

Podcast Episode Notes
S9 Ep 5 What Are You Hungry For?

If someone asked you what you hunger for, what would be your answer? Happiness? Time? Comfort? Healthy relationships? Financial security? Peace? Jesus tells us that we are blessed if we hunger and thirst for righteousness. It's that piece of us that is bothered by injustice, desires strong character and conduct and longs to be in a right relationship with God. When we pursue those things, we will move from feeling empty to being satisfied.

Matthew 5:6 – Blessed are the those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be satisfied.

- Spiritual hunger is a characteristic of God's people – an appetite for more of God and His ways. Not material but spiritual pursuits. This speaks of a "pursuing God".
 - "As the deer pants for streams of water..." (Psalm 42:1-2)
 - Psalm 84:2 – "My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God."
 - A.W. Tozer used to say that you could have as much of God as you want.
 - J. Oswald Sanders would say, "You are as close to God as you choose to be!"
- In how God has made us, our hunger will never be fully satisfied, nor our thirst quenched in this life – empty vs. satisfied.
 - Jesus is saying here that you are blessed if you have such an appetite that you can't live without what you are hungry for! The Greek word for "thirst" refers to what you can't live without – you've got to have it or you can't live!
 - Without food and drink we feel the sense of starving...on a spiritual level this is felt by the longing of the soul for more of God.
- This desire for righteousness is evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit within us!
 - Righteousness:
 - Legal – justification, a right relationship with God. Because of Jesus and the cross.
 - Moral – a righteousness of character and conduct. An overflow of an inner work.
 - Social – biblical righteousness is more than a private or personal matter; it includes the social. Seeking other's liberty from oppression, one's civil rights, tending our planet, justice in the court of law, integrity in our business dealings and honor within the home and family.
 - This righteousness is not "imputed righteousness" – the righteousness we receive from Jesus when we give our lives to Him, that is credited to us (justification by faith). This is not about moral justice, nor Christian responsibilities like tithing or serving, or personal vindication from being persecuted. No, this the fruit of transformation of our hearts by the Spirit of God. It is living utterly for God's approval...a rightness of heart that brings His heart pleasure, and is appreciated by Him!
- What triggers this kind of spiritual hunger: an awakening of the soul! How has God been working through relationships, circumstances, spiritual dryness to draw you closer to Him?