



BLESSED ARE THE HUNGRY AND THE THIRSTY

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled. - Matthew 5:6 NIV**

Greek.= A continuous hunger and thirst out of need that continues even after it is satisfied

Hunger and thirst have a basic meaning to all, but our experience of the them intensifies that meaning. Those in desert lands and poor countries better appreciate what it is to crave clean water and enough healthy food. Likewise, those who live in pagan lands and tyrannical regimes often have a greater thirst for truth and spiritual sustenance. Hunger and thirst bring motivation but also potential for trouble.

Desperate people do desperate things:

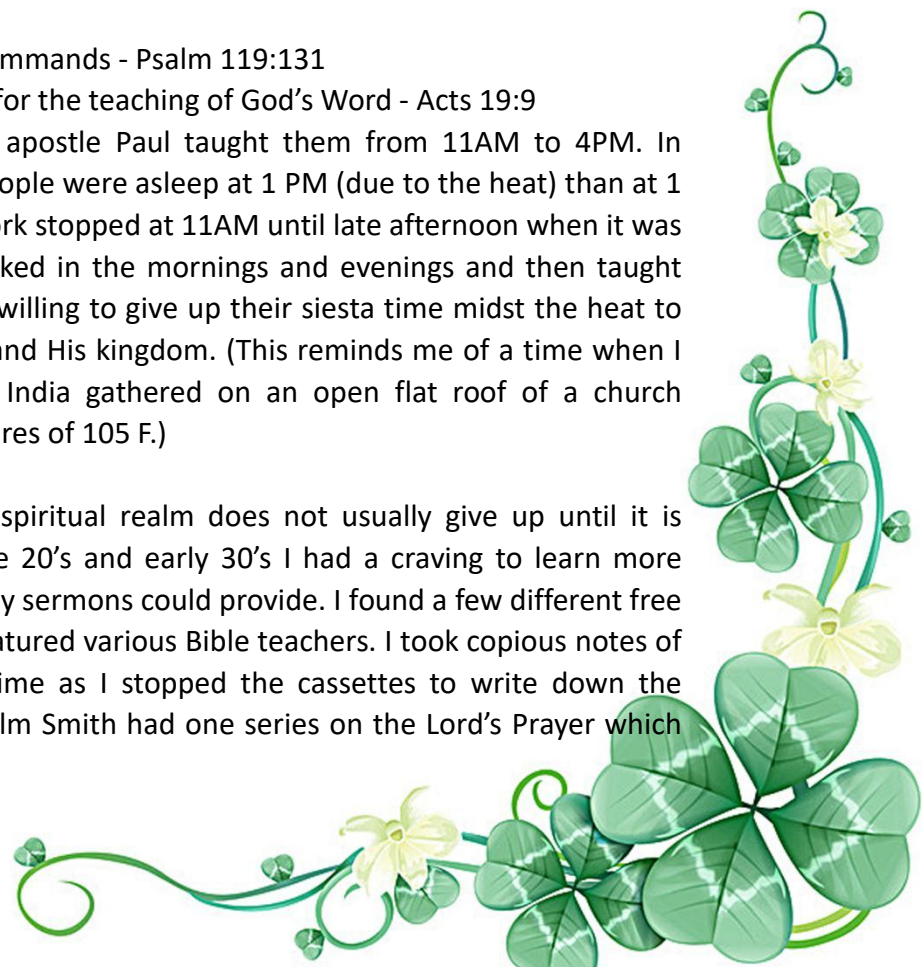
- Esau forfeits his birthright for a bowl of lentil stew - Genesis 25:29-34
- Egyptians gave up their land and their personal freedom for food - Genesis 18-19
- Starving women agree to share eating their two sons. - 2 Kings 6:24-29
- The prodigal son seeks food among the pigs - Luke 15:14-18

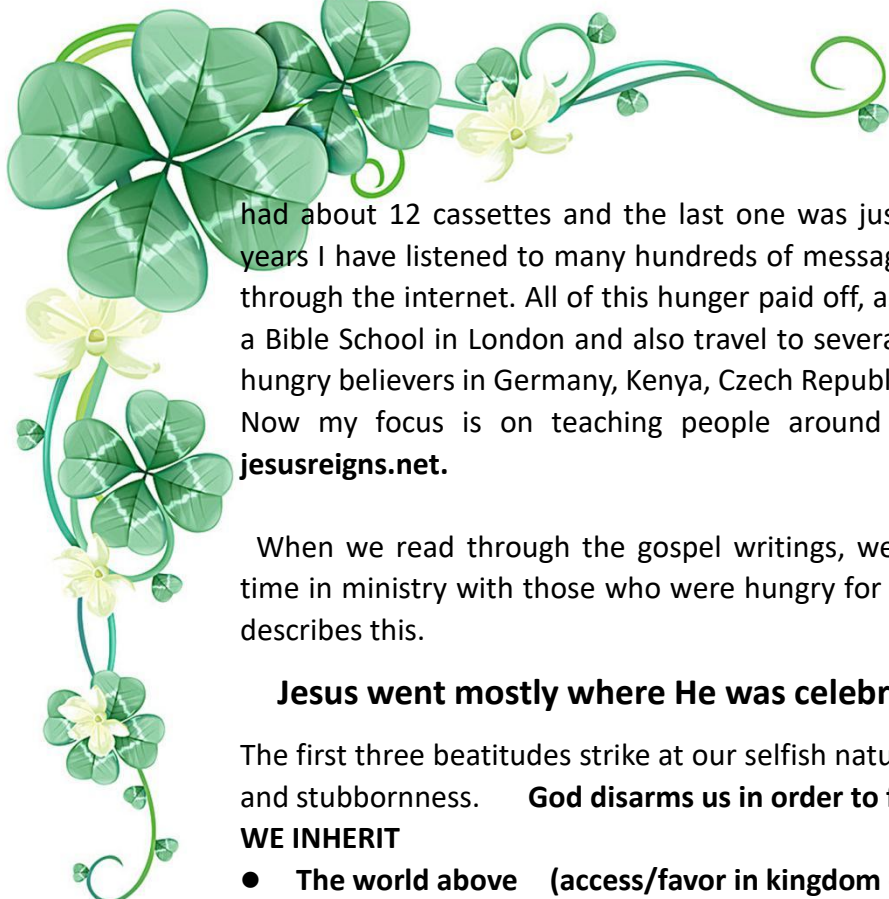
God invokes a divine favor in increasing proportion upon those who hunger and crave continually for those things that are are totally right in His eyes. The result is they shall be filled and fulfilled with those right things.

- Greek translation by Ron McIntosh

- Spiritual hunger for God's commands - Psalm 119:131
- The Ephesians were hungry for the teaching of God's Word - Acts 19:9
- At the school of Tyrannus, apostle Paul taught them from 11AM to 4PM. In Ephesus it was said more people were asleep at 1 PM (due to the heat) than at 1 AM. In Iconian cities all work stopped at 11AM until late afternoon when it was cooler. Paul probably worked in the mornings and evenings and then taught hungry believers who were willing to give up their siesta time midst the heat to learn about the Lord Jesus and His kingdom. (This reminds me of a time when I taught hungry believers in India gathered on an open flat roof of a church building in humid temperatures of 105 F.)

Real hunger in the physical or spiritual realm does not usually give up until it is satisfied. When I was in my late 20's and early 30's I had a craving to learn more about the Bible than what Sunday sermons could provide. I found a few different free cassette lending libraries that featured various Bible teachers. I took copious notes of them which took much extra time as I stopped the cassettes to write down the essence of the messages. Malcolm Smith had one series on the Lord's Prayer which





had about 12 cassettes and the last one was just on the word AMEN! Over the years I have listened to many hundreds of messages, which is now more convenient through the internet. All of this hunger paid off, as I would later be asked to teach at a Bible School in London and also travel to several countries to teach God's word to hungry believers in Germany, Kenya, Czech Republic, Russia and India.

Now my focus is on teaching people around the world through our website: jesusreigns.net.

When we read through the gospel writings, we see that Jesus spent most of His time in ministry with those who were hungry for truth and hope. One quote I heard describes this.

Jesus went mostly where He was celebrated and not just tolerated.

The first three beatitudes strike at our selfish nature of pride, self-sufficiency, apathy, and stubbornness. **God disarms us in order to fill us with His nature.**

WE INHERIT

- The world above (access/favor in kingdom of heaven)
- The world within (inner peace, power,)
- The world around (influence in the earth)

THE RIGHT HUNGER: Righteousness....being right and just in God's eyes

Greek= all of righteousness, total righteousness

This is the **total goodness** of **being right with God** and **living right**. This comprises a love of God which includes total trust, obedience, and a love for mankind with selfless service and forgiveness. The world is hungry for spiritual things even though they may deny it. God has placed eternity in our hearts.

Ecclesiastes 3:11


BLESSING OF BEING FILLED

Filled: This described the fattening of an animal for the market. It means being 'gorged' and well fed.

'God invokes a divine favor in increasing proportion upon those who hunger and crave continually for those things that are totally right in His eyes. The result is they shall be filled and fulfilled with those right things.

- Greek translation from Ron McIntosh

SPIRITUAL HUNGER FRUIT *

- Hunger to see a hurting humanity helped, identifies the need of the hour
 - Motivates people to move toward God and all that is right
 - Promotes recognition that a signal is being given by the Holy Spirit for a new season of God to begin
- 



HOW TO CULTIVATE HUNGER *

- Fast from (food, water, addictive or wasteful habits)
- Feast on Jesus and the world loses its appeal - John 6:32-35, 1 John 2:16
- Be Desperate - do something you have never done before, then you will see things you never saw before!
- Be where the hurting are - Matthew 9:36-38
 - * Previous insights from Keep the Flame Burning by Ron McIntosh

All of self.....none of God

Less of self.....more of God

None of self.....all of God

- Smith Wigglesworth / England's apostle of faith

WHAT IS A GOD? 'A God is somebody that you put your trust in, that you expect everything good of. That is a God.' - Lutheran Catechism

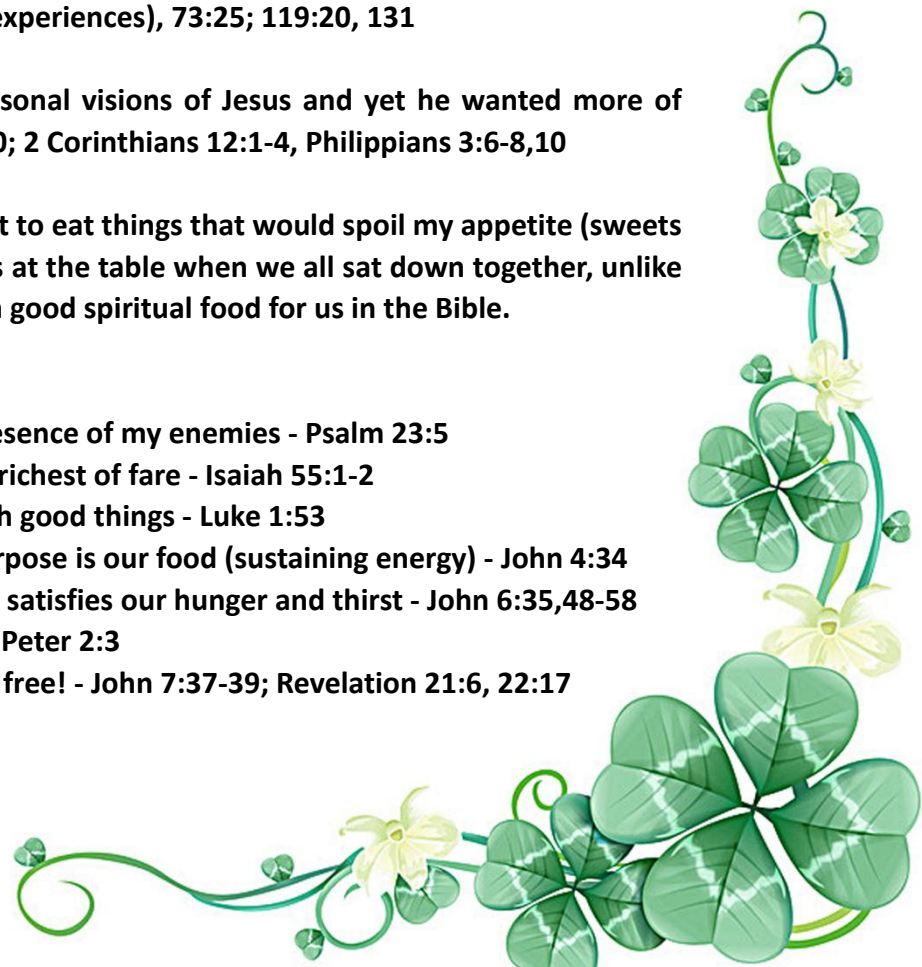
'Christianity is not a lecture about God but knowing God and tasting Him - Psalm 34:8, Many churches have a well set table and a beautiful atmosphere, but its food is lousy. Go where good food is served.' - Malcolm Smith

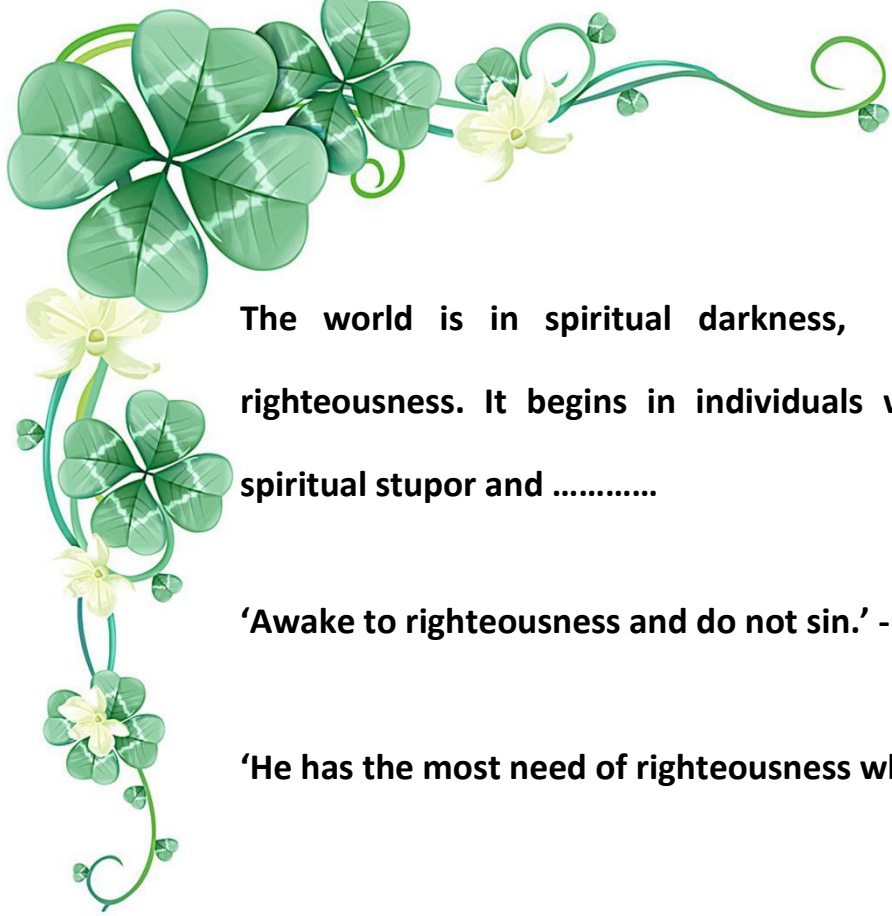
King David had his spiritual flaws but God saw him as one who had a heart after God - Acts 13:22. As a young shepherd boy, David had a hunger for God. - Psalms 17:15, 42:1-2, 63:1-5 (in desert experiences), 73:25; 119:20, 131

The apostle Paul had three personal visions of Jesus and yet he wanted more of Christ Jesus. - Acts 9:3-9; 18:9-10; 2 Corinthians 12:1-4, Philippians 3:6-8,10

As a boy, my mother told me not to eat things that would spoil my appetite (sweets and junk food) before our meals at the table when we all sat down together, unlike today. God has provided much good spiritual food for us in the Bible.

God's Soul Food

- A table before me in the presence of my enemies - Psalm 23:5
 - Your soul will delight in the richest of fare - Isaiah 55:1-2
 - He has filled the hungry with good things - Luke 1:53
 - Following God's will and purpose is our food (sustaining energy) - John 4:34
 - Come to Jesus, believe Him; satisfies our hunger and thirst - John 6:35,48-58
 - Crave pure spiritual milk - 1 Peter 2:3
 - Spring of the water of life is free! - John 7:37-39; Revelation 21:6, 22:17
- 



The world is in spiritual darkness, It needs more light and righteousness. It begins in individuals who will come out of their spiritual stupor and

‘Awake to righteousness and do not sin.’ - 1 Corinthians 15:34 NKJV

‘He has the most need of righteousness who least wants it.’

- The Puritans

Is there anything spoiling your spiritual appetite?

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.’

jesusreigns.net

