

# ARE YOU REALLY HUNGRY FOR GOD?



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# TEXTS:

Matthew 5:6

- "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, because they will be filled"

Psalms 42:1 - 2:

- "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God" (NKJV).
- Isaiah 55:2
- God says, "Why do you spend your money on junk food, your hard-earned cash on cotton candy? Listen to me, listen well: Eat only the best, fill yourself with only the finest" (The Message).



My soul thirsts for...

...YHWH.

Psalm 63:1

# INTRODUCTION

- "You are what you eat." Nutritionists tell us that our appetites determine our diet, our diet determines our intake, and our intake determines our health.
- "You are what you eat" also applies in the spiritual realm. Jesus challenges us to look at our spiritual appetite with the penetrating words of the Fourth Beatitude: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, because they will be filled" (Matthew 5:6).



# INTRODUCTION

- A HOLY HUNGER will be one of the most crucial elements required to survival these coming days.
- We are speaking about a spiritual hunger that can never be quenched, but will always increase, not a natural hunger.
- In this simple sentence in the fourth beatitude, Jesus tells us that our hunger determines our spiritual health.



# WHAT IS HUNGER?

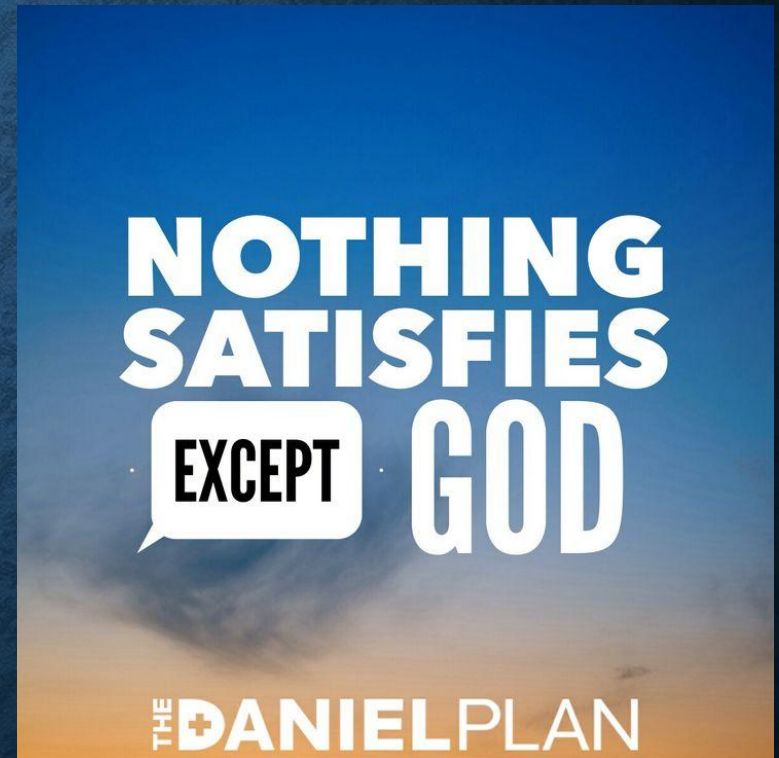


- The meaning of the word HUNGER is: A strong desire and/or craving for, to crave ardently, to seek earnestly
- Hunger is one of the most important spiritual qualities a believer can possess.
- It is a quality that expressively displays such a longing, need for the presence of God, that if unavailable, would result in death!!! That is HUNGER!!!



# WHAT IS MEANT BY HUNGER?

- Hunger is put for desire (Isaiah 26:9). Spiritual hunger is the rational appetite whereby the soul pants after that which it apprehends most suitable and proportional to itself.
  - Undernutrition
  - Undernourishment
  - Malnutrition



- Long ago the psalmist wrote about hunger for God in what we now know as Psalm 42, verses 1 and 2: "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God" (NKJV).
- "God, You are my God; I eagerly seek You. I thirst for You; my body faints for You in a land that is dry, desolate, and without water" (Psa. 63:1).
- Hunger and thirst are intense desires.





I thirst for God,  
the living God.

Psalms 42:2



[/jesusisollifestyle](#)

- The type of desire he describes is the type every one of us should have.
- It's not something unusual that is reserved for only a few impassioned souls; the normal state of a Christian is to be thirsty and hungry for God.



- The Bible tells us that God "satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things" (Ps. 107:9).
- But we must meet the requirement of the Word in order to receive the promised reward: We must be thirsty and hungry.





- When we were saved, many of us received such a hunger in our spirit for God that nothing could stop us from experiencing His manifest presence, His anointing, His fire, His glory... And we would always want more of Him!
- What has changed that NOW?





- Here, we are focusing on HOLY HUNGER and revelatory keys on how to experience the manifest presence of God:
  - Every true Believer must have a HUNGER for God's presence.
  - Hunger for God's presence is a sign of true spirituality
  - Everyone who is not hungry for God's presence is not walking with God
  - BLESSED are they who hunger NOW! (Luke 6:21)



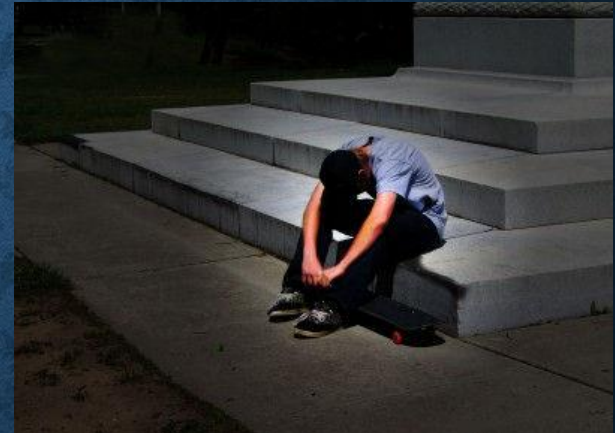
A photograph of a small waterfall cascading over a mossy wooden structure into a stream, surrounded by lush green foliage. The water is in motion, creating a white, frothy appearance as it falls. The surrounding environment is dense with green plants and moss, suggesting a forest or a natural, undisturbed area. The lighting is soft, highlighting the textures of the wood and the vibrant colors of the vegetation.

**THREE CATEGORIES OF  
PEOPLE WHO DO NOT  
HUNGER**

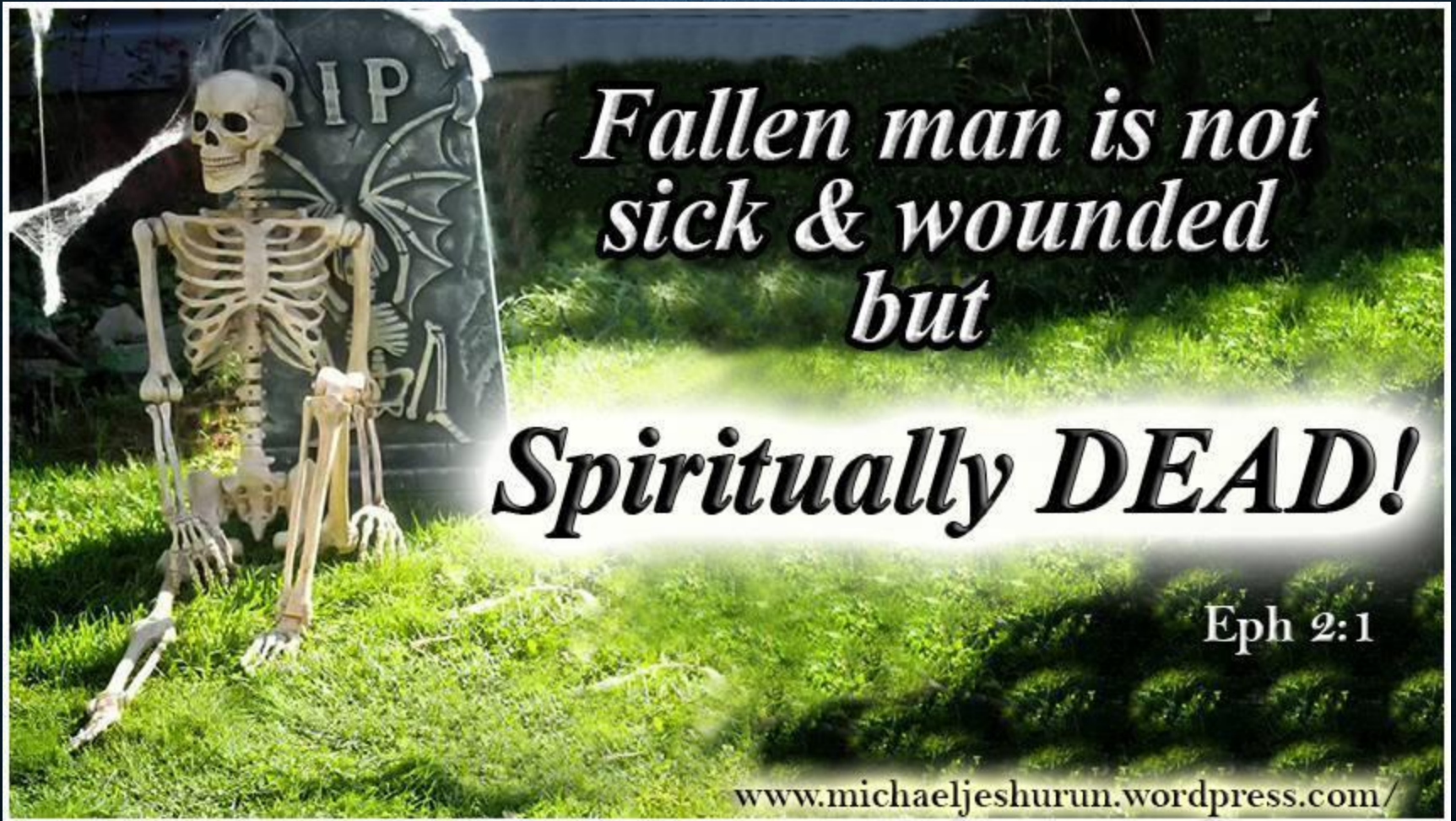


# 1.) THE SPIRITUALLY DEAD

- When you are dead you cannot hunger! Only those who are alive can hunger! When my spirit is dead then it cannot hunger.
- Remember – What causes spiritual death? When I am not constantly spending time in the manifest presence of God – then my spirit will begin to experience spiritual death!







*Fallen man is not  
sick & wounded  
but*

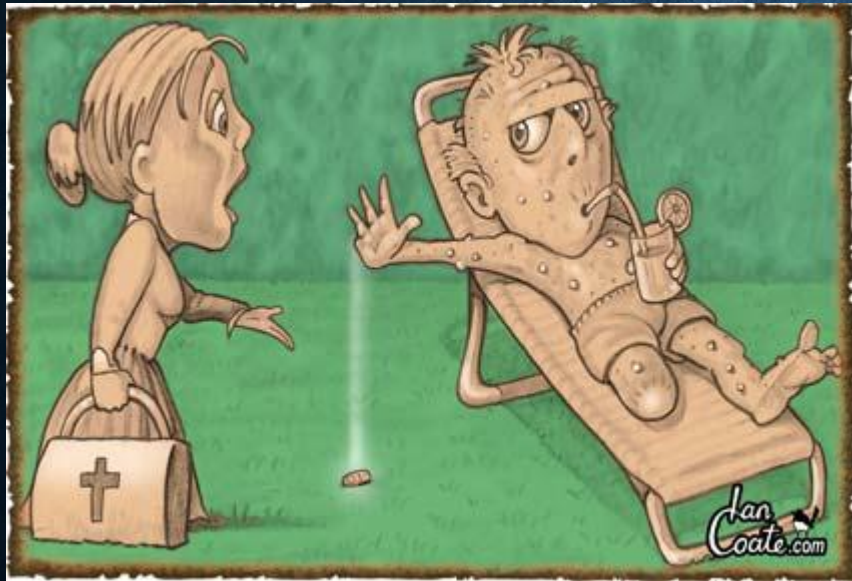
***Spiritually DEAD!***

Eph 2:1

[www.michaeljeshurun.wordpress.com/](http://www.michaeljeshurun.wordpress.com/)



## 2.) THE SPIRITUALLY SICK



- When a person is sick in the natural, they usually lose their hunger. So it is in the spirit.
- Many are spiritually sick, and they have lost that ‘holy hunger’ for the things of God and for His presence!
- If you have lost that hunger, then it might just be a sign that you’re spiritually sick!



### 3.) THE SPIRITUALLY FAT

– Those who just receives and never give out



- These are those who sits in the pews/chairs of the church and just only receives the best revelation, but never gives it out to anyone else.
- Remember in Rev 2:4 Jesus rebuked the Ephesus church for losing their first love.
- I have seen many times people sitting under a ministry, receiving so much revelation, and falling in the trap of only receiving and not giving out. This would always result in a decrease of spiritual hunger!

# IMPEDIMENTS TO HUNGER



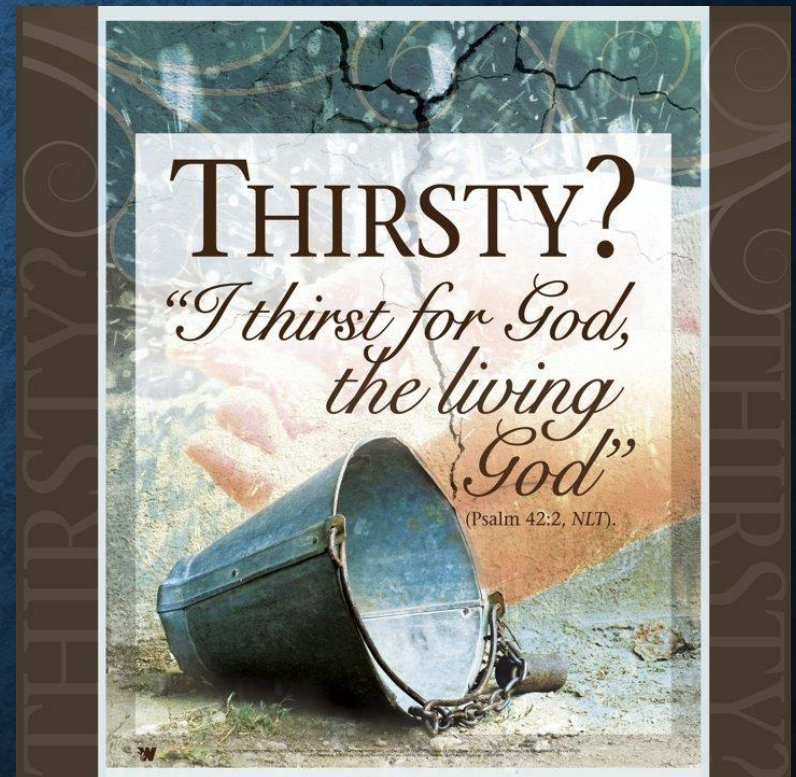


- All of us have been guilty of not being hungry when Jesus lays a banquet of His presence before us, and it's usually because either:
  - We're sick--appetites suppressed by illness
  - We've been snacking on something else- satisfied by something we ate before we got up to the table.



# HUNGER IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM

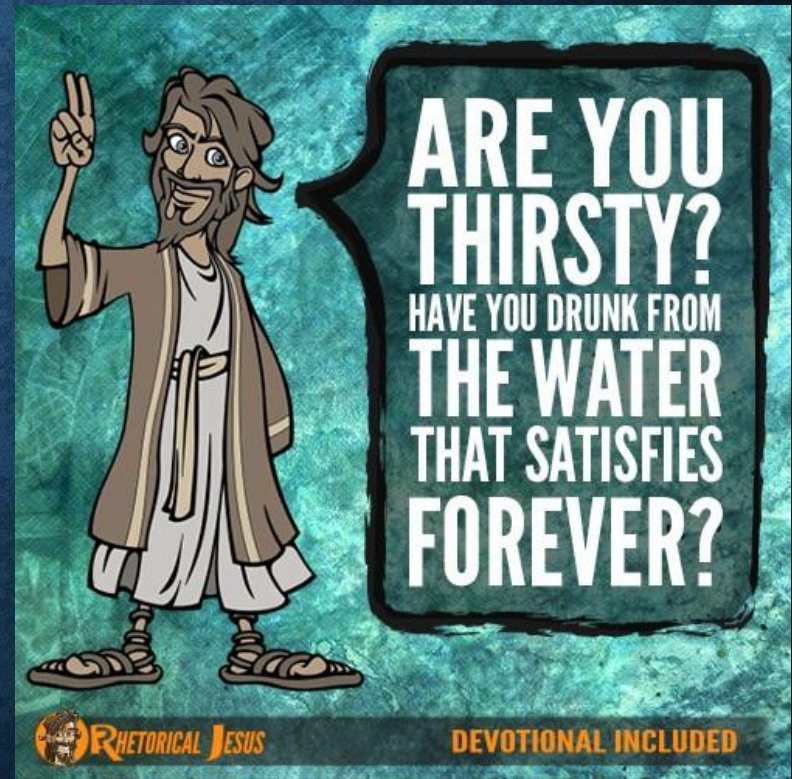
- We were created for fellowship with God, but if we don't desire it, then either we are in sin or we have allowed other things to take the place of God in our lives.
- The result in both cases is that our appetites become dulled, and we don't pursue God with the same passion we normally would.





# SPIRITUAL SICKNESSES

- Two of the most common spiritual "sicknesses" are:
  - Unbelief and
  - Unforgiveness.
- The Bible says that "without faith it is impossible to please [God], for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Heb. 11:6).



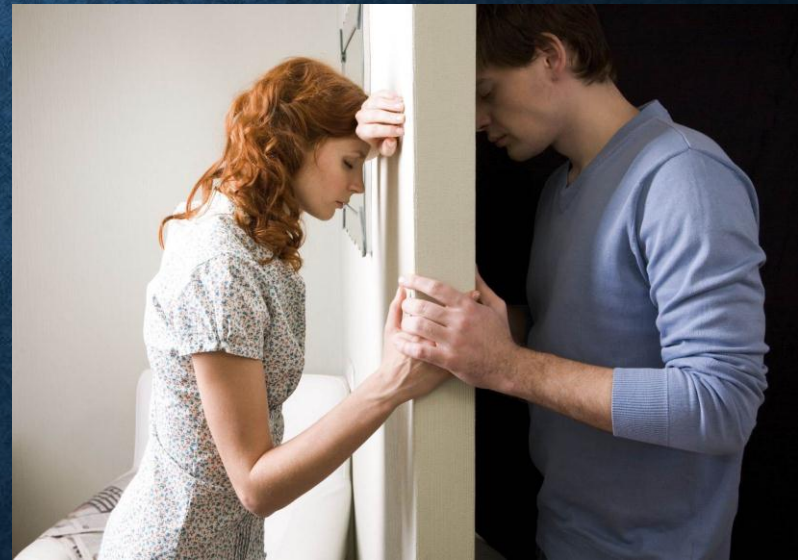




- Unforgiveness not only dampens our hunger but also puts us in a very precarious position with God. Jesus said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matt. 6:14-15).



- If you suspect that some form of spiritual sickness is taking the edge off your hunger for God, don't feel condemned! Cry out with the psalmist, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me...and see if there is any wicked way in me" (Ps. 139:23).
- Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal the sin and revive your desire for God.





# UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING OF MATTHEW 5:6





- In order to grasp its meaning, we need to explore three key principles.
  - I. The Possibility of Righteousness
  - II. The Power of Hunger
  - III. The Promise of Fulfillment





# THE POSSIBILITY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

- **A. Righteousness is a lifestyle that distinguishes us as true Christians and invites opposition from the world: Jesus said, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness" (Matt. 5:10).**
- **We are to hunger and to thirst after a kind of life that will cause some people to persecute us for our faith. So righteousness is a lifestyle that distinguishes us as true Christians and invites opposition from the world.**



- **B. Righteousness starts in the heart and changes a person from the inside out:** Jesus said in Matt.5:20, "For I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven“.
- The Pharisees had concocted a religious system built around intricate rules, regulation, precepts and traditions. It was very professional and very routine. True righteousness starts in the heart and changes a person from the inside out.



- **C. Righteousness doesn't need to be seen by others, but only by God:** Jesus said: "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of people, to be seen by them. Otherwise, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven" (Matt. 6:1).
- The Pharisees loved to pray in public - loudly! They loved to dress up in their religious garb and throw their offering in the metal container so people could hear the coins rattle. They would sacrifice anything to win the praise of others. Their religion was built on the praise of men.



- **D. Righteousness causes us to seek God's approval above everything else:** Most of us already know the fourth occurrence by heart: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you" (Matthew 6:33).
- This touches the priorities of life. What is it that you are seeking in life? Fame? Fortune? Career advancement? A good salary? A secure future? A happy retirement? A marriage partner? The fulfillment of your dreams?



- As good as those things may be, they aren't the most important things in life. Put God's kingdom and God's righteousness first.
- When you do, everything else you need will be given to you.
- Seeking "his righteousness" means letting his Word set the standard for your life. It means seeking to do that which is pleasing to him.



- Putting these four passages [Matt. 5:10, 20, 6:1,33] together and what do you have? We are to hunger and thirst after:
- A truly Christian lifestyle ... that changes us from the inside out ... so that we no longer seek the praise of men ... but causes us to seek God's approval above everything else.
- This kind of life is possible for all of us.



- Are you hungering and thirsting for righteousness? Is it a continual pursuit? Are you coming back for more? Hungering and thirsting for righteousness is like a narcotic. You get hooked. You become addicted. You need more. You keep coming back.
- Once you have encountered the living God nothing else satisfies. You want more and more of him.



- John MacArthur said:
- "If you claim a relationship with Christ but you aren't hungering and thirsting for righteousness, you need to honestly question whether you know Him."

**FOUR PROMISES TO THOSE  
WHO DO HUNGER FOR HIS  
PRESENCE:**





# I.) THE HUNGRY HAS A PLACE PREPARED FOR THEM BY GOD HIMSELF

- **Psalm 107:35-36 “He turns a wilderness into pools of water, And dry land into water springs. 36 There He makes the hungry dwell”**
- The words that stands out in this verse is **“There He makes the hungry dwell”**. God has a special place PREPARED for those who are HUNGRY!
- It is a place of life, springs of water and REVIVAL!
  - The HUNGRY will live from this place!
  - They will live from a place of VICTORY!
  - They will live from a place of REFRESHMENT!
  - They will live form a place of FULFILLMENT!
  - They will live from a place of WATERS when most are in the WILDERNESS!

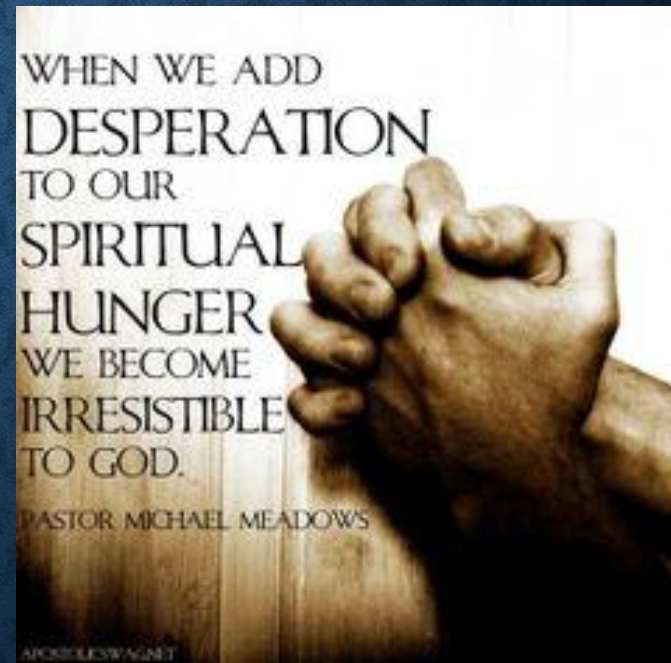
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**For he satisfies the  
longing soul. He fills  
the hungry soul  
with good.**

Psalm 107:9



- **HUNGER** is one of the most powerful keys to **DRAW** the manifest presence of God!
- Let **GOD** prepare a **PLACE** for you! Be **HUNGRY** for **HIM**!



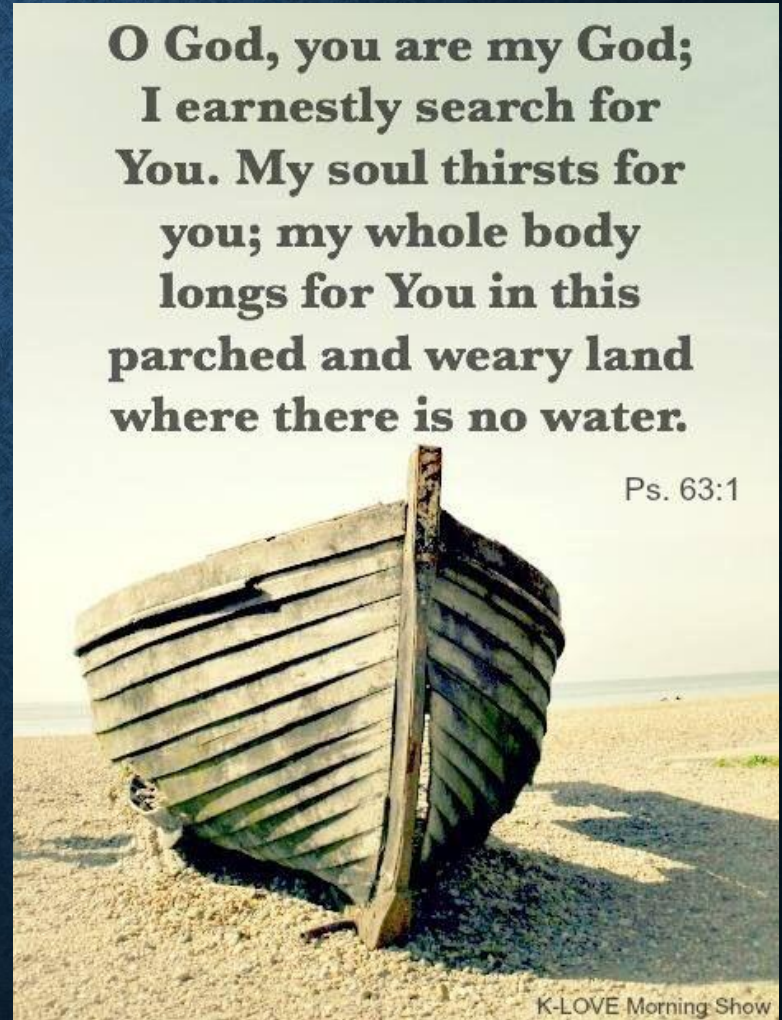


## II.) THE HUNGRY WILL SEE HIS POWER & GLORY

- **Psalm 63:1-2** “O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. 2 So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory.”
  - The HUNGRY will seek HIM!
  - The HUNGRY will thirst for HIM!
  - The HUNGRY will have a PASSION to see HIS POWER & GLORY

**O God, you are my God;  
I earnestly search for  
You. My soul thirsts for  
you; my whole body  
longs for You in this  
parched and weary land  
where there is no water.**

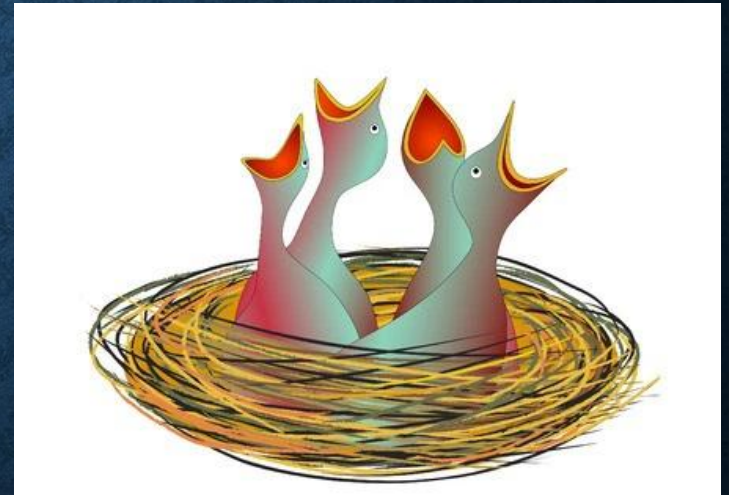
Ps. 63:1





# III.) THE HUNGRY WILL BE PROTECTED FROM THE ENEMY

- **Psalm 42:1-3** “ As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? 3 My tears have been my food day and night, While they continually say to me, “Where *is* your God?””





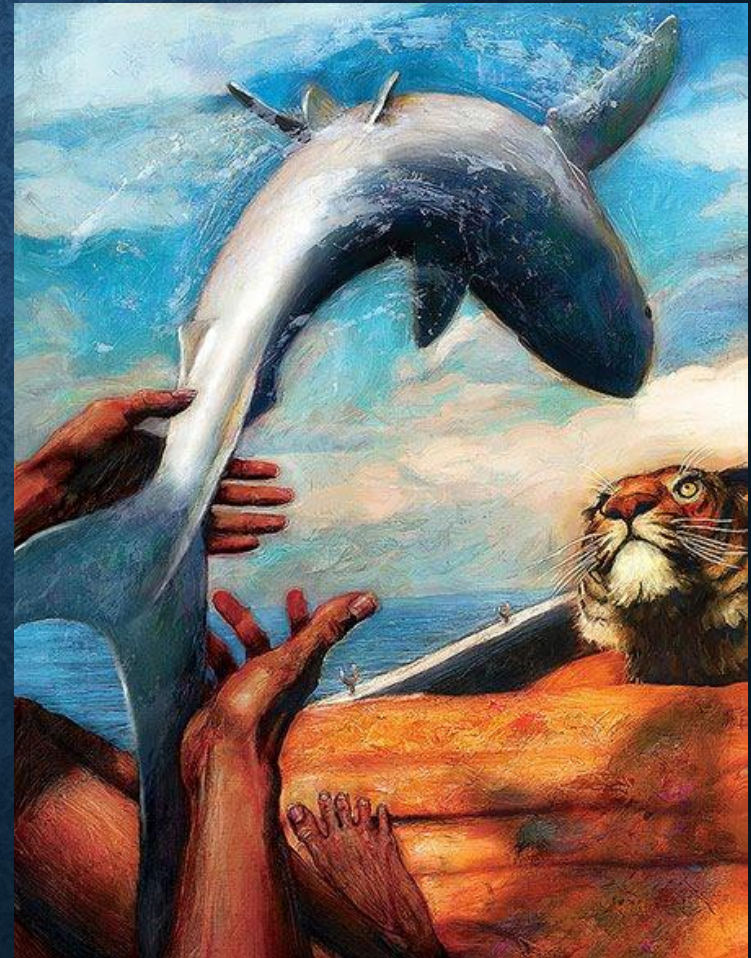


- David is equating his hunger for God presence, of that of a deer PANTING for the water brooks. A deer either comes to the water brooks because it is really THIRSTY for the water, or to wash off its scent so that chasing enemy won't be able to smell it out.
- **AS SOON AS YOU AND I GET INTO THE MANIFEST PRESENCE OF GOD OUR SCENT DISAPPEARS AN THE ENEMY CAN NO LONGER SMELL US!**



# IV.) THE HUNGRY WILL BE ABLE TO PRESS IN!

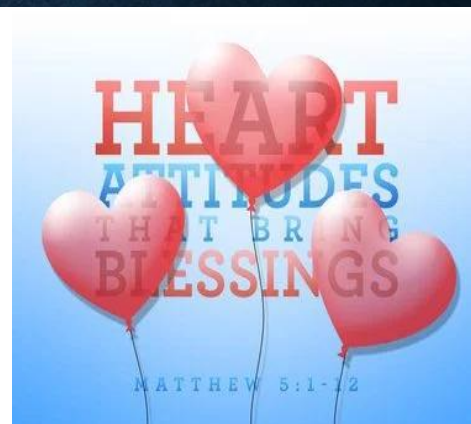
- Those who are hungry have the ability and capacity to PRESS INTO God's presence no matter the situation.
- You don't have to beg them to read their Bibles or to pray or come to fellowship or church service. You don't have to promise them a harvest before they give!
- They just do these things automatically because the 'Holy Hunger' inside of them puts a capacity inside of them and a grace upon them to PRESS IN!!!





- **Luke 16:16 - “The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it. ”**
- The Kingdom can be preached, but unless there is a pressing in, nothing will happen!

*I'll forever be chasing after you...*  
*I **press on** towards the goal...*  
*Philippians 3:14*





# WHEN WE DECIDE TO PRESS IN:

- Follow with me through the next passage of scripture. I want to show you what will happen when we decide to PRESS IN:
- **Luke 24:28-32** “28 Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. 29 But they constrained Him, saying, “Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.” And He went in to stay with them. 30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. 32 And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?”
  - **GREEK:** “*CONSTRAIN*”: To Restrain, To Persuade.
  - It is a picture of Passionately, Aggressively, Violently and Desperately Take a hold of!
  - This is a picture of **SPIRITUAL HUNGER!!!**



# RESULTS OF PRESSING INTO HIS PRESENCE:

- Let's just quickly look at what the results are of PRESSING INTO His presence below:
  - i.) **Our SPIRITUAL EYES WILL OPEN (Luke 24 verse 31)**
  - ii.) **We will KNOW HIM INTIMATELY (Luke 24 verse 31)**
  - iii.) **We will receive REVELATION (Luke 24 verse 30)**
  - iv.) **Our Hearts WILL BURN WITHIN US AGAIN (Luke 24 verse 32)**
- We will become one who is BURNING with the fire of God... John was such a one: **John 5:35 "He was the burning and shining lamp..."**



# V.) FROM VISITATION TO HABITATION

## Luke 24:29

- When I visit you, you see me only for a few days then I leave! When I make your place my habitation then I will STAY with you and you will always see me!!!
- God wants to bring His church beyond an encounter and a visitation, to habitation. Visitation lead to information, while habitation leads to revelation. Information is the doctrine of the word and revelation is the meat of the word .



- Revelation “jump-starts” your spirit man! Revelation will bring movement! Revelation will always give you access into a new place with God!
- Revelation can only come through a spiritual hunger deep inside of us. A deep calling unto deep. A hungry believer is a healthy believer! A hungry believer will receive revelation.



# HOW TO ENTER HIS HABITATION

- How to get into this place of habitation:
- **Psalm 63:1-2 “O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. 2 So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory.”**
- **Isaiah 26:9 “... Yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early...”**



- In the Old Testament the Tabernacle of Moses consisted of 3 parts. The outer courts, the inner court and the Holy of Holies. Only the priest could enter into this place once a year for atonement of the sins of the people.
- But now, in the New Covenant, we no longer have to offer up sacrifices, and burnt offerings, but the Holy of Holies is inside of us!
- However, this does not do away with the pattern and protocol by which we approach the manifest presence of God!



As the Tabernacle of Moses consisted out of 3 parts so our being consists out of three parts. Therefore we can compare them to one another in the following way:

- - Body = Outer Court
- - Soul = Inner Court
- - Spirit = Holy of Holies
- - The FLESH longs for God
- - The SOUL thirsts for God
- - The SPIRIT Seeks God (only by your spirit can you truly seek God)

The 2 texts above explains the spirit, soul and body's functions as shown here



- Longing will take you into the outer court.
  - Thirsting will take you into the inner court and
  - Seeking will take you into the Holy of Holies!
- God's presence was manifested in the Holy of Holies, not in the outer or inner court! This is very important! We can only experience God's manifest presence if we enter into the realm of the spirit, not soulish or fleshly realm.



# THE PROTOCOL IN PRAYING!!!

- Note this: When we pray and worship God, there is a protocol.
  - You begin in the outer court, which means you begin in the flesh realm.
  - Then, you move into the inner court, the soul realm. But still in this place the manifest presence of God is not.
  - Then only if you push through and press in then I enter into the Holy of Holies, which is the spirit realm!



- We cannot worship God in the flesh or in the soul, but only in the spirit. Jesus made it very clear in John 4:24.
- Breaking through into the third realm, makes everything to change around you. The atmosphere becomes charged! A stillness enters the place. In this place there is NO SHOUTING or SCREAMING, but a deep reverence of “stillness” and “knowing”.
- Shouting is for the soulish and fleshly realm!



- In the Holy of Holies you don't talk, you can't!!!! God talks to you! In the Outer Court, God doesn't talk to you, you talk to God! For some people, getting into this place can take 5-8 hours to press in to this place of manifest glory, of heaven on earth!
- When you leave this place, heaven leaves with me! This is a place of total death! In this place you are not concerned what God can do for you, but you are only concerned about His presence. You are not concerned about petty prayer requests, but only beholding and embracing His manifest presence. In this place His presence takes precedence. Only when you reach this stage, can God trust you with His anointing.

- Are you ready to PRESS IN deeper into His presence! Imagine, if we can enter this “place” everyday!
- When you leave that Holy of Holies to go to work, heaven goes with you, that glory goes with you!



# CONCLUSION

- Sixteen hundred years ago Saint Augustine explained both the problem and the solution: "O God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find rest in you." You will never be happy until you put God first in your life.
- And you can never do that until you surrender your life to Jesus Christ once and for all.

- In the kingdom of God, everything begins with a seeking heart! Salvation begins with a hungry heart. If you are tired of the life you've been living, you can make a new start.
- Whatever you want in the spiritual realm, you can have if you want it badly enough. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Are you hungry? Are you thirsty? If you are, you can be filled. This is the promise of God to hungry hearts and thirsty souls.