

Hunger & Thirst

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Matthew 5:6 (ESV)

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (*a desire for the things God desires*) for they shall be satisfied.

Matthew 7:8 (ESV) For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.



- Do you hunger and thirst for God?
- Hunger / Thirst is a daily necessity, for that which sustains life!
- If not, what has replaced your hunger?
- Does it truly satisfy, or just a sense of satisfaction?

The enemy's tactics are high tech.

- He reinforces our appetite for sin, like the algorithm for reels work on social media.
- Social media learns what holds our attention, then increasingly serves us more of it.
- The enemy works in the same way, maintaining the monotony, distracting us from God, masked by deception, making us think we are in pursuit of something that satisfies.
- We mistake the momentary laughter of a funny or interesting reel as fulfillment. Not knowing we are now locked on a journey with no destination.

God tells us to hunger and thirst for righteousness! To ask, to seek and to knock and promises we'll receive, find and the door will be opened! There is no deception with God, when we reach for Him, He will reach for us! But we must allow the longing for God to exist, or we will never have a desire to seek Him.

In the same way (due to covid and our online versions of church) a new term has been coined for Believers: Private Christian. This is so unbiblical!

Hebrews 10:22-25 (ESV) 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another (*to call to action or excitement, rev up a team, locker talk!*) to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together (Public Worship!), as is the habit of some (*stigma for Jews to be seen with Christians*), but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Public Worship: worshipping alone is good (recommended) but worshipping in community is amazing, inspiring, it will literally bring you to your knees because it fulfills a desire in our heart that God created. It is a longing only He can fulfill, and only we can accomplish when we publicly worship!

Matthew 18:20 (ESV) For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” This coined a popular Latin phrase: “Ubi tres, ibi Ecclesia” ~ “Where three are, there is the Church!”

Acts 2:42 (ESV) And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

We have bought the lie that online (virtual meetings) is real community. It is not. For the Believer we ought to excitedly run to the gathering to share our victories and to find comfort and healing when we are struggling and in pain. There is no resource alone.

Ecclesiastes 2:9 (ESV) Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.

Again, let’s see how deception is at work to keep believers from gathering together!

Then enemy changed it from:

- “Get to”, to “have to.” It’s a privilege, not a requirement to meet.
- “Us”, to “them.” Instead of feeling included, we look at church and feel excluded.
- “Sharing victories & obtaining healing” to “Being ridiculed for our faults, judged & hurt.”

The other fallacy of the “Private Christian” lie.

Matthew 5:14-16 (ESV) You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

- As Christians we are to be seen and known. (Don’t confuse that with exposed).
- It is up to us to share the vulnerable parts of ourselves to give hope & strength to others.
- Scripture says we are to lights before others so they can see the Power of God working through us!

1. Do you hunger for God? If not, allow the longing for God to fulfill.
2. Have you allowed yourself to become distracted with mundane pursuits? Ask, seek & knock and allow God to respond!
3. Have you bought into the “private Christian” lie? Commune, share & shine!

U.S. Teen Online Use & Mental Health Trends (2013–2021)

As social media and short-form video platforms expanded, near-constant online use and mental health challenges increased.

