Have you tried your best to live a "good life?"

Tried to be Honest? Fair? Care for others? Do the "right thing?"

> Yet....There is still something empty deep within?

Have you tried many ways to fill that emptiness?

Career? Family?
House?
Possessions?
Internet? Parties?
Sports?
Entertainment?

Yet....There is still that <u>hunger</u>, that <u>thirst</u>?

A "Good Life" is not enough!

A very "proper" man named Nicodemus once came to Jesus quietly one night. He was very religious, well educated, and well respected. He had lived a "good" life and done everything right. Yet he came to Jesus, a man of much lower standing, uneducated and despised. Jesus' first words to him were,

"Unless a man is born anew he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3)

You and I, like Nicodemus, may have never heard such a thing! A new birth? A new life?

We need to receive a "New Life!"

No matter how good your life might be you must receive <u>a new life!</u>

Jesus said,

"I have come that they may have life, and may have it abundantly. I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." (John 10:10-11)

The good Shepherd laid down His life so that we may have this New Life, abundant Life, the eternal Life!

The Lord desires that we each would open to Him to receive this Life

Everything in our life leaves us "thirsty!"

Jesus once spoke with a woman while they stood beside a well. She had already had 5 husbands and was now with a 6th man. She had tried to "quench her thirst" with human relationships but each one left her unsatisfied, thirsting, and looking for more. He asked her for a drink. Then He told her,

"If you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." (John 4:10)

Only the Living Water can quench our thirst!

"Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into eternal life." (John 4:14)

The woman at the well said,

"Sir, give me this water so that I will not thirst!"

The Lord desires to hear such a prayer from each of us! And He will answer your prayer by giving you the living water!

Simply open to Him in honest prayer!

"Ask and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you." (Matt 7:7)

Jesus came that we may have life. This is the eternal life of God. He comes into us to live in us!

But he requires us to open to him, coming honestly, just as we are, receiving His forgiveness. He is ready to forgive all of our sins and shortcomings.

Open to Him. Pray. Wherever you are. No matter what obstacle seems to be in the way. He is drawing your heart to him.

Your prayer can be very simple:

"Lord Jesus, I open my heart to You. Thank You for all that you have done. Thank You for forgiving me. Lord, I need Your forgiveness. Thank You for dying for me.

Now, Lord, I open to You to receive You. Lord, come into me. Be that New Life within me. Fill me with Living Water. Be the Lord of my life. Jesus Christ is Lord. Thank You, Lord Jesus. Amen."

The church in Willoughby meets at: 5563 SOM Center Rd. Willoughby, OH 44094 www.thechurchinwilloughby.org

Speaking what we have "Seen and Heard." (Acts 4:20)
Shared in a recent meeting of the church in Willoughby.

Spoken by Barry R.