

APPETITE FOR THE WORD OF GOD**Introduction**

Appetite is defined as: a hunger or desire for something. Although the primary reference of the term is to a hunger for food, it can also refer to other human desires. Scripture distinguishes between healthy and unhealthy appetites, indicating what it is appropriate to seek after. Without proper nourishment, the human body becomes weak and cannot function properly. The same principle applies to one's spiritual life.

Memory Verse: I Peter 2:1-3 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

Biblical Application

The Bible describes various kinds of appetites: Physical *I Samuel 14:31-33*; Sexual *I Corinthians 7:1-9*; Lustful *Matthew 5:28*; Insatiable (cannot be satisfied) *Proverbs 27:20*; Spiritual *Psalms 119:20, 131*. Scripture also describes the Perversion of, by Gluttony (*Proverbs 23: 20-21*; *Philippians 3:18-19*); Wine (*Proverbs 23:29-35*); Adultery (*Proverbs 6:25-29*; *Ezekiel 23:1-49*); Impurity (*Romans 1:24-31*). Loss of, by: Age (*II Samuel 19:35*); Trouble (*I Samuel 28:22-23*); Visions (*Daniel 10:3-16*); Deep concern (*John 4:31-34*).

In the Bible, the concept of appetite is often used metaphorically to describe human desires and inclinations, both physical and spiritual. The Scriptures provide guidance on how to manage and understand these appetites in a way that aligns with God's will. The Scripture's use of food metaphors demonstrates the importance of ingesting (absorbing, swallowing) God's word. The Bible also speaks to the spiritual appetite, encouraging believers to hunger and thirst for righteousness. Jesus emphasized the importance of "appetite" for spiritual food. (Matthew 4:4). Feed the Spirit.

- Appetite as a spiritual hunger is satisfied: the gospel satisfies human hunger and thirst. Isaiah 55:1-2; Psalm 42:2, 119:20, 131, 143:1-6; Matthew 5:6; John 4:13-14, 6:27, 35, 50-51, 7:37; Revelation 21:6, 22:17

Everyday Life Application

As Believers, crave the undiluted word of God, as a newborn craves milk. Develop a healthy appetite for the pure unadulterated (pure) word of God. Prepare a proper diet of spiritual food so as not to become weak and weary, but rather thrive spiritually in your relationship with God. Regular nourishment for the soul is vital for the Believer's life, just as physical food is for the body.

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