

‘8 Ingredients for Authentic Happiness: Spiritual Hunger’ Matt. 5:6

Series title: What does it mean to live a good life?

Introduction:

Strong desire, passionate pursuits, driving ambition: what are some of the things people have ambition for? Power. Success. Popularity. Jesus teaches in this beatitude, which speaks of strong desire, that the deepest desire of our hearts should be to hunger and thirst for righteousness.

I. What does it mean to be spiritually hungry?

A. A starving person has a single, all-consuming passion for food and water. Nothing else holds the slightest attraction to him. Those without God’s righteousness are starved for spiritual life. Eccl. 3 says that God has set eternity in our hearts. We were created with an emptiness, a need for something more.

B. Yet, apart from God’s revelation, people do not recognize just what that need is or how to really satisfy it. So what do they do? They _____ all kinds of things, fame, power, money, empty philosophies, counterfeit religions, all to try to satisfy this vague inner longing or they try to silence it through drugs, alcohol, and other addictions. Isa. 55:2:

II. What is the goal of spiritual hunger? It’s two-fold.

A. For the unbeliever, it’s salvation. Eph. 2:8,9

B. The goal of this hungering for the Christian is spiritual growth. We never ‘arrive’ spiritually here. Every Christian can be characterized by this spiritual hunger and thirst for more of God.

III. What happens to me if I’m spiritually hungry?

A. Jesus says you’ll be satisfied! Unlike all these other things we pursue because we think they will satisfy us but they end up leaving us with _____ and still feeling empty inside.

B. Also, it’s in the passive tense: ‘will be’, showing our part is to seek God, His part is to satisfy.

IV. How can I know if I’m spiritually hungry?

A. First, there is a general realization that you always stand in need of God’s help.

B. You won’t be depending then on other external things to satisfy your deepest desires.

C. You will have a desire for God’s word. The word of God is one’s basic spiritual food. Jer. 15:16

D. You will find the ways of God to be pleasant to you even if you don’t understand it all.

V. How can one become spiritually hungry?

A. By not neglecting the first 3 beatitudes! Pray for this. Ask for it. God delights in this. Jer. 29:13
God loves wholeheartedness, not half-heartedness.

B. May your ambition in life be as the apostle Paul’s was: Phil. 3:10: “*I want to know Him*”.

C. When we put God in His proper place, as first place in our lives, then He takes all these other desires and ambitions that we have and He puts them in their _____ place.

Then, let me add this: once God has first place, I do hope that each of us would have some other life goal or pursuit as well. A dream for your life. Don’t flitter away your days, no matter your age or your health.

Again, it’s not wrong to have strong desires, usually we have too little desire, we settle for way less than what God wants to give.

Pursue God first with strong desire and then pursue wholeheartedly whatever He shows you to do!