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What Are You Hungry For?

It seems like everyone is looking for something to "fill me up." People are looking for more fun, more adventure, more thrills, more happiness, or more of something else that they just cannot seem to get their hands on.

We, as human beings, are hungry for something to fill the holes in our lives. We have a craving to eat more, have more, and do more. What do you crave more than anything? What do you really want?

The Bible says in Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

We are all empty without God's love inside us. It does not matter how cool someone looks on the outside, if he does not know God, then he is empty. It does not matter how much money he has, how popular he is, or how successful he looks. Without Jesus in the middle of your life, you are empty. People try to fill their lives with all kinds of things but only come up empty every time.

Jesus said we should be hungry for righteousness. This means we should be longing for every part of our life to be right with

God. We should want God to smile on every part of what we do every day. This includes our hearts, habits, attitudes, friends, free time, feelings, music, movies, school, family, and boyfriend or girlfriend.

Many young people who have been in church for a long time say, "I've been in church for years. I've prayed the prayer and everything. Why am I not filled up?"

Jesus promised that you would be filled, not if you went to church, not if you went to youth group, not if you cried at the last night of camp every year, but only if you were HUNGRY for Him and for righteousness.

To hunger is to crave. It means to strongly desire something. It's about longing for and earnestly, intensely desiring something. It is an eagerness, an inclination, a passion. It is like you are famished and thirsty so that you devour greedily.

Are You Hungry?

What are you craving? The world craves things like what to eat, drink, wear, drive, watch, listen to, and go to. The world craves fun, video games, sports, competition, movies, and the American dream. What teens in America feed themselves is what they are putting in their minds and lives. The average teen:

12 - 17 years of age watches 23 hours of TV per week.¹ By the time a child finishes high school he will have spent 18,000 hours with the TV curriculum and only 12,000 with the school curriculum.²

. . . has listened to 10,500 hours of music by the time he is out of twelfth grade;³

. . . has seen 18,000 murders on television by the time they reach high school graduation.⁴

. . . sees an estimated 14,000 sexual references and innuendoes per year on television.⁵

. . . has seen 100,000 beer commercials by age 18.⁶

These are just some of the things that are filling the minds and hearts of teens all over America and around the world. Most young people end up feeding themselves a lot of "junk food" for their head and heart. Junk food gives you the illusion of being full, but you are still empty. These things will destroy, or at the very least distract you from your relationship with God.

The world fills itself up so much with all this stuff that they forget to hunger for God. The problem is that sometimes we, who call ourselves Christians, also fill ourselves with these very same things. Those of us who say we love God forget to hunger for more of Him! As a result we get so satisfied with mediocrity

that we think we are doing pretty good as a Christian. We forget to passionately pursue our Saviour.

Many teens who go to youth group every week see so many movies, videos, and other music magazine "cool" stuff that they start thinking a star is practically a saint if he mentions God in a song, or the idea of heaven or angels in a movie or video. We know that we have been brainwashed and are mediocre when we start getting our ideas of heaven from Hollywood and from rock music.

We end up thinking that the whole Bible, even though it is the truth, just seems like a fairy tale. The world mocks it so much that you just start believing what they say and start filling your brain with their way of thinking all the time.

It's Time to Blow Some Chunks

If you have been eating all this junk, you need to throw up. You need to get it out of your life. It is time to get rid of the garbage that has been filling our lives and get hungry for God again. We get so full of the junk that there is no room to really hunger for Him.

How do you get the garbage out? You throw it up and get it out by repenting and asking Him to forgive you. It is time to start doing what Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, "Seek first his kingdom

and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Are You Really Hungry?

Are you as hungry for God as David was? He wrote in Psalm 42:1, ". . . As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you. . . ." Do you really long for God? Is your heart dry and thirsty? It is time to take a drink of the right stuff. A drink of God.

David wrote, ". . . Oh 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" (Ps. 63:1). Do you earnestly want more of God in your life? A lot of people just go to church and then go home. They want to just barely make it to heaven. No wonder they are empty on the inside. When was the last time you honestly sought God with all of your guts?

David wrote, "My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God" (Ps. 84:2). He was passionately desiring to be as close as he possibly could to God. Do you want Him like that?

Psalm 34:8 says, "Taste and see that the Lord is good. . . ." Are you satisfied with only one taste? After going to a restaurant one time, you may decide that when you return you want to try

something different from their menu. Each time you return you try a different meal.

This is exactly what many teens do in their walk with God. They "try" Him at a camp. Then they go back to the world and taste a little of everything else on the menu. They try a little drinking, drugs, and immorality. They think they got all of God because they "tasted" what it was like one time. It is time for us to fill up on Him. If you just try Him or taste a little, you will still be hungry for more. You will have to have more of Him or you will try to fill up on other things.

Things to Hunger For

To hunger for God is to hunger for the Word of God, the truth. We need to hunger for His guidance, hunger to have more love for Him burning in our hearts. We should be longing to understand His Word, to have His fire blazing out of control in our lives. We ought to want Him to use us; we need to long for awesome prayer times. We should yearn to know His purpose in our life, the depth of His love, and how He thinks. We should have a craving to treat people like Jesus did. We should hate sin and have an intense desire to see miracles every day. We should have an uncontrollable urge to REALLY KNOW HIM.

It is time to feed ourselves in a big way. It is time to stuff ourselves on God. Right now, fill up on Him. Do something about it! When I was still a teen I went so crazy about seeking

Him that I read the entire Bible in six weeks. I challenge you to do the same!

Are You Desperate?

The TV and newspapers have shown time and time again that famine has broken out in countries around the world. The fathers are trying to work to get food for their wives and children, but none is available. Finally they begin to rob and steal from others. They are not common criminals, they are just hungry. I have even heard of a gang of men stealing powdered milk from an orphanage to get food for their own children. THESE MEN WERE DESPERATE.

Are You Desperate for God Like That?

Are you willing to do whatever it takes to find Him?

I saw many starving children in India. Many of them beg in the street all day long just trying to get food to live. However, in the same country, there are those who will take a whole platter of nicely diced vegetables and offer them to an idol. They will place the vegetables before the idol and let them lie there and rot as a sacrifice to that god. They could eat the food and be healthy themselves, or feed it to their own starving children, but instead they just let it rot.

It seems like a lot of starving Christians do the same thing. They have plenty of opportunities to eat the Word of God. The

pastor is preaching with all his heart and teens sit there writing notes to their friends. God could have fed them, even longed to feed them, but they refused to eat. We could read the Bible like crazy, listen to tapes, and ask our leaders questions if we really wanted to learn more. Instead, we often starve to death spiritually. We get pulled into ritualistic Christianity. We are all caught up in doing good things to put on a show that we are spiritual, but we forget to hunger for God. We want God's blessing, especially when we are in trouble, but do we want Him?

It Is Time for a Feast

The Bible says, ". . . man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord" (Deut. 8:3). You cannot really be alive until you get God's Word in you. Physical bread cannot satisfy a hungry heart. Jesus said, ". . . I am the bread of life . . ." (John 6:35).

If you want real life, you have to have real bread.

God promises to fill you if you will just hunger for righteousness. If you are tired of feeling like an empty person or an empty Christian, just get hungry for Him. He will fill you with himself, and you can take that to the bank!

WHAT TO DO: PRAY A PRAYER OF REPENTANCE TO GET ALL THE GARBAGE OUT OF YOUR LIFE THAT HAS BEEN FILLING YOUR

MIND AND YOUR HEART. THEN YOU SHOULD DO SOMETHING TO BEGIN TO FILL YOURSELF WITH HIM AND HIS WORD. MAKE A COMMITMENT TO FORCEFEED YOURSELF THE WORD OF GOD NOW.