

Hungry for God – Week 2

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Pray...

Have you ever been HANGRY? So hungry you got irritable and touchy? When you are so hungry... what is the most important thing on your mind?

To find something to eat and quickly!

It's similar to being thirsty on a hot summer day... a cold drink becomes the quest, nothing else will do! Hunger is active, thirst is active... not passive, hunger and thirst drive physical desires that are hard to deny or put off.

Most of us have heard the old saying... “You are what you eat.” Right now many of us are judging what we had for our last meal or last few meals or wondering what others are thinking we ate last when they look us!

You are what you eat... what you consume consistently not only fills you but also FORMS you... in other words... **what feeds you, not only fills you up but forms you.** What you look like, how healthy you are, your mobility, your ability to think and how you live.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled”
Matthew 5:6

Hunger = to crave, to be famished, to be in a state of hunger, to desire strongly, to pine for.

Thirst = *painfully feel, suffer and long for, greatly desire.*

Righteousness = right standing with God

Filled = To supply with food, to fatten up, to gorge on abundance

Jesus states that a blessed life is a hungry for God life... to crave, desire, painfully desire, pine for, long for, thirst for a deep, right relationship with a God who is hungry for a relationship with us!

Let that sink in for a minute... God is hungry for, desires a relationship with us... He has for a loooooong time!

Ephesians 1:4

Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love.

John 15:16

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

I choose you... what powerful words; a loving declaration of how hungry you are for a deep connection with someone. God consistently send this message over and over throughout His Word... He desires, longs for, hungers for your heart, my heart to be ONE with His heart.

So what am I saying?

A spiritual hunger and thirst is not about Bible study, prayer time, or worship services... (I have seen people involved and invested in all three but were not hungry for God) these sacred practices are important, essential and I believe a result of what I believe is the key to spiritual hunger... **I believe a spiritual hunger for God is motivated by love...** a love that goes beyond what I used to hunger/thirst for before I surrendered my life to Christ.

That love fuels a hunger for more of my Father, more of His ways in my life... this hunger produces a love that gives self-interest a back seat and focuses on the mission God has given me... this feeds, this fills me. Jesus said it this way.

John 4:31-34

"Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, 'Rabbi, eat.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Has anyone brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.'"

Jesus says my hunger is fulfilled, is satisfied by obeying what Father has asked of me... that relationship sustains me, satisfies my cravings... THIS IS HUGE! Jesus is saying, our spiritual food is to do the will of God.

You are what you eat... my hunger is not fueled by shoulds... I should read the Bible, go to church, I should witness more... the "shoulds" will never satisfy... they starve you. We fuel our appetite by pursuing God, desiring to be in His presence and seeking His ways over mine own... it's a love thing, not a should thing. Hunger is about love...

Something to further... chrew on

Hunger is an invitation – Psalm 34:8

"Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!"

Father God is looking for hearts that are open in order to stir up a hunger that will lead them to what truly satisfies our souls... more of Him! When we sense a tugging to be with Him, to know Him more, to study His Word, to ask questions, to listen to His answers... It is the drawing of the Holy Spirit... He is inviting us, stirring up our hunger and leading us to the only one who can fill us.

Hebrews 6:5

who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age--

1 Peter 2:3

...now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

What an invitation! The more you taste, the more you want... the great thing is that God stirs the pot... Spiritual hunger is not something that we can stir up by ourselves... God invites us to the feast, It all starts with Him.

John 6:44

"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day."

God produces this invitation over and over... listen to Isaiah 55:1-2

"Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. (2) Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food."

Jesus said it this way in John 6:26-35

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

Spiritual hunger... a hunger for God means accepting the invitation to come and allow something other than our natural appetite control... what we feast on. My hunger for God is fueled by my love for God. It means I love God first with everything I am... all my heart and with all my soul and with all my mind... all my strength... all of me.

I love God more than my opinions

I love God more than my desires

I love God more than my political party

I love God more than my country

I love God more than my comfort

I love God more than my dreams

I love God more than my social media rants

I love God more than my ambitions

I love God more than my life

You are what you eat... what feeds you, not only fills you up but forms you...

Let's examine our spiritual diets in the weeks ahead and dive into His presence