

HUNGRY HEARTS

– Awaken 9

Introduction: There is a growing hunger for God in the world.

- More MEN are joining the church
- Growth in UK, USA
- France reports a new (“evangelical”) church established every 10 days.
- God responds to spiritual hunger.

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

1. Don't Stress.

- Your body goes into stress mode when inadequately nourished.
 - Food provides energy and nutriment
 - Liquid hydrates the body so it can function properly.
- Hunger symptoms:
 - Weakness
 - Irritability
 - Difficulty in concentration
- Thirst Symptoms:
 - Dry mouth
 - Fatigue
 - Dizziness
- Jesus applied these common factors to our spiritual walk
 - This message will focus on HUNGER.

2. Living Bread

BACKGROUND: Jesus had just fed 5,000 people; crowds hired boats to find Jesus.

John 6:26-27 *Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”*

- After saying this, Jesus was challenged to perform a miracle like Moses with the Manna from heaven...

John 6:35; 58 *Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty... This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever."*

- The word "feed" in this context shows desperation.

3. Spiritual Malnutrition:

- Spiritual malnutrition shows up in three areas:

a) Weakness:

- Unable to do what you desire, physically and spiritually
- Jesus is the food that produces spiritual energy and nutrients
 - Our primary source is the New Testament

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 *...Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.*

- Grace is available.

b) Irritability

- This is in the area of the soul / emotion
- It could be to wait:

Psalms 27:13-14 *I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.*

- It could be a person:

Matthew 5:44 *But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*

- It could be anxiety:

1 Peter 5:7 *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

c) Concentration:

- This relates to the MIND / Intellect

2 Corinthians 10:5 *We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

- Take captive and make the mind obedient to Christ.
- Am I suffering from spiritual malnutrition? How hungry am I?

4. Hungry Hearts

- Hungry hearts prepare to worship.

BACKGROUND: David in the wilderness, fleeing from either Saul or Absalom. (Psalm 63: 1-8)

Psalm 63:1 *You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.*

- His soul thirsts
- His body hungers
- Feeling weak / weary

Psalm 63:2-3 *I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.*

- Remembers what he has seen

Psalm 63:4-5 *I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.*

- I will praise... declaring God's goodness
- I will honour your name and pray with lifted hands
- My soul will be satisfied.
- I will sing praise to You.

Psalm 63:6-8 *On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.*

- I will think of you.
- God is our help.
- My soul clings to Him.
- His right hand upholds
 - Right hand represents his power and authority.
- ARE YOU HUNGRY FOR MORE?