

## Our Longing for God

*As the deer pants for the water brooks,  
So my soul pants for You, O God.  
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. (Psalm 42:1-2, NASB)*

My wife grew up on a farm in the upper peninsula of Michigan, number 10 out of 12 children. Her dad died when she was 11, and the family resettled together in the Cincinnati area. I came along, married her, and whisked her off to Kansas City in response to God's call. That physical disconnect from her large, close family has left her with a longing that nothing else has been able to fill.

Many of us share her feeling  
    in one form or another.  
We feel cut-off,  
    incomplete,  
    somehow alone,  
        even with others.  
We have deep desires that  
    we can't even identify,  
    much less fulfill.  
Our hearts are not satisfied.  
We are not home.

As a result, we embark on a life-long quest.  
We seek for  
    relationships,  
    comfort,  
    pleasure,  
    money, and  
    meaning.  
In their place,  
all of these are  
    good gifts from a  
    good God.

But He Himself is the  
    Source and  
    substance  
of all that is good.  
When we long  
    for pleasure,  
    for peace,

for joy,  
for rightness,  
for home,  
we are longing for  
Him.

Our deep longing is  
our All-in-all God  
drawing us to Himself.

**Hymn: Longing for Home**