



Life Group Notes: “Hungry for God”

Tuesday 30th July 2019

READ THESE VERSES TOGETHER

- **PSALM 24:6** *This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face. Selah*
- **JEREMIAH 29:13** *‘You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.’*
- **ISAIAH 55: 1** *“Come, all of you who thirst, come to the waters; and you without money, come, buy, and eat! Come, buy wine and milk, without money and without cost!”*

INTRODUCTION

A very good sermon titled “Are you hungry for God?” was recently preached in our church by Daniel Chand. In his sermon, Daniel explained how he became a Christian and how his continuous hunger for God has been key in helping him become the street evangelist he is today and allowing him to be used by God to impact the lives of many in the UK and beyond. However, the reality for many believers today is that their hunger for God has waned off from what it was when they gave their lives to Christ. Christians have become accustomed to religion, ministry, conferences, signs and wonders or even traditions and some are putting these experiences as a substitute for the need to develop and maintain a dedicated passion and hunger for Jesus.

Paul talked to the Philippians about an unquantifiable, infinite value of knowing Jesus Christ our Lord (Phil 3:8 NLT) and this value is still paramount to living a spirit-filled life in the service of Jesus. We must keep the fire burning and there is no alternative to it!

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE:

1) **As believers, it does matter to be hungry for God.**

Spiritual hunger (or thirst) for God is the “longing to encounter Him, to be with Him, and to be filled with His Spirit”. Spiritual hunger and spiritual health are deeply correlated (the same as it would be for natural hunger and health). Therefore, starving ourselves from knowing and experiencing Jesus is likely to make us go after other things and gradually become spiritually weak or lethargic.

This is the point at which most believers would try to “compensate” by using their head-knowledge of Jesus to get by or upping the ante in religiousness!

Please, discuss why it is good to have a hungry heart for Jesus and to fill it right with things that satisfy. Consider Isaiah 55:2 and discuss why it matters to fill this hunger with the right “food”.

2) Spend time with God! It is all about loving Him...

Any mature believer will stress the importance of spending time with God and tapping into the enablement of the Holy Spirit – our Helper. We should contend daily for that personal and intimate space with Jesus which is freely accessible to his children.

There is no other place to find our true satisfaction but in continuously absorbing the milk of the Word and the wine of the Holy Spirit. This is trivial to experience revival in our hearts and maintain the fire through hunger for God. **Further reading:** Mark 12:30 (NKJV), Isaiah 55:1-6

*When we are thirsty, we want more of God but can you explain what is the importance of the Holy Spirit in being on fire for God? Also Discuss **how** you intend to contend for that “personal and intimate space”?*

3) Be intentional, be persistent, be consistent.

“When the hungry believer and the Spirit connects, then the believer’s flame becomes a burning inferno for God. Our hunger for God does not have to slow down or dry up!” (Daniel Chand)

Many Christians are still being unsure on what to do to keep the fire burning. One solution is to build habits that allow for time to go a little deeper in the Word, deeper in prayer and in deeper in the worship of our God. We should also aim to be consistent but equally purposeful in avoiding the pitfalls of distractions (technology, relationships, busyness of life) and self-indulgence that yearn to take our focus away from a time well spent in His presence. James 4:8a states that we ought to “draw near” to Him and the He will also draw near to us. Hebrews 11:6 also pushes us to seek God with faith and with diligence (i.e. no casual approach or attitude when going after God) – in other words, to be intentional about it. Be wise, firm and determined to take the distractions out of the way because living a spirit-filled life requires determination!

Please, discuss the practical measures you want in place to remain consistent and persistent going forward.

PRAYER: Let’s pray that:

- God will make us hungry and thirsty for Him and that we be willing to surrender to Him.
- God will teach us to press in to Him not for what we can get but to get to know Him
- Pray that God will keep us from apathy, discouragement or that our understanding of Him is limited in our head but with no revelation of Jesus in our heart.