty-one years old and a new Christian when I married Jody. Having spent my teenage years flitting like a butterfly from one boyfriend to the next, I made a vow to my new Lord that went something like this: *God, I’m through with guys. I’m going to be like my mentor and stay single and travel around the country and speak*. Nice vow, but two weeks after I made it, I spotted Jody Dillow across the room at a Christian conference for college students and *plotted* to meet him. We were married a year later.

I married young because I found a great man. I married young because I was thirsty for intimacy and deep love. Having grown up with an abusive, alcoholic father, I had

holes in my heart. Now I had Jesus and Jody, and was I excited! Jesus gave me purpose in life, and Jody . . . oh, I was excited to be his bride! Visions of deep communication, soul connection, and joyous lovemaking danced in my head. I was going to be the wife of the century. We would have an intimate oneness that was breathtaking and all-encompassing. Each year our intimacy would grow ever deeper.

After five children and fifty-six years of marriage, I can say that Jody and I have grown more in love with each other. Our intimacy has deepened, along with our respect and acceptance of each other. But that doesn't mean that our marriage has been easy. While a few years were almost fairy-tale-like, others have been far from a fairy tale. Deep intimacy always requires work, acceptance, and forgiveness. Lots of it.

Women begin marriage with the expectation of deepening intimacy, but sadly, in most marriages, intimacy fades. Children, jobs, house payments, and a hectic life erode the longed-for intimacy, substituting it with daily drudgery.

No woman I know got married in order to be a cook and housekeeper to a man, but too often a wife settles for serving her husband. Oh yes, she loves him and he loves her, but who has time for breathtaking oneness when children need to be bathed, dinner needs to be prepared, and the lawn needs to be mowed?

Women also search for intimacy in our relationships with other women. Friendship, fun, food, laughter, and trust. But many experience only surface friendships about clothes, kids,

and food, when what we hope for is to find a dear friend with whom we can share our hearts.

I wanted face-to-face friendships with women, but I wondered, *Is this even possible?* At age fifty, I moved from Austria to Hong Kong and began making new friends. When I was fifty-three, God made it clear to Jody and me that we were to move back to the States, and feelings of loneliness filled my heart. I cried, “No, God, I can’t start all over again with friendships. It takes too long when you don’t have a history together.” But God had a surprise waiting for me in Colorado Springs—my soul sister, my writing and speaking partner, Lorraine Pintus. We know each other’s hearts; we feel each other’s pain. We even finish each other’s sentences!

Once when Lorraine and I were on stage at an Intimate Issues Conference (based on one of the books we have coauthored, *Intimate Issues*),<sup>1</sup> she told the audience, “It is really great to travel with Linda because being with Linda is like being with nobody!” I had to assure the surprised audience that her words were *really* a compliment! Lorraine was trying to communicate that such a oneness characterizes our friendship that we are free to talk or be silent, free to drop to our knees to pray and worship, free to be who we are.

Yes, I longed for deep intimacy in marriage and for authentic *into-me-see* friendships with other women. But most of all, I yearned for intimate knowing in my relationship with Christ. As a new believer, I often said my purpose was to know Him and make Him known. Too often, though, my emphasis was more on making Him known than on knowing

Him. I had been purposeless before becoming a Christian, and now I had a purpose: win the world for Christ. My heart was adorned with service and ministry. To be sure, it was a noble goal, but often this pursuit superseded loving my Lord and sitting at His feet and worshipping Him.

I longed for intimacy, ecstasy, and a deep relationship with my Bridegroom, but as the years passed and life became hectic and complicated, I settled for serving the One I loved. My loving Bridegroom walked the earth, searching, calling, bending down, and tenderly whispering to my heart in hopes of slowing me down long enough to embrace Him. He gently called to me:

“Linda, will you come sit on my lap?”

*Lord, I have to prepare a Bible study. I'll come later . . .*

“Linda, will you come talk with me?”

*Lord, I have to cook a meal for some of your children. I promise I'll come later.*

But “later” never came. I was just too busy doing good things *for* Him.

My desire to serve God was good, but my priorities were out of order. God's Word clearly says that the first and most important part of following Him is this: to love God with all our being (Matthew 22:37-38). This is the *first* and greatest commandment. The *second* commandment is loving others, which includes ministry or works of service (Matthew 22:39). I had reversed these two commandments.

It's so important to be able to say, *I am not primarily a worker for God; I am first and foremost a lover of God.* This is who I am today, but I have not always lived that way. Bob

Sorge once wrote, “All of us need to be lovers who work rather than workers who love.”<sup>2</sup> But for so many years, I was a worker who loved. The result was overload and burnout.

When our priorities become turned around and we place more emphasis on loving others than on loving God, we are headed for spiritual and physical exhaustion.

### **Searching for Something More**

This is where I was in 1994. I sat on my navy-blue couch in the living room of my fifth-floor Hong Kong apartment, watching a gecko skitter across the wall. As I looked out my window at myriad high-rise apartment buildings, I felt stirrings and longings I didn’t understand. Why did I feel so empty? I loved my husband and my family. I loved the Lord. What more could any woman want? I was a faithful servant of my God, willing to move from continent to continent to teach and train women. I had everything that should bring soul satisfaction, yet deep down, where no one but God sees, I was thirsty for more. But what was the “more”?

And why was I thirsty? Because I was bone-weary from being on the mission field for many years. I was thirsty because I wanted more of God. I longed for a personal encounter with Him. God spoke to me in His Word, but I desired to hear His personal voice to me. I yearned for joy unspeakable; for a deeper union and oneness; for spiritual, bridal union. I didn’t want to settle for God’s omnipresence, where I knew He was everywhere, or even for His wonderful, abiding presence. I thirsted for face-to-face intimacy with God.



I called out to God, *Satisfy my thirsty soul, for I am desperate for your presence! Oh, God, restore the joy of my salvation!* I was crying out to Him. I wasn't sure what I was crying out for, and I didn't know where it would take me, but I knew I would never experience face-to-face intimacy with God until I put Him first and service second. I can't tell you why I couldn't see that intimate knowing of God must come before serving Him. I only know that God began to woo me, to place within me a desire to know Him intimately.

### What God Longs For

I began reading through the Bible, looking for passages about intimacy, and soon found evidence that God seeks intimacy with each of us, including you and me. Scripture describes our relationship with Him with word pictures of love, marriage, sexuality, and fidelity. Here are some examples:

- God loves us with an everlasting love. He loved us first (Jeremiah 31:3).
- God calls idolatry “adultery” (Isaiah 57:7, NLT).
- He calls Himself the Bridegroom and He calls us the bride (2 Corinthians 11:2, TPT).

God says that we are to be as close to Him spiritually as we are physically to our husbands in sexual union:

For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two

shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:31-32).

I first understood the holy beauty in these verses when Lorraine Pintus and I wrote *Intimate Issues*. The Lord allowed me to see that He chose the closest, most intimate act on earth, the sexual union between husband and wife, to portray the holy beauty of my spiritual intimacy with Him. It was as if He said, “Look, Linda, and understand. Enter into the glorious joy of the marriage union. See, feel, and deeply know physical intimacy and ecstasy. Then lift your eyes, my daughter—lift them and know—this is the degree of spiritual intimacy and ecstasy that I long to share with you.”

As I studied the Word, I became convinced that God seeks intimacy with us. I also saw that face-to-face intimacy with God is a choice.

### **The Choice of Face-to-Face Intimacy**

In both the Old and New Testaments, we see four levels of intimacy with God. We see it in the relationship that the Israelites had with God, and we also see it in the relationship that Jesus’ followers had with Him.<sup>3</sup>

As we look at the levels of intimacy the Israelites had with God, envision a bull’s-eye with four circles, with the outer circle representing a flagging interest in God and the inner circle—the bull’s-eye—representing face-to-face intimacy.

The general Israelite population represents *the outer circle*,

which is the largest group and the furthest away from God. God was about to give Moses the Ten Commandments, and He asked Moses to prepare all the people for the manifestation of His presence on Mount Sinai. They would see God's visible presence, but they were forbidden to come near Him. Boundaries were set to ensure that the people did not come up the mountain (Exodus 19:11-12).

The priests and elders represent *the second circle* of intimacy, which is closer to God. The elders of Israel pressed past the barriers and had a much more intimate vision of God than the people had. They must have felt the presence of God. They experienced far more than the general population, but seeing a vision of God did not change their lives. Only a short time later, they were worshipping the golden calf (Exodus 32:18).

We find Joshua in *the third circle*, which is yet closer to God. Joshua often lingered in God's presence (Exodus 33:11). He longed to be where God manifested Himself. Joshua ascended higher on the mountain of glory than any other, except Moses (Exodus 24:13-14).

Moses represents *the inner circle*, which is face-to-face intimacy. He talked face-to-face with God as a friend (Exodus 33:11). This is true intimacy—friend-to-friend, face-to-face. Remarkable! After God brought the Israelites out of Egypt, Moses led the people to Mount Sinai. On several occasions, God summoned Moses to climb the mountain and fellowship with Him. Twice, intimate encounters lasted for forty days. When the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, Moses alone communed with God (Exodus 24:15-18).

Just as the Old Testament pictures four levels of intimacy between the Israelites and God, the Gospels show us four levels of intimacy between Jesus and His disciples. Again, envision the bull's-eye with the goal, face-to-face intimacy, as the center. Jesus chose *seventy* men and then sent them out two-by-two (the outer circle). Jesus chose *twelve* disciples to be His inner group (the second circle). *Three* of those disciples shared even greater intimacy with Jesus: Peter, James, and John (the third circle). One disciple called himself “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (the inner circle). During the Last Supper, John rested against Jesus’ breast, a posture of deep intimacy.

Both Moses and John chose intimacy. When Moses said, “Let me know Your ways” (Exodus 33:13), I think that what he was asking was, “Take me deeper into your confidence, God.” John chose to nestle up to Jesus’ breast. Any of the disciples could have experienced this intimate relationship with Jesus, but only John chose it. Intimacy is a choice. We either do the work required to keep the fire alive, or we don’t.

### **The Most Important Thing**

As I continued searching God’s Word, I realized that Paul, David, and Mary—who all knew God intimately—chose the one important thing that leads to true intimacy with God.

Paul’s salvation experience on the road to Damascus took place about thirty years before he wrote about desiring “one thing”: “*One thing* I do: forgetting what lies behind and

reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13-14, emphasis mine). Paul had won many spiritual battles and had grown much in those years. But he still had more spiritual heights to climb.<sup>4</sup> Paul wanted the first-century believers to know that his “one thing” was to run toward God and press in to Him.

David also chose to passionately pursue “one thing.” He wrote, “*One thing* I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD and to meditate in His temple” (Psalm 27:4, emphasis mine).

In *Pleasures Evermore*, author Sam Storms observes:

David desired to dwell in the presence of God, to behold God, to meditate upon the beauty and splendor of God, to bask in the invigorating light and glory of everything that makes God an object of our affection and delight and adoration. . . .

The results of this passionate pursuit of God are staggering. Not only is beholding the beauty of the Lord indescribably enjoyable, it is profoundly transforming.<sup>5</sup>

We become like the one we think about, the one we gaze on. Both Paul and David were transformed as they beheld the beauty of the Lord. This is because “beholding is a way of becoming.”<sup>6</sup> As we behold Christ, we are changed.

Transformed. As we meditate on the beauty and character of Christ, some of His goodness rubs off on us.

When Mary of Bethany's sister, Martha, complained that Mary was not helping her prepare the meal for Jesus and His disciples, Jesus replied: "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only *one thing* is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:41-42, emphasis mine). Jesus did not say that Martha's service was unimportant; He pointed out that Mary's choice to sit at His feet to learn and worship Him was the better choice. His words to Martha were His words to me. Like me, Martha had reversed the order of worship and service.

Paul's *one thing* was David's *one thing* was Mary's *one thing*. As I realized these truths, I faced a big question: Would I also choose face-to-face intimacy with God? Would my pursuit of Him become my one thing? Yes! I longed to be a woman of *one thing*: face-to-face intimacy with my God.

When I shared my desire with a friend, she said, "Linda, isn't that a bit presumptuous? To know the Creator of the universe intimately? To talk with Him face-to-face?" But it's not presumptuous. This kind of intimacy with God is biblical. So I prayed, *God, I want to intimately know you, wherever it takes me, whatever the cost.*

I wanted to know: How in the world do I become like Moses, John, Mary, David, and Paul? What is the path to this face-to-face intimacy, and how do I find it? God used a friend and His Word to answer my questions.

## My Path to God's Presence

Those who know the Lord intimately often make us painfully hungry for a deeper experience of Christ. It is the greatest of all influences—to provoke another to thirst, to pant as a deer after the Living Water (Psalm 42; John 4:10).

Over twenty years ago, I visited Mimi Wilson's home for the first time. We shared a delicious lunch, as Mimi is a renowned cook. Right after the delightful meal, she said, "Let's worship together." I wondered what we were going to do. Mimi turned on some worship music and fell to her knees. Having no clue what was to come, I followed her example and knelt by her couch. We basked in a sweet silence as the music played softly. We whispered words of honor, declaring the wonder and majesty of the Father, and for the first time, I had an inkling of what it meant to "worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness" (Psalm 29:2, KJV). Time stood still, and prayer flowed naturally from our worship. When I got up off my knees, I knew I had been enveloped by the presence of God. This experience was par for the course for Mimi. Through her, I learned that I, too, could bask in the presence of God.

Had I experienced an emotional state, or does God say we can experience His presence? I went to the Word to see for myself. I wanted evidence. Here is what I uncovered.

First, Psalm 89 says that in the act of worship, God can become a reality to us: "Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship, for they will walk in the light of your presence, LORD" (Psalm 89:15, NLT).

This is what C. S. Lewis discovered. The famous author of *The Chronicles of Narnia* series struggled with God's desire to be adored and praised. He couldn't understand why God wanted to be the center of affection and attention. But then Lewis eventually understood the reason: that "in the process of being worshipped . . . God communicates His presence to men."<sup>7</sup>

Second, Psalm 63 goes even further, teaching us that worship can satisfy our thirsty souls. David wrote:

O God, you are my God,  
earnestly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you,  
my body longs for you,  
in a dry and weary land  
where there is no water.

I have seen you in the sanctuary  
and beheld your power and your glory.  
Because your love is better than life,  
my lips will glorify you.

PSALM 63:1-3, NIV

*The Message* captures David's excitement:

God—you're my God!  
I can't get enough of you!  
I've worked up such hunger and thirst for God,  
traveling across dry and weary deserts.



So here I am in the place of worship, eyes open,  
drinking in your strength and glory.  
In your generous love I am really living at last!

God's presence so overtakes David as he worships that he says he will bless the Lord with every breath.

Third, in Psalm 16, David says soul satisfaction comes from knowing God's presence.

You will make known to me the path of life;  
in Your presence is fullness of joy;  
in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

PSALM 16:11

Think about what David is saying. God wants to give us a joy that infinitely transcends all other joys combined in the power and potential to satisfy, thrill, fill, and fulfill us. He offers us spiritual ecstasy, which is incomparable, unparalleled, and unfathomable. And He says it will be found in only one place: in His presence, at His right hand.<sup>8</sup>

As I studied the Word and witnessed others who were experiencing deep emotional intimacy with God, the truth became clear: *Worship is the path to experiencing the presence of God, the way to face-to-face intimacy.*

## The Facets of Worship

*Worship?* Are you confused? "What," you may ask, "does worship have to do with my thirsty soul being satisfied?" Perhaps

your idea about worship is similar to that of Mindy, a woman I met at a retreat. I was speaking on becoming a woman of purpose, contentment, faith, and worship. Mindy told me, “Linda, I was excited to come to this retreat because I want to be a woman of purpose, contentment, and faith, but I couldn’t figure out why you were speaking about worship. Singing just isn’t my thing.” To Mindy, worship was simply singing praise songs.

I can remember when I felt like Mindy. I used to believe that worship was the twenty minutes of corporate singing before the sermon on Sunday morning. But I was so wrong! Worship is a multifaceted diamond.

I wanted to learn all there was to know about worship, so I began reading through the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, and I asked God to teach me. I must be a slow learner because this is the twentieth year that I’ve read through the Bible, and my request is still the same. During these years, God has led me to a startling discovery:

*Worship is not just a specific act. It is also a lifestyle.  
Worship is a specific act of bowing my knees and  
declaring, “Holy, holy, holy.” Worship is also a lifestyle  
of bowing my life and living “holy, holy, holy.”*

Worship begins in holy expectancy and ends in holy obedience. The specific act of worship—bowing my knees in holy expectancy—has taken me into the presence of God and true intimacy. The lifestyle of worship—bowing my life

in holy obedience—has taken me to a new level of living faithfully for Christ.

Here is what these two aspects of worship look like in my life. In the morning, when I kneel in worship before the Lover of my soul, I worship Him with my words, with song, and in the beauty of stillness and silence. I praise Him with the psalms of David and with personal psalms that flow from my heart of love. I listen for His voice. Then I get up and walk in the world of relationships with a husband, grown children, grandchildren, and friends.

As I walk through my life, I walk differently than I did before I began to understand what worship looks like. Now, I see all my life as an opportunity to bow before my King in worship. I can worship as I decorate my house, clean it, and cook many meals for others. I can worship as I travel on planes, trains, and automobiles, as I teach God's Word to women. I can worship as I speak and write books. It has been a true joy to see *all* my words as worship and *all* my work as worship. I rejoice that I now see my pain as a sacrifice to bow before my Lord in worship.

Worship is the lifestyle of a grateful heart. To worship God is to respond to a Lover who always loves and always draws near. What is my love response to the One who has given all? I can only bow before Him every day.

I bow my knees. I bow my words.

I bow my attitude. I bow my work.

I bow my pain.

I bow my will.

I bow ONLY to HIM.

As I bow before my Lord every day, I have discovered some wonderful benefits.

### **The Benefits of Worship**

In my early years as a Christian, my passion was for my purpose—to serve, to minister to people, to disciple. Now I have a passion for God Himself! God has changed me from a servant to a worshiper. Does this mean I no longer serve others? No. In fact, I serve *more*, but my service flows from a different place—from a heart saturated with worship, from a heart drenched with the presence of God.

Worship has also deepened and expanded my prayer life. Prayer flows more naturally; it flows out of worship.

Worship has elevated my choice to obey God. Obedience has taken on a higher purpose. In the past, I memorized many convicting passages from Proverbs and James about my words. I wanted to honor God with what came out of my mouth. Of course this pleased the Lord, but, oh, the difference now that I understand that my words can literally be as worship!

As I've learned to walk my worship, I have grown spiritually. I have always longed to know God's voice to me personally, and now His voice is louder, and I hear His personal words to me. The joy of God's presence is a daily reality. My heart is fixed on worshipping the Holy One. I see all of my life as worship, and this is transforming who I am.

I was thirsty, and God satisfied my soul with deep intimacy with Him.

## Are You Thirsty?

Are you thirsty? Do you know why? Perhaps like me you are stretched thin with weariness. Perhaps like me you are desperate for God's presence and a vital intimacy with Him. Or maybe you feel just a little bit thirsty or are not sure what you feel. Wherever you are, I invite you to come with me on this exciting adventure of knowing Christ intimately and basking in His presence.

Come, learn about the specific act of worship and drink from God's well of delight. You will find it oh-so-satisfying to your soul!

Come, learn about worship as a lifestyle. As you understand how to bow your words, work, pain, and every area of your life, obedience will become a joy.

Worship!

It's what angels do.

It's what Satan wants (Matthew 4:8-9).

It's a major theme in the Bible.

It's why we were created.

It draws us into the presence of God.

I worship God all day, every day. I find such joy and freedom that it is difficult to express in a few words all I am learning about worship. It would take a whole book—and so that is what I have written. You are holding that book in your hands.

So, my friend, will you join me on this journey?

Do you want to have your life changed? *Become a worshiper.*

MY THIRSTY SOUL

Do you want to know the presence of God? *Become a worshiper.*

Do you long for deep, soul-satisfying, face-to-face intimacy? *Become a worshiper.*

The call goes forth:

Come, let us worship and bow down,

Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

PSALM 95:6