

MY HELPER #63
SPIRITUAL HUNGER

Matt. 5⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. NIV

I. Blessed are those

The word “blessed” in the Greek is *makarios* meaning Happy, supremely blessed, fortunate, and well off.

We therefore conclude that true happiness comes from seeking righteousness.

II. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst.

A. Hunger and thirst indicate and **emptiness**.

Spiritual Hunger or Desire does not come upon one suddenly, uninvited, and overwhelmingly. **It must be cultivated**. You must create a place of emptiness, that cries out to God to be filled.

B. Hunger and thirst are **reoccurring desires**.

We can **lose our spiritual appetite because we have allowed our souls, to be filled with natural earthly, carnal things**.

1Pe 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word.....

How does a newborn babe desire milk?

- * It craves it
- It requires it
- It demands it.

ILL. Why do you eat 3 times a day? Nutrition is needed to run your body. If you miss a meal or two you can over eat when you eat because you are hungry. When you are full what you have taken in must be digested to make room for more.

Only God can satisfy the true hunger and thirst of man.

God may withdraw his presence like Solomon in the Song of Solomon when his bride was too tired to answer the door. It then dawns on her that she loves him and wants him. Yet he has withdrawn. She runs out into the streets at night seeking him.

He wants us to desire Him, His presence!

C. Hunger and thirst is the thermometer that determines the spiritual health of a Christian.

Hunger, thirst, (spiritual desire is the single most required characteristic of the growing maturing, advancing Christian life.) Yet it seems at times to be the most easily forsaken or lost.

Jer 2:13 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

They are satisfied with catching water and attempting to hold it instead of having the living fountain that Jesus gives. It is a picture of trapping and losing water which can become stale, verses the water of life. To many attempt to live off of past blessing they have trapped. The only way to stay fresh is to have flow of the spirit that we are constantly releasing in

helping others. The flow of the spirit will replace what we release to others!

John 7:37-39 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

When we lose our spiritual appetites, for the presence and the glory of God in our midst, then we are in critical condition, because if you're not hungry and thirsty, you won't eat and you won't drink, and if you won't eat and drink. You'll die.

III. The blessing of hunger and thirst is being satisfied.

What we seek after is what we will be filled with.

The intensity of our hunger will determine the dimension, and the degree of our filling.

Ps 63 ¹ 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. ² I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. NIV

Isa 44 ³ For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. NIV

Isa 41 ¹⁷ “The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the Lord will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. ¹⁸ I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. NIV

These are incredible promises. But they are not for everybody, they are only for those who are hungering and thirsting after God.

I know this, that people who seek for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, healing, or have prayed for the salvation of a loved won for a long period of time, when the gift is received, it is appreciated much more.

ILL. I never obtained a home until I was 45. Other my age had their homes almost paid for. When we moved into our I promise you the delay of the experience made this home much more appreciated.

The hunger and thirsting are worth the effort... “they shall be filled”!

Have we lost our desire for God?

Have we lost the poor and needy spirit that attracts the heart of God?

Have we become satisfied just to come to church, and go through the motions?

Are we hungry for his manifest presence?

Are we craving a divine encounter with his deity?

Hunger = Spiritual desire:

2Ch 15:15 And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and (sought him with their whole

desire); and he was found of them: and the LORD gave them rest round about.

Ps 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I (desire) beside thee.

What will it take to bring us to this blessed condition of being hungry?

For they that hunger and thirst for him shall be filled.