

# Hunger

by  
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# Hunger

## The Principle of Hunger

Hunger is one of the most foundational aspects in your relationship with the Lord. Every believer must have a spiritual hunger that can only be satisfied by Him. Christ guarantees that if we hunger for Him, we will be satisfied. Christ spoke of this principle in the Sermon on the Mount: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied” (Matthew 5:6). Only God is righteous. Therefore, to hunger after righteousness is to hunger after God (Jeremiah 23:6; Psalm 71:19).

You will never have an experience with God without being hungry. Hunger is a principle that causes God to move. When you study the history of the outpourings of God, you find that they have always been the result of people with an insatiable desire for more of Him. His moving does not happen by chance; it is the result of hunger. If you want to see God move in your life, you must develop your hunger for Him.

## God Puts You in a Place of Hunger

It is important to see that the first thing the children of Israel experienced after they were delivered from Egypt was hunger and thirst (Exodus 15:22). This was not an accident; it was by design. God led them to be hungry and thirsty. Why? So that in their yearning they would cry out to Him. He could supply anything they needed, but the real question was whether they would, in faith, focus their desire on Him.

In many ways, you could say that this was their first meeting with the Lord as a free people. He put them in a situation in which He was the only way out. They were

in the wilderness with no food or water, and they could not go back to Egypt. The physical circumstances were impossible to overcome, but all things are possible with God (Mark 10:27).

We should look at ourselves in this light. We can murmur and complain like the children of Israel, or we can hunger after Him. You're either hungry for Him or you despair. Either you're hungry or you murmur. You're hungry or you're disappointed. If you're hungry for Him, you don't think about what's gone wrong, you anticipate what He is going to do.

Following His baptism, Christ had a similar experience to that of the children of Israel. God drove His Son into the wilderness where there was nothing to eat, and when He was consumed with hunger, the devil came to tempt Him. This was the same situation the children of Israel had faced. However, Jesus refused to allow His hunger to be satiated by Satan's illusions of satisfaction. Instead, in His yearning, He cleaved to the Father as His provision (Matthew 4:1-4).

These illustrations teach us that, following our salvation, the first step we must experience in our relationship with God is hunger. Hunger was the first thing God taught the children of Israel after their deliverance, and it was the first thing that Christ experienced after His baptism. It is the solution to so many of your problems. When you are hungry for the Lord, all of His provisions are obtainable.

## **The Action of Your Hunger**

How do you describe hunger to someone? Trying to describe physical hunger is difficult. It's a primal feeling that comes from your gut, but it's almost impossible to put into words. Spiritual hunger is even harder to describe.

You may not be able to express hunger in words, but you can express it in your actions. Let me give you a practical

example: if someone yearns to be a good piano player, they will practice for hours and hours every day. If you are hungry to achieve something, you will do anything necessary to satisfy that hunger. This same thing is true on a spiritual level. If you hunger for God, you will find the actions to express it.

Since actions can be an expression of your spiritual hunger, what you do out of your hunger for Him is an act of intercession to see God manifest Himself. Do you see how creative hunger is? If you truly want a meeting with the Lord, then magnify and express your hunger. You're not polite when you are hungry, you are driven. So turn your hunger loose!

## **Works Without Hunger Are Dead**

We must be sure that everything we do is the result of this spiritual hunger. Whether it is laboring at work, learning in school, or worshiping in church, the thing that gives our actions meaning is our yearning for more of the Lord. If our activities are not born from hunger, then they are an expression of nothing. The Scriptures refer to this as "dead works" (Hebrews 6:1; 9:14). The basic definition of a dead work, therefore, is any activity that is not born out of a hunger after God.

Churches have numerous activities for members to participate in, but there isn't much of a point to them without hunger. The day we no longer hunger after the Lord is the day we should stop these activities. If we attend Sunday service for any reason other than the fact that we hunger after Him, then we might as well not have a Sunday service! As long as what we do is an expression of hunger, then we should continue to do it. Without that hunger, our programs have truly become dead works.

## Hunger Initiates God's Moving

If I would summarize the importance of Christ's Church in our generation, it would be this: to initiate, by our hunger for Him, the manifestation of the provision of the promises of God to the earth. There's no generation that ever needed an outpouring of God's presence like this generation.

Who will make that happen? Who will be hungry enough to initiate God's next unveiling? Look behind God's moving in every generation and you will find a people who somehow triggered that event by their indescribable hunger after Him. There has always been a people in intercession surrounding every miraculous manifestation of God. What is prayer and intercession? It is a way to express your hunger.

From the late 1800s through the early 1900s, the world experienced tremendous outpourings of the Spirit and presence of the Lord. These events are now identified by such names as the Welsh Revival, Azusa Street and the Latter Rain. The men and women who experienced these events interpreted them to be the fulfillment of the double-portion outpouring of God, prophesied by Joel: "...for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month" (Joel 2:23, KJV).

This prophecy is related to the agricultural cycle of the rains which accompany the seasons in Israel. Every year there was a former and latter rain, but this prophecy tells us that there will be cycles of double portion, when the former and latter rain fall in the same month.

If we apply this prophecy to the amazing movings of God that have come in the past, we must recognize that those events were not a one-time fulfillment of Joel's prophecy, but rather a fulfillment of a double portion to that generation. Although those outpourings were truly the latter rain in that time, our generation must identify them as the former rain. Their double portion is, to us,

the moderate former rain, being a sign and symbol that is reflective of the greater thing that the Lord has for this generation.

In the interpretation of Joel's prophecy, we must not miss the ongoing cycles of the outpouring of God's presence upon the earth. The outpourings of the past were the result of a hunger expressed in intercession and prayer; therefore, we must recognize that we will not see the cycle of the double portion continue without an all-consuming desire to see the greater works (John 14:12). In these days of restoration, the promise given in this prophecy must stimulate a great sense of hunger, for it is our hunger that creates the latter rain in this generation. We must break out of the human tendency to look to the past, glorifying only what God did yesterday. Instead, we must be consumed with a hunger after Him; we must believe that the appearings that have preceded us are merely a trickle compared to what God has promised. But who has the hunger to see the double portion fall on us today?

You are the initiator of what God does in this generation. You accomplish this not through your might, your skills, or even your gifts. You do this by cultivating a hunger in your heart that is constantly reaching into the Lord.

## **The Danger of Being Satisfied**

Mothers always tell their children not to eat before dinner because it will spoil their appetites. The spoiling of your spiritual appetite can happen, as well.

Maintaining your spiritual hunger should be your greatest concern. It is possible to come to the place where your hunger for the Lord is spoiled by indulging in other things. When this happens, you no longer hunger after the Lord because "the things of the world" extinguish your spiritual hunger (I John 2:15). There are many things like this: money, pride, lust, music, hobbies, careers. It could

be anything the world has to offer, whether seemingly positive, negative or benign. The world is not inherently evil; however, the danger lies in your hunger for worldly things replacing your spiritual hunger to the point where you stop seeking Him. When you get so involved with the things of the world that it doesn't bother you that the promises of God are not being fulfilled in your life, your hunger has been satisfied.

A person's hunger will guide their actions. This is one of the reasons why we should not try to discipline the flesh with rules and regulations; if you are hungry after God, you won't have to work hard at "being good." If you focus your hunger on the Lord, you will stop indulging in other things that take away your appetite for Him.

The one way spiritual hunger is absolutely different from natural hunger is that you should be driven to retain it. You always want to stay hungry spiritually. Get rid of every distraction. Eliminate anything that satisfies your hunger.

## **Being Hungry is Irritating**

O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly;  
My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You,  
In a dry and weary land where there is no water.  
(Psalm 63:1)

This is a clear picture of our lives. The world holds no provision to satisfy our spiritual hunger. Nothing else can refresh us when we hunger after God.

It is irritating to be hungry. I don't know about you, but I live in a state of being irritated. Not a minute goes by that I'm not disturbed by what we do not yet have and possess. I am disturbed by the prophecies that aren't yet fulfilled. It is not an easy thing to live in a constant state of hunger for His presence. But it's worse to see it go away.

There is no life if there is no hunger.



It is not acceptable that another generation goes by before we see the next outpouring. It is not acceptable that weeks and months and years go by without having what God has promised us. We have a Bible full of promises, but where is the fulfillment? I believe the Lord wants to move in this generation. This earth needs it. However, someone has to initiate it.

Are things going so well for you that you have lost your hunger? Search your heart to see if you have settled down. Don't become passive and refuse to contend earnestly for the faith that was once delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3).

The Scriptures tell us of men and women who served God in their generation. That is a beautiful thing, but it should not stop us from seeking Him now. Instead, it should be the proof that He can and will move today. God manifested Himself in the earth in years gone by, but it cannot be enough for us that He appeared thousands of years ago, or even just a few months ago. We must have a drive to see God manifest to us today.

## **A Prayer for More Hunger**

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied” (Matthew 5:6). This is a message of promise. The book of Hebrews tells us that “...he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6, KJV). Hunger will drive you to diligently seek Him, and He will satisfy that hunger. Whatever hunger you already have, ask the Lord to multiply it today. Your hunger can trigger a double portion in every area of your relationship with the Lord, so ask Him for a double portion of hunger.

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;

When shall I come and appear before God?  
(Psalm 42:1-2)

Give us this intense yearning, Lord. We're thirsty for You. Our souls thirst for You. Our flesh yearns for You (Psalm 63:1). When will Your presence be released to us?

Come before the Lord and say, "Let there be in the Body of Christ a yearning to see Your presence infused into this earth like water to the desert. Restore Your Church, Lord Jesus. Don't let the Body of Christ degenerate into a group that is committed to good works that are dead works. Just as You were hungry for the Father, let us be hungry for You. Let that same hunger that was in You course through our veins. Spark the fire of Your hunger in our lives so that everything we do becomes a cry from the depths of our beings to see the Lordship of Jesus Christ manifest in the earth. Amen."

# Scripture References

## The Principle of Hunger

Jeremiah 23:6—

“In His days Judah will be saved,  
And Israel will dwell securely;  
And this is His name by which He will be called,  
‘The LORD our righteousness.’”

Psalm 71:19—

For Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens,  
You who have done great things;  
O God, who is like You?

## God Puts You in a Place of Hunger

Exodus 15:22—

Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness and found no water.

Mark 10:27—

Looking at them, Jesus said, “With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.”

Matthew 4:1-4—

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”

## **Works Without Hunger Are Dead**

Hebrews 6:1—

Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God.

Hebrews 9:14—

How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

## **Hunger Initiates God's Moving**

John 14:12—

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.”

## **The Danger of Being Satisfied**

I John 2:15—

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

## **Being Hungry Is Irritating**

Jude 1:3—

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.