

HUNGER FOR MORE OF GOD

Houses of Light Church • January 14-15, 2023 • Pastor Netz Gómez

Psal. 63:1-2

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. ² So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory."

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. It has been very satisfying to see that many in our community have embraced our 21 Days of Consecration even fasting with determination and good cheer and that fills us with joy because those who are seeking the Lord are going to see more of Him in their lives and families just as he has promised.

Jer. 29:12-14 "Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, declares the Lord..."

- B. In this passage Jeremiah prophesied about genuine spiritual hunger. God promises that he will let himself be found when sought by someone with a genuinely hungry heart. Thirst and hunger come to our hearts along with the gift of salvation, but after the spiritual honeymoon we must intentionally cultivate our spiritual passion. When we recognize a cool down or stagnation, our first request should be for the Holy Spirit to increase our spiritual appetite.

- C. Until our capacity to receive from Him is increased by the spiritual hunger we cultivate, our experience of God will be limited. He gives more of Himself according to our hunger for more.

Matt. 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

- D. Jesus gives us His power and presence in direct proportion to the measure of our hunger for Him. Spiritual hunger comes when we have the vision of having all that God will give to our spirit and in the different areas of our lives on this side of life. the eternity.

- E. Our lack of this desperate longing for God has brought us to our present condition. The staleness of our religious lives is the result of the absence of a holy desire for Jesus. Sometimes we think we love God intensely, but if we let Him, He will reveal to us that our thirst for Him is indeed small compared to what it could be. Some think they are spiritually starved when a certain interest in the things of God is awakened in them. But this interest is not yet hungry.

- F. Hunger is when we cannot live without more of God to the point that we make radical changes in our lifestyles to seek God. A good way to measure the reality of our hunger is to assess the degree to which we reorganize

our lives, our time, our money, and our comforts to go after what we hunger for (Phil. 3:8).

- G. In many moments we settle for so little compared to all that we need to experience and that He wants to give us. According to what the Scriptures teach, the extent to which we experience God's presence will be directly proportional to the sacrifice or price we are willing to pay. We are not talking here about salvation that is by grace and faith (Eph. 2:8-9) but rather the search for the manifestation of the presence of God.

II. CONQUERING THE ENEMIES OF SPIRITUAL HUNGER

1 Jn. 2:15-17 *"Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶ For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. ¹⁷ And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever."*

- A. We cannot be focused on Him if we are so satisfied with other things that our hearts are fascinated with. When we are so distracted we do not feel the pain of spiritual hunger even though we may be dying spiritually from the lack of His presence. To make room in our lives for the Lord, we have to remove all traces of idolatry.
- B. Author John Piper says: *'The great enemy of God's hunger is not some kind of poison but an apple pie. For a person who has converted to Christ it is not really the XXX video but the triviality of the soap opera that is savored before going to sleep. The greatest adversary of love for God is not his enemies but his gifts. For when these replace our appetite for God Himself, idolatry can hardly be recognized which at this point is almost impossible to cure.'*
- C. The only way to triumph over all these other appetites of the flesh is a deeper hunger for God. The weakness of our hunger for God is not because He is tasteless but because we keep ourselves full of other things that don't really satisfy. So the fight of faith is the fight to delight in all that God is for us in Christ.
- D. If we are honest, many times we seek things from God more than God Himself but we must know that there is a spiritual delight found in God Himself that far exceeds the physical diet of this world. Fasting is the means by which we say: 'more than our stomachs want food, our soul wants you.' Abstaining from food and other things for a period of time is not the end of the fast itself but rather it is a means to learn about God and increase our love for Christ. Christian fasting is not only the spontaneous effect of a superior satisfaction in God; it is also a weapon that is chosen against all forces that could take away that satisfaction.

III. A NEW LEVEL

Jl. 2:28-29 "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit"

- A. Before Jesus returns He promised that He would pour out His Holy Spirit in levels the Church has never witnessed historically. The true greatness of what He wants to flood our being with in terms of the experience of divine pleasure and the encounter with the Holy Spirit, we have not even imagined.

1 Cor. 2:9-12 "But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him" — ¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.... ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God,"

- A. This fullness and abundant divine reward given to the inner man is the vision that God wants to continue giving us. Therefore, our first priority should be to truly hunger for Him.
- B. One thing we have to do is take the initiative. Many of us, in this world where we have been accustomed to not making any effort, are not willing to break our comfort. We expect the glory of God to come to us on our own terms and in our own time. Consequently, we continue to do what we have always done and compensate for the lack of God's presence with activities that distract us and things that entertain us.
- C. A question you should ask yourself on this day is: What am I filling myself with? How can I have an appetite for God if I am filling myself with the pleasures of this world? We need to maintain and increase this desperation in our search so that we give ourselves over to seeking God until the nature of Jesus is formed in us and his life flows out of us like a river.

2 Cor. 3:18 "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

- D. As we see in the texts of the entire Word, this search is costly, requiring sacrifice, diligence, and time. It requires us to make decisions about how we live our lives. Our relationship with God cannot simply be added as something extra. He is not a lucky charm in our pocket to protect us from evil and bring about good fortune. **He is God!** Precisely for this reason He does not fit in the small compartment that we want to place Him within our egocentric agendas. God desires to fill us to overflowing to make us in the image of his Son and then pour ourselves out into the lives of those around us.

Jn. 4:14 "but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

- E. Scripture is clear when it tells us that this river emanates from the believer. This means that what God pours out within us will have to come out to others. God's intention is that this thirst for Him always exists in our lives and is poured out to later thirst for Him more.

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. Jesus desires to be found and as we seek Him intentionally and with exclusive focus (without distractions), His presence will become more manifest in our lives and our hearts will become more sensitive to His love and our capacity to know Him will increase. Through Christ we have been granted the grace to know Him if we respond to His invitation.

Is. 55:1-3 "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David."

- B. We will conclude today by praying in the Spirit to be edified.

1 Cor. 14:2 y 4 "For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit... ⁴ The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself..."

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. You can still join the 21 days of Consecration. Get your devotional guide today, we have it for children and/or adults in Spanish or English at the bookstore or at www.housesoflight.org
2. Houses of Light schools are about to start: School of Discipleship and Affirming your Steps in Spanish and English start on January 23rd; sign up at the table outside or at www.housesoflight.org • Introduction to House of Prayer course starts February 6, sign up today at www.nhop.la
3. Our Romantic Gala Dinner will be on Tuesday, February 14 at 7:00 pm. It will be a precious time for couples to enjoy fine gourmet dining, fun, and ministry. Space is limited. Purchase your ticket today at www.housesoflight.org