

# For What Do You Hunger and Thirst?

*Pastor Marvin R. Barham/Johnny Barham*

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

It is not enough to just come to church, say a prayer, dance a little, sing a little, read the Bible once in a while and go through the motions of the Christian label you wear in order to embrace all that God is and has of the Kingdom for your life. If to be filled means to hunger and thirst for righteousness, then to do anything less is to either be half full or empty. I do not want to be either. I want to be filled and overflowing. I don't know about you but I want to be consumed and submerged in His glory, His presence and His very person.

**Isaiah 55:1-6** *Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. 3Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David. 4Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people. 5Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee. 6Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:*

I want to ask you a few questions from the Holy Spirit. Questions that I pray will help you understand what the enemy desires to steal from you. Two things, among many but are relevant to this message, that are hard for a pastor with passion. The first is the temptation to fall prey to the mundane of the ministry and service to the people to become just another job full of tasks and pressures. The second, is to watch people come and go. To build relationship, to have hope for someone, to see the potential of one in the Kingdom only to see them leave, grow complacent, or fall away after you have tried so hard to invest your heart into them. But these are not just relevant to pastors or ministers but to each of us in our walk and relationship with Father.

The first question I want you to ask your heart is, "Are you more or at least as hungry for God now as when you first met Him? Do you find you do no long for or desire with a great passion of precedence and priority to seek, find, understand and embrace things of God as you once did? Is His name and praise on your lips as much as they were? Are you as anxious to be around and fellowship with your Christian brothers and sisters and those who have such a passionate hunger or do you find it getting easier to spend more time with those who do not even know Him and live unrighteous lifestyles? Has it gotten to where their life choice of unrighteousness has seared your conscience and it does not bother you anymore that they could go to hell at anytime? Do you find other things demanding and competing for your time and the first thing that you sacrifice now is your time with Father in prayer, His Word, or Fellowship? Do find an ampythy in your zeal for more or deeper understanding? Do you feel you have enough Word in you or there is not much more need learning? Do you feel listening to CDs, tapes, or watching a sermon on television is adequate? When in prayer do you find things distracting you focus, intent and purpose? The phone rings and you just have to answer it.

I could continue but the point is this, these are just a few examples of a pattern that begins to develop in our degradation of spiritual hunger and thirst. These are the infant stages of spiritual deprivation. These are sign of one falling into the traps of soulsh vulnerability.

Folks, if you lose your hunger and thirst for just one thing of God, you are very apt to lose your hunger and thirst for everything of God. Soon you find yourself in a trap and hungering for things of

the world again. No one I know wakes up one morning and say to themselves, I think I will become a crack head today. No one says today I will start working on becoming an alcoholic and destroy my family. So it is that no one is on fire for God one day and the next day says I think I will go back to my vomit and reject the righteousness of Father. It is a devaluing process of the heart and soul. It may involve hurts, wounds, and even discouragement but somewhere it starting with losing their hunger and thirst. Then came excuses, justifications, and blame. Then a resolve to turn completely away and back to selfish living. Even the gravest of hurt, pain and rejection can be overcome with peace and joy as long as you don't lose your hunger and thirst for Father, His Kingdom and all of His righteousness. Jesus so demonstrated. Jesus forever sits on the right hand of the Father with nail scarred hands, pierced side and brow as a reminder to Father of His hunger and thirst for fellowship with you.

Have you grown to a place where you wish the worship music would end and the preacher would shut his mouth soon? Do you find yourself bored with the worship, the message, or the life being ministered to others? Do you find yourself preoccupied while others are worshipping or being ministered to? It is a sign that your hunger and thirst is waning.

Look at the revivals that God has brought through the history of the church. From John Wesley to Esuza Street and Brownsville. Each was the result of God's people returning to a sincere and relentless hunger and thirst. If God wanted to do it again, would we have time and patience for it? If the lost began to come to Christ in droves, miracles began to manifest, and people began to worship and cry out to God for hours, through the night and for days how would we respond?

The Scripture tells us that in the last days there would be a great falling away. First, you had to have known truth in order to fall away from it. He is talking about those who are called by His name casually falling pray to a comfortable, complacent, compromising, carnal culturally correct Christianity.

**Psalm 107:5** *They were hungry and **thirsty**, and their lives ebbed away.* To ebb means to fall from a higher to a lower level or to go from better to a worse state.

**Revelations 3:13-17** *13He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. 14And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; 15I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. 17Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*

**Matthew 7:22-23** *22Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

You say, but I belong to this church. We pray and prophecy. We feed the needy, do outreaches, have great Bible studies and children ministries. But you've lost your hunger and thirst for righteousness, for more of God. You've grown busy but not more hungry.

**Psalm 42:2** *My soul **thirsts** for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?*

**Psalms 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. **Psalm 107:9** for he satisfies the **thirsty** and fills the hungry with good things. **Psalms 63:1-2** *IO God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul **thirsteth** for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and **thirsty** land, where no water is; **To see thy power and thy glory**, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.**

Do you desire to see His power and glory? For what do you hunger and thirst?